



**Happy Passover, Jerusalem Development Series, Spring Speaker Series, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More –  
April 22, 2024**

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## **Passover starts this evening!** **חג פסח שנה**

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### **JERUSALEM: THE HOLY CITY'S DEVELOPMENT FROM ANTIQUITY TO TODAY**

Join us for an online exploration of the growth of the city from its beginnings as a small town on a hillside to the modern city it is today with Jerusalem-based tour guide Joel Haber.



#### **Rechavia and Beyond: 1920-Present**

Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

Rechavia was the first real modern neighborhood of Jerusalem, established during the British Mandate era that followed World War I. We will uncover this intellectual and architecturally significant neighborhood, as well as the overall contributions of the British to modernizing Jerusalem. Finally, we will briefly explore how the city continued to develop and grow from the establishment of the State in 1948 through the present day. *This series is made possible by a grant from the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund and other generous donors.*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jerusalem-rechavia-and-beyond-1920-present-tickets-796390544557?aff=oddtcreator>

## **SPRING SPEAKER SERIES - JEWISH EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA**

Join us online for a three-part series featuring three leading scholars discussing three very different aspects of the Jewish experience in America. This series is dedicated in memory of our friend, Chelsea native, Boston area educator and author Norman H. Finkelstein, z"l.



### **Overcoming Antisemitism in America**

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

While the alarming increase in Antisemitism in the United States is cause for concern, Norman Finkelstein shows us that this is just the latest iteration of prejudice and hatred on these shores. This session will explore his final book, *Saying No to Hate: Overcoming Antisemitism in America*, to understand as much the current crisis as the Jewish community's unending courage, perseverance, and hope. We will also have a chance to remember Norman Finkelstein, a natural storyteller with Chelsea roots. Our speaker, **Rabbi Charles E. Savenor**, is the Executive Director of Civic Spirit. Before joining the Civic Spirit team, Rabbi Savenor worked at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York as the Director of Congregational Education. He graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A., summa cum laude, and received rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) with a concentration in Education. In addition to his Masters of Education from Columbia University Teachers College, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by JTS in 2022. He blogs on parenting, leadership, civic education, and Judaism in the 21st century. He is currently writing a book called *What My Father Couldn't Tell Me*. Originally from Needham, MA, he lives in New York City with his wife and two sons, who are all Red Sox fans.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-speaker-series-overcoming-antisemitism-in-america-tickets-846118211347?aff=oddtcreator>

## **CSP**

We are pleased to be a partner congregation of the Orange County Jewish **Community Scholar Program (CSP)**. Please join us at an upcoming program!



### **Artifacts of Identity – Exploring Jewish Material Culture Through Time**

**Part 4 - At Home in the Jewish World** - Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

**Part 5 - At Home in the Jewish World** - Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

When we think about archaeology, we think, of course, about antiquity. But Jews in all times in places lived in communities surrounded by the material culture – the architecture, the furnishings, the clothing, and the artifacts – of their time. Join Professor Marc Michael Epstein for a deep dive into Jewish spaces,

places, clothing, and the material remains of daily and synagogue life — of Jewish “stuff” throughout the ages. How should we go about digging for clues in this vast array of material? And how can we use what we discover about how Jewish “stuff” in times gone by to understand Jewish “stuff” and Jewish lives today?

**Part 4 - At Home in the Jewish World** - What can we learn about Jewish life from the Jewish home, as depicted in art? Where can we find the “lost treasures” of historical Jewish civilizations now gone?

**Part 5 - Erased Synagogues** - So many synagogues that were, in former times, the hubs of vibrant communities are no longer extant, for a myriad of reasons. Can we reconstruct these beautiful, vanished buildings?

Winner of the 2015 Jewish Book Award in Visual Arts for *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts*, **Marc Michael Epstein** is the product of a mixed marriage between the scions of Slonimer and Lubavitcher Hassidim and Romanian socialists, and grew up, rather confused, but happy, in Brooklyn, New York. He is currently Professor of Religion at Vassar College, where he has been teaching since 1992, and was the first Director of Jewish Studies. At Vassar, he teaches courses on medieval Christianity, religion, arts and politics, and Jewish texts and sources. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, received the PhD at Yale University, and did much of his graduate research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. During the 1980s, Epstein was Director of the Hebrew Books and Manuscripts division of Sotheby's Judaica department. He continues to serve as consultant to various libraries, auction houses, museums and private collectors throughout the world.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodOGogzWuEtW21L6o361KEe1NjaHryfUa?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=d438e678a2-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_04&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-d438e678a2-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcodOGogzWuEtW21L6o361KEe1NjaHryfUa?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=d438e678a2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-d438e678a2-386548940#/registration)

### **Jewish Art Restitution Today, A Case Study**

Thursday, April 25, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

During the last two decades there has been a growing determination to restore works of art that were plundered by the Nazis during WWII. This lecture will examine the possible reasons for this shift in awareness, based on Sophia's personal experience and research in connection with the remarkable case of the restitution of the painting by Jozef Israëls (Dutch, 1824–1911) titled *From Darkness to Light*. Since 2016, **Sophia Berry** has been working as an Assistant Curator at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (TAMA). Her position at TAMA includes responsibilities of managing exhibitions from the museum's collections and external loans, researching the museum's collections, overseeing outgoing loans, writing catalogue texts, and leading restoration projects. Sophia's latest project was a special exhibition of George Segal's (1914–2000) sculpture, *Sacrifice of Isaac*, that was uncovered after a two year restoration process. Sophia has also curated a special display dedicated to Joseph Israel's *From Darkness and Light* (1871), which was recently discovered to have been Jewish property before the war. Since her return from a two year sabbatical in Denver, Sophia has been working in the photography department.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucemuqjoqGtABPWXOXmKMLplq0\\_bU7eY?utm\\_source=CSP&utm\\_campaign=4764c664f7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-4764c664f7-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucemuqjoqGtABPWXOXmKMLplq0_bU7eY?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=4764c664f7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-4764c664f7-386548940#/registration)

### **Tracing the Footsteps of Jewish Prague: A Journey Through Centuries of Resilience**

Thursday, May 2, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us on a compelling virtual journey through the Jewish history of Bohemia, starting from the 10th century. We'll uncover the stories behind the WWII Stolpersteine (“stumbling stones”) and the annexation of Czechoslovakia, delve into the narratives of the Shoah and the Terezín Concentration Camp, celebrate the heroism of Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children, and visit one of the oldest synagogues in Europe. Our journey will conclude with insights into the life of former US ambassador Norman Eisen and the history of Petschka Palace, now a U.S. diplomatic residence in Prague.

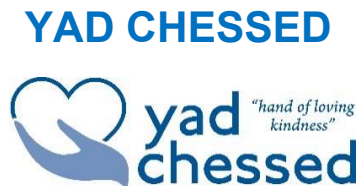
Our guide, **Nikola**, is the proud ambassador of Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. She has been working in tourism for over 15 years and has been working as a full-time guide for the last 4 years. When Nikola has free time, she enjoys cooking, hiking, biking and spending quality time with her twins.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEfCeCuqD4vHtelzLQVSUiguN4wJtvOUjH?utm\\_source=CS&utm\\_campaign=723b9ecac5-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_03\\_04\\_55\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5ee28fcb1-723b9ecac5-386548940#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEfCeCuqD4vHtelzLQVSUiguN4wJtvOUjH?utm_source=CS&utm_campaign=723b9ecac5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-723b9ecac5-386548940#/registration)

## SHUL TOURS

If you live in the Boston area and have never seen our historic shul, or haven't visited in a while, or if you plan to visit the area, we welcome you to see our shul in person and take a tour! Please follow the link below for more information and to request **Individual/Family** or **Group (new)** tours.

**Visitor Information** - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/visit/>



### **Fulfill a Passover Mitzvah with Yad Chessed: "Let all Who are Hungry Come and Eat"**

As Passover approaches, we all have the opportunity to fulfill the beautiful mitzvah of Maot Chittim ("wheat money") by making a donation to Yad Chessed to ensure that every member of our community can afford food and joyfully celebrate this cherished holiday.

Maot Chittim is a mitzvah which dates to ancient times when individuals would contribute funds so that everyone in their community could afford the necessary provisions for the Passover holiday. Yad Chessed, an organization focused solely on assisting Jews in our community currently struggling with financial hardship and food insecurity, is committed to upholding this tradition by helping families purchase food on Passover. Your generous donation will contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind during this special time of year.

By giving to Yad Chessed, you are not only fulfilling a fundamental mitzvah but also spreading hope, joy, and unity throughout our community. And, if you know of someone in our community who is struggling with financial challenges, please encourage them to reach out to Yad Chessed ([www.yadchessed.org/intake-form/](http://www.yadchessed.org/intake-form/)) for assistance.

**Support Yad Chessed** - <https://givebutter.com/yadchessed>

## SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

Do you have milestones such as marriages, births, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, special birthdays, graduations, etc. to share with our synagogue family? If so, please submit details to [central.walnutstreetsshul@gmail.com](mailto:central.walnutstreetsshul@gmail.com) to be included in our weekly announcements. Photos are welcome!

## GIVING

Please visit our Giving page to send tributes, recognize yahrzeits and make other general donations to support the synagogue. Donations can be made online or through the mail.  
<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/giving/>

## VISIT US ONLINE

Website

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/>

Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<https://www.facebook.com/WalnutStreetSynagogue>

Facebook Group - Jews of Chelsea, MA Then and Now

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChelseaJews>

*The Walnut Street Synagogue is the center for Jewish history, education and culture serving Chelsea, Greater Boston and beyond and is the historic home of Congregation Agudas Sholom. (added to National Register of Historic Places in 1993)*



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