



Travel Series Continues, Upcoming Programs and More - November 25, 2024

FOUR LESSER KNOWN AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Our new live virtual travel series, *Four Lesser Known American Jewish Communities*, continues on December 18.



Join us for the second session in our series on **Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm EST** when we will head north to Alaska. Alaska was purchased from the Russian empire only 154 years ago but the Jewish contribution for the development of Anchorage and Alaska in general is remarkable. In fact, the first mayor of Anchorage was Jewish and more so the idea to purchase Alaska was a Jewish idea. We will be guided by Rabbi Levi Glitsenstein who nine years ago joined the team of the Alaska Jewish Campus and Museum in Anchorage, a home for Jewish life, history and culture in Alaska that serves the growing Jewish community.

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/four-lesser-known-american-jewish-communities-alaska-tickets-1061802683409>

Learn more about the series 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!



Labor, Work, Action – The Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod
Tuesday, November 26, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

The connection between the labor settlement movement, Jewish culture, and contemporary art led to the formation of a unique collection at the Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod, which encompasses approximately 20,000 paintings, sculptures, photographs, graphic works, and Judaica items. This collection outlines alternative paths, lending itself to challenging and different perspectives on the history

of Israeli art, its origins, trends and directions, and accordingly, on Israeli society and local history. In this lecture, Avi Lubin, chief curator of the Mishkan Museum, will talk about the unique story of the Mishkan Museum history, its architecture and art collection, focusing on the museum's new permanent collection that includes artworks from 19th-century Europe and contemporary works from Israel, works by mainstream artists and lesser known or outsider artists, renowned canonical works and works that were kept in the collection storage and were not publicly displayed for years.

Avi Lubin is a curator and writer in the field of contemporary art. Currently he is curator of Mishkan Museum of Art. Lubin curated Aya Ben Ron's exhibition for the Israeli Pavilion in the 58th Venice Biennale. He has curated many solo and group exhibitions in public and private galleries, museums and alternative spaces in Israel and around the world. His articles have been published in academic journals, magazines, monographs and catalogs.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfuGurTqvHtPw8XUNpt3cKpzOaqQQYNdG#/registration>

When Age Doesn't Matter – Two best friends, 30 years apart

Sunday, December 1, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for a captivating conversation featuring Deborah Vankin and Loraine Despres Eastlake, inspired by Vankin's recent Los Angeles Times article about their unique friendship, despite a 30-year age gap. They'll explore the nuances of intergenerational friendships, sharing insights into their bond that has thrived for over two decades. Loraine will reflect on her groundbreaking career as a TV writer in the 1980s, where she often stood as the only woman in the writers' room on iconic shows like *Dynasty* and *Dallas*. She'll also discuss her upbringing in a small southern town near New Orleans, navigating antisemitism as part of the only Jewish family in the area, and how she reinvented herself as a novelist and poet after Hollywood deemed her "too old" for television. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the role of art in sustaining friendships and hear more about their remarkable journeys. Come for the stories, stay for the inspiration!

Loraine Despres Eastlake is a novelist and recovering screenwriter. Her first novel, *The Scandalous Summer of Sissy Leblanc*, now in its 25th printing, was a national best seller, a Literary Guild Selection, and a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick. It engendered *The Southern Belle's Handbook*, *Sissy Leblanc's Rules to Live By* and was followed by *The Bad Behavior of Belle Cantrell*, all published by HarperCollins. Before novels, she wrote screenplays, pilots, and numerous TV episodes for shows such as the *Love Boat* (her break-in episode), the *Equalizer*, *Highlander* and many others, but she's best remembered for that icon of pop culture, the "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of *Dallas*. She taught screenwriting at the UCLA Professional Screenwriting Program for seven years and has worked as an international screenwriting consultant in Spain, Sweden and Germany. In Berlin she gave workshops on screenwriting and supervised the writing shop for Grundy UFA's successful TV series, *Hintertuerr* (*Women Behind Bars*). Loraine lives in Beverly Hills with her husband, writer-producer Carleton Eastlake.

Deborah Vankin is a features writer for the *Los Angeles Times* covering the \$4-trillion world of Wellness. She was the paper's arts and culture reporter for more than a decade, chronicling the city's new museum boom and gallery expansion. She's interviewed or profiled many of the leading artists of our time, including Mark Bradford, Catherine Opie, Takashi Murakami, Cindy Sherman, Ai Weiwei and many others. She has also written about television, film, comedy, books and nightlife for the paper and been a correspondent at the Oscars, Emmys and Golden Globes. Her work has won nearly two dozen local and national awards. In 2021, she was named a finalist for the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Best American Newspaper Narrative. Vankin's work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *LA Weekly* and *Variety*, as well as in numerous book anthologies. She is the author of the graphic novel, *Poseurs*, and teaches at Emerson College.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUude2gpzluGt2SKRo5tDwT_E0maaG_TUzk#/registration

Images Of A People – Jews in Art

Part 4 – The Jewish Jesus in Art - Thursday, December 5, 3:30 pm EST (online)

Part 5 – Jewish Spaces in Christian Art - Thursday, December 12, 3:30 pm EST (online)

Part 6 – From Anti-Judaism to Antisemitism – Echoes in Modernity and Postmodernity - Thursday, December 19, 3:30 pm EST (online)

Join us for a captivating six-part online series led by renowned scholar Professor Marc Michael Epstein. This thought-provoking journey delves into how Jews, Jewish stories, and Jewish spaces have been portrayed throughout history. Whether you're passionate about art, history, or Jewish culture, this series offers profound insights into how images shape identity and influence perception across time.

Winner of CSP's 4th Annual Maimonides Award for Excellence in Adult Jewish Education" as well as 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. He has written numerous articles and three books on various topics in visual and material culture produced by, for, and about Jews. His book, *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination* (Yale, 2011) was selected by the London Times Literary Supplement as one of the best books of 2011. 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, among them, the Herbert C. and Eileen Bernard Museum at Temple Emanu-El in New York City, for which he curated the inaugural exhibition, and the Fowler Museum at UCLA. He is the Director of Beit Venezia, the home for International Jewish Studies in Venice, Italy.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldeitqD0vE9flx3flWjVySwdwGY42kwC#/registration>

Roots and Resilience – The Jewish Story of Romania and Moldova

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 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/tZ0sdemuqzgoG9D-N_5ewuFNfwKmR779DoBo#/registration

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teens Feed

Wednesday, December 18, 6:00 pm EST (*in person at Temple Emanu-El, 393 Atlantic Ave., Marblehead*)

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/135>

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!

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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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