



Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – October 14, 2024

Sukkot begins Wednesday evening. Chag Sameach! חג שמח

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 3 - Tuesday, October 15, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 4 - Tuesday, October 22, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 5 - Tuesday, October 29, 3:30 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 3: Diaspora - Hellenistic Culture & the 'Blessing' of Assimilation – In this session, we will examine the Jewish experience in the Diaspora, particularly during the Hellenistic period. We'll discuss how Jewish communities navigated the challenges and opportunities of living in a non-Jewish environment, and how assimilation has been both a threat and a blessing throughout Jewish history.

Session 4: Synagogue - Jewish Sectarianism & the Birth of Christianity – This session explores the rise of Jewish sectarianism during the Second Temple period and its role in the birth of Christianity. We will investigate the diverse religious movements within Judaism at that time and how these divisions contributed to the development of early Christian thought and practice.

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 *Jewhooning 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>

Roots and Resilience – The Jewish Story of Romania and Moldova

Part 1 - Echoes of the Past: Unearthing the Centuries-old History of Jewish Romania - Sunday, October 20, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

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 1 – Echoes of the Past: Unearthing the Centuries-old History of Jewish Romania - Discover the early foundations of Jewish life in Romania, tracing its evolution from ancient times through the flourishing communities of the 18th and 19th centuries. We'll journey to historic Jewish towns, exploring their vibrant communities and daily life, setting the stage for understanding Romania's Jewish heritage.

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/meeting/register/tZ0sdemuqzqoG9D-N_5ewuFNfwKmR779DoBo#/registration

Meet the Millennials – How Jewish Organizations Will Need to Change to Survive in the 21st Century

Monday, October 21, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Join us for an insightful online session with Rabbi Mike Uram, Chief Jewish Learning Officer for Jewish Federations of North America, as he explores the most current demographic trends shaping the future of the Jewish community. In this one-hour event, Rabbi Uram will analyze the evolving landscape of the next generation of Jewish adults, discussing how these trends impact the future of Jewish organizations. Drawing on his extensive experience, including roles as the former Chief Vision and Education Officer for Pardes North America and Executive Director at Penn Hillel, Rabbi Uram will provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Jewish institutions. He will highlight key factors such as shifting religious affiliations and engagement levels among millennials, offering valuable insights into how Jewish organizations can adapt and innovate to remain relevant and impactful. This session is

an essential opportunity for anyone interested in the future of Jewish life to understand the forces shaping our community's future, with a Q&A segment to engage directly with Rabbi Uram.

Rabbi Mike Uram is the first ever Chief Jewish Learning Officer for Jewish Federations of North America. Previously, he served as the Chief Vision and Education Officer for Pardes North America building a new platform for Jewish education in North America. Before that, Mike led Penn Hillel as the Executive Director and Campus Rabbi for over 16 years. He is the author of the best-selling book entitled, *Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish Organizations*, which won a National Jewish Book Award. He is a sought-after speaker and consultant on the changing nature of the American Jewish community, Jewish innovation, cutting-edge engagement, and how legacy organizations can reinvent themselves in the age of millennials. Mike has worked with dozens of Jewish organizations including the Wexner Foundation, the Schusterman Foundation, Hillel International, United Synagogue, The Rabbinical Assembly, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and many local federations, synagogues and JCCs. Mike served as lead faculty and Jewish coach for the first three cohorts of Schusterman Fellowship and was the principal architect for the Jewish leadership growth elements of the fellowship. Recently, Mike also co-authored and designed a new educational framework for Birthright Israel. Mike has spent time in all the different denominations and is most passionate about breaking down the personal, spiritual, and intellectual boundaries that prevent people from having full self-actualized Jewish identities. Mike holds a BA in History and Religious Studies from Washington University and Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He lives outside Philadelphia with his wife Leora and their three children.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdeusqD8rGtCtUq5z-U1i8dvBn5pQof9w#/registration>

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teens Feed

Tuesday, October 15, 7:30 pm (in person at Congregation Shirat Hayam, 55 Atlantic Ave. Swampscott)

Jewish teens in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the mitzvah of caring for the stranger by preparing meals for Lifebridge North Shore. Teens learn about the connection between Judaism and social justice while contributing to the well-being of our community. Dinner will be served to teen volunteers. *Sponsored by the Lappin Foundation*

Teens Feed Flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Teen-Feed-Flyer.pdf>

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/134>

Teen Up – Empowering Teens to Stand up to Antisemitism Using Lessons of the Holocaust

The Lappin Foundation's Teen Up program is open to Jewish high school students and includes a free one-day trip to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC on Monday, November 11. Space is limited. Register by October 15.

Teen Up Flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Teen-Up-DC-Flyer-Fall.pdf>

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/118>

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 (tzedakah), 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)



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Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com