



New Travel Series, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – October 28, 2024

FOUR LESSER KNOWN AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Our new live virtual travel series, *Four Lesser Known American Jewish Communities*, begins in November.



Join us for the first session in our series on November 20 at 7:00 pm EST when we will visit New Mexico and learn about its fascinating for Jewish history. To learn more about this program and register, please visit our series event page here – walnutstreetsynagogue.com/u-s-travel-series

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!



History & Memory – Key Themes in the Jewish Experience

Part 5 - Tuesday, October 29, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

This five-part series offers an insightful exploration into the pivotal themes that have shaped Jewish history and identity. Instead of attempting to cover 3,000 years of Jewish existence across the globe, this series focuses on the enduring tension between 'history' and 'memory'—a critical lens through which we will examine the Jewish people's journey from their ancient origins to the present day. Each session delves into a core theme: the nature of the Jews as a people, the centrality of Torah, the challenges and opportunities of Diaspora life, the impact of sectarianism and the birth of Christianity, and the evolution of Rabbinic Judaism through the Oral Torah. This series is designed for both newcomers to Jewish history

and those familiar with its basic narratives, offering a deeper understanding of its significance and relevance for Jews today.

Session 5: Midrash - 'Oral Torah' & the Interpretive Tradition of Rabbinic Judaism – In our final session, we will focus on the Oral Torah and the rich interpretive tradition of Rabbinic Judaism. We will explore the development of Midrash, the role of the Rabbis in shaping Jewish law and theology, and how these interpretations have kept Judaism dynamic and relevant through the centuries.

David E. Kaufman, our presenter for five sessions, was born and bred in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at the Bialik Hebrew Day School and the Yeshiva of Flatbush High School. He holds degrees from Columbia College, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Brandeis University. A PhD in American Jewish History, he has taught at numerous colleges such as CUNY, Brown University, University of Massachusetts/Amherst, Hebrew Union College/Los Angeles and Hofstra University. In addition to numerous articles on the social, religious, and architectural history of the American synagogue, Dr. Kaufman has authored two books: *Shul with a Pool: The Synagogue-Center in American Jewish History* (Brandeis, 1999) and *Jewhooping the Sixties: American Celebrity and Jewish Identity* (Brandeis, 2012). David currently lives on the Upper West Side and is engaged in public education, researching, writing, and teaching the history of the New York Jewish community.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwofuytpjsrGNEPzHp-gppcyIbKKcWrnyHD#/registration>

Talmudic Perspectives on Women – Historical Insights and Their Lasting Impact Today

Thursday, October 31, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for an enlightening online session with Nechama Goldman Barash, who is returning to CSP after a highly engaging session a few months ago! Nechama will delve into the complexities that have shaped Jewish women's roles, religious identity, and ritual obligations throughout history. Explore how these factors have influenced Jewish women's experiences over time and examine the impact of gender on Jewish practice and religious dress codes today. Nechama will also address the intricate relationship between faith and sexuality within the halakhic framework, offering a nuanced perspective on these critical issues. Don't miss this opportunity to welcome Nechama back and gain a deeper understanding of the historical evolution and current implications of these topics.

Rabbanit Nechama Goldman Barash teaches contemporary halakhah and Talmud at Matan, Midreshet Torah V'Avodah (MTVA), and the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. She moved to Israel in 1991 after graduating from Stern College in New York. Nechama holds a master's degree in Talmud from Bar-Ilan University and is a graduate of Nishmat's Yoetzet Halacha program, which certified her to serve as an advisor to individuals with halakhic questions around marital intimacy and is a certified sex educator. She is an alumna of Matan's Advanced Talmud Institute where she studied in Matan's Hilkhata, Advanced Institute for Halakhic Studies. Nechama is an active member of the rabbinic organization Beit Hillel and participates in interfaith dialogue with Roots, an organization based in Gush Etzion where she lives. She just published her first book on women and Jewish law titled *Uncovered: Women's Roles, Mitzvot and Sexuality in Jewish Law* (Urim Publications).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufu2qqjgsGNfSgeeRASsQp3pB3uT7s8ZZ#/registration>

The Age of Empires

Sunday, November 3, 1:00 pm EST (online)

The Assyrian Empire's rise to power, becoming the Neo Assyrian Empire, had a profound impact on the fate of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Judah chose to become a vassal state, while the kingdom of Israel was destroyed; later, when Judah rebelled, it paid a heavy price. It was saved in the nick of time, but was forced to partake in Assyrian campaigns and continue to pay heavy taxes. Join us as we explore the geopolitical changes in the region during the Iron Age, the way our ancestors responded to them, and the fate their choices had, for better or for worse.

Nachliel Selavan, an expert in Tanakh, Jewish history, and museum education, holds double majors in Tanakh and Mass Media, an MA from the Hebrew University's Melton School of Jewish Education, and a second MA in Ancient Jewish History from Yeshiva University. With extensive experience teaching in Israel and the U.S., Nachliel has captivated thousands of students through formal and informal educational settings. His unique approach, sTOURytelling™, combines hands-on learning with museum tours, making history and art come alive. Currently residing in Israel, Nachliel continues to guide museum tours across the U.S., Europe, and Israel, including the Israel Museum. His tours cover diverse and

intriguing topics, making each experience memorable and educational. Born and raised in Jerusalem's Old City, he brings a rich family history and a deep connection to Israel.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZAlD0mqqzwiHtWihgSbKj-vTyZuGxa-fJzi#/registration>

Roots and Resilience – The Jewish Story of Romania and Moldova

Part 2 - Moldova (Former Bessarabia) and Its Jewry - Sunday, November 17, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 – Resilience and Transformation: Jewish Romania in the 20th Century - Sunday, December 15, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Welcome to an immersive three-part series exploring the rich and complex Jewish history of Romania and Moldova (aka Bessarabia). From the roots of Jewish life in the 2nd century CE to the vibrant communities of the 18th and 19th centuries, and the tumultuous events of the 20th century, this virtual journey will take you through the heart of these lands, visiting both bustling capitals, Bucharest and Kishinev, and smaller towns in the region. Together, we'll uncover the intricate tapestry of Jewish heritage in Romania and Moldova, delving deep into the political, cultural, and social landscapes that shaped Jewish life across the centuries.

Part 2 – Moldova (Former Bessarabia) and Its Jewry - Step into the streets of Kishinev, a city once home to over 50,000 Jews, where we'll recount the devastating pogrom of 1903 that left an indelible mark on Jewish history and culture. We'll explore the lives of Kishinev's Jewish intellectuals, political leaders, and everyday citizens, while also discussing the present and future of the Jewish community in Moldova.

Part 3 – Resilience and Transformation: Jewish Romania in the 20th Century – Witness the dramatic shifts in Jewish life throughout Romania in the 20th century, from the challenges of the World Wars to the migration of Jews to Israel. Our virtual tour will take us to surviving synagogues and Jewish communities, including the Grand Synagogue of Bucharest, as we explore the resilience and transformation of Romanian Jewry over the last century.


Evgenia Kempinski is a Russian Jew born and raised in St. Petersburg. Her family was originally from the Pale of Settlement, Poland, Ukraine and Belorussia, and endured the suppression of Judaism in the Soviet Union then the rebirth of Jewish culture and religious life in today's St. Petersburg. She has been an official St. Petersburg tour guide for over 15 years and is the founder and owner of St. Petersburg Jewish Tours, a company offering Jewish travelers a unique experience of showcasing the best of Russia from a Jewish point of view. She currently lives in Haifa, Israel, still keeping close connections with St. Petersburg and its Jewish community.

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZ0sdemuqzqoG9D-N_5ewuFNfwKmR779DoBo#/registration

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

The Forgotten Refugees – Film Screening and Discussion

Monday, November 4, 7:00 pm (in person at Temple Ner Tamid, 368 Lowell Street. Peabody)





NOVEMBER IS MIZRAHI JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH

Join us for an in-person film screening and discussion: *The Forgotten Refugees*, a film about the Jewish exodus from the Muslim world.

The documentary weaves personal stories with dramatic archival footage of rescue missions, historic images of exodus and resettlement, and analysis by contemporary scholars to tell the story of how and why the Jewish population in the Middle East and North Africa declined from one million in 1945 to several thousands today.

Monday, November 4, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.
Temple Ner Tamid
368 Lowell Street, Peabody

REGISTER HERE



The program is free, and everyone is welcome.
For more information, contact: Ernie Wiener at 278-555-0100
or email: wiener@lappinfoundation.org

The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to be a community partner with the Lappin Foundation for the screening of *The Forgotten Refugees*, a film about the Jewish exodus from the Muslim world, and a discussion to follow. The documentary weaves personal stories with dramatic archival footage of rescue

missions, historic images of exodus and resettlement, and analyses by contemporary scholars to tell the story of how and why the Jewish population in the Middle East and North Africa declined from one million in 1945 to several thousand today. The program is free and everyone is welcome.

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/141>

Celebrate Mizrahi Jewish Heritage Month with Yoni Battat

Sunday, November 17, 4:00 pm (in person at Temple Ner Tamid, 368 Lowell Street, Peabody)



NOVEMBER IS MIZRAHI JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH



Yoni Battat Celebrate Mizrahi Jewish Heritage Month with us at an uplifting educational and musical program featuring talented Iraqi Jewish musician Yoni Battat! Yoni will take us on an exploration of Mizrahi music, which is largely based in Middle Eastern and oriental musical traditions.

Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.
Temple Ner Tamid
368 Lowell Street, Peabody

REGISTER HERE Everyone is welcome to this free program. Registration is requested, walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sharon Winer at 978.565-4450 or email swiner@lappinfoundation.org

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

AJC New England Brookline Village Jewish Community Club of Peabody Congregation Ahava Achim Congregation Ahavat Gan Congregation Bnei Eliezer Congregation Tikvah Israel Lepsholtz	Etzrah Hatorah School Hedvah North Stars P.A. Jewish Community Center of the North Shore Jewish Community Resource Center of Greater Boston Jews4MELiK Temple Ahavat Achim Temple Beth Shalom	Temple Emanuel of Wakefield Temple Emancipator, Haverhill Temple Emancipator, Melrose Temple Ner Tamid Temple Shalom Temple Tikvah Israel Temple Tifereth Shalom Walnut Street Synagogue
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The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to be a community partner with the Lappin Foundation for a Mizrahi Jewish Heritage Month educational and musical program with Iraqi Jewish musician Yoni Battat. Yoni will take us on an exploration of Mizrahi music, which is largely based in Middle Eastern and oriental musical traditions. The program is free and everyone is welcome. Registration is requested. Walk-ins are welcome.

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/127>

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! We were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Please follow the link below for more information and to request **Individual/Family** or **Group (new)** tours.

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

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/>

YAD CHESSED



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 (chessed) 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@yadchessed.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchessed.org.

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

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

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<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)



Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, PO Box 505265, Chelsea, MA 02150-5265
Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com