



Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – May 28, 2024

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!



The Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic: Rereading the Women of the Talmud

Tuesday, May 28, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

How does the Talmud portray its heroines? Why are they never as they first seem? And what does this tell us about the rabbis' views of marriage, sex, childbirth, and what it means to be a woman in the world? In this first international launch of her new book, Gila Fine sits down with Rabbi Dr. Shai Cherry to discuss the stories of six Talmudic heroines, how to read them, and why she came to write about them. Join us for this exclusive CSP event.

Gila Fine is a lecturer of rabbinic literature at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, exploring the tales of the Talmud through philosophy, literary criticism, psychoanalysis, and pop-culture. She serves on the faculties of the Nachshon Project, Amudim Seminary, the Tikvah Scholars Program, the London School of Jewish Studies, the Community Scholar Program, and WebYeshiva, and has taught thousands of students at conferences, campuses, and communities across the Jewish world. As editor in chief of Maggid Books, Gila worked closely with such leading scholars as Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz and Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, publishing over a hundred titles of contemporary Jewish thought, including several bestsellers and eight National Jewish Book Award winners. She is also the former editor of *Azure: Ideas for the Jewish Nation*. Her work has been featured in the BBC, *Haaretz*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Jerusalem Report*, *Tradition Journal*, *Jewish News*, and *The Jewish Chronicle* (which selected her as one of the ten most influential Brits in Israel). *Haaretz* has called her “a young woman on her way to becoming one of the more outstanding Jewish thinkers of the next generation.”

Rabbi Dr. Shai Cherry serves as rabbi and Creative Educational Officer of Congregation Aduth Jeshurun in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. After eighteen years in academics, Cherry shifted from university teaching to the pulpit in 2019. Rav Shai's first book, *Torah through Time: Understanding Bible Commentary from the Rabbinic Period to Modern Times*, redirected his focus from creation to revelation—how is God's word and will understood in changing circumstances? Finally, how do we respond to what we understand to be God's will? His latest work, *Coherent Judaism: Constructive Theology, Creation, and Halakhah* brings these threads together to offer a vision of 21st-century Judaism. Formerly on the faculties of Vanderbilt University and the University of San Diego, he is the featured lecturer for The Great Courses' "Introduction to Judaism."

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtc-2gqj8jG9EsbJkv1bdiVKIEcj_VhHGv#/registration

Sovereignty, Violence and Morality – Zionism and the Ethics of Judaism

Part 4 – Thursday, May 30, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

The current Israeli-Palestinian conflict has seen a revival of the discussion regarding the Jewish right to establish a state in the Land of Israel that has occasioned a renewed focus on the dynamics of sovereignty. Beyond a doubt, the implementation of Jewish sovereignty in Eretz Yisrael is the essential dimension of political Zionism. In this four-part seminar, Rabbi Seidler-Feller will examine the manner with which religion interacts with sovereignty and with the nationalist impulse that it nurtures. Among the questions considered are: Can the mingling of religion and state function constructively or must their interplay always be toxic, resulting in harmful and oppressive outcomes? Can God and religious values curb the excesses of nationalist fervor? How does the seductively alluring nature of power factor into the Zionist expression of Jewish sovereignty? And can there be a Zionism that embraces God, but does not aspire to sovereignty? We will study a variety of sources, ranging from the writings of the Rabbi of Satmar (an avowed anti-Zionist), to the power centered ideology of Vladimir Jabotinsky, to the messianic exhortations of the Rabbis Kook (father and son) and the settler rabbis of Gush Emunim (the Bloc of the Faithful), to the pacifist thought of “One of the Passionate Rabbis” and to the humanistic teachings of Ahad Ha’am and the founders of religious Zionism. We will see how some of these teachings inform and shape Israeli politics and foment the extremism that is evident today. And we will discover the sober voices of the tradition that promote constraint and a limitation on the unfettered exercise of power.

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller recently celebrated his fortieth year of working with students and faculty as the Executive Director of the Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He is currently Director Emeritus. He was ordained in 1971 at Yeshiva University where he completed a Masters in Rabbinic Literature. Chaim has been a lecturer in the Departments of Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA and in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. He is currently a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute, North America and of the Wexner Heritage Foundation. He was the founding director of the Hartman Fellowship for Campus Professionals and a founding member of Americans for Peace Now. In 2014 he initiated a fact-finding mission for non-Jewish student leaders to Israel and the Palestinian Authority which is now offered on 90 campuses. He is married to Dr. Doreen Seidler-Feller, a clinical psychologist, and is the father of Shulie, a photojournalist and Shaul, an ordained rabbi who is currently serving as a Judaica consultant at Sotheby’s while pursuing a doctorate in Jewish History at the Hebrew University.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckf-2srzkiEtdro5xCQfyL5ym4lwWIIA?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=68abf96719-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-68abf96719-386548940#/registration

Ruth: A Play in Four Acts

Sunday, June 2, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

The Book of Ruth tells its story with charm and pathos, and our tradition teaches us that “This scroll [Ruth] tells us nothing either of purity or impurity, of the forbidden or the permitted. For what purpose was it written? To teach how great is the reward of those who do deeds of loving-kindness” (Ruth Rabba 2:14). This quote looks to Ruth as we tend to see her, the generous, sweet, devoted convert who will do anything for her widowed mother-in-law. But that is just one level of the story; one aspect of this most beloved text. Join us as we look at Ruth in a new light, Ruth the woman and Ruth the text.

Dr. Sharon Keller, who served as CSP’s 15th Annual One Month Scholar in residence in January 2016 and who earned her doctorate at New York University (NYU) in the Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies in the area of Bible and the Ancient Near East, is a member of the Classics faculty at Hofstra University. She has been an Assistant Professor of Bible and Ancient Semitic Languages at The Jewish Theological Seminary and at Hebrew Union College; she has also held appointments at NYU, and New York City’s Hunter College—teaching biblical text courses as well as more general courses in biblical literature and history, as well as the courses in the art and archaeology of the lands of the Bible and the ancient Mediterranean world. She has written and edited numerous scholarly articles and academic books, most of which relate to the interplay between biblical Israel and ancient Egypt. Her most popular book, *Jews: A Treasury of Art and Literature* was awarded the prestigious National Jewish Book Award. Known for the enthusiasm and humor that she brings to all of her talks that make otherwise esoteric

subjects easily accessible, Sharon is an in-demand lecturer and adult education course instructor throughout the United States.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdeigrDqsGdLJh46NDsYdg7Mm-rrgwpJ2#/registration>

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Explore the Heart of Judaism – Spirit, Ethics and Community

Part 2 – What is Jewish Community: The People Israel - Thursday, May 30, 7:30 pm EDT

Part 3 – What Do Jews Believe: Wrestling with God - Thursday, June 6, 7:30 pm EDT

Part 4 – Where Do We Go from Here: Next Steps Q & A - Thursday, June 20, 7:30 pm EDT

(online series presented by the Lappin Foundation)

Join the Lappin Foundation for an online series with Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal from Temple Beth Shalom in Melrose and Rabbi Alison Adler from Temple B'nai Abraham in Beverly. This series is provided at no cost thanks to generous support from the Morton and Lillian Waldfogel Charitable Foundation and Peter and Maureen Waldfogel.

<https://www.lappinfoundation.org/2023/08/01/a-preview-of-introduction-to-judaism/>

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/>



Yad Chessed helps Jewish individuals and families who struggle with financial hardship pay their bills and buy food. As a social services agency rooted in the Jewish values of kindness (chedded) and charity (zedakah), they are committed to helping those in need navigate a path toward financial stability while preserving their privacy and dignity. They provide emergency financial assistance, grocery gift cards and compassionate advice for those trying to make ends meet. Hundreds of families and individuals throughout the state rely on Yad Chessed to provide for their essentials, and even at times, a Jewish burial for a loved one. Members of our community, as well as others in the Jewish community, who need assistance may contact Yad Chessed by phone at 781-487-2693 or by Email at intake@yadchedded.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchedded.org.

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Do you have milestones such as marriages, births, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, special birthdays, graduations, etc. to share with our community? If so, please submit details to central.walnutstreetshul@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 Walnut Street 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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