

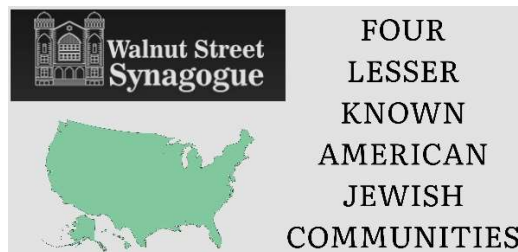


## Travel Series Starting Soon, Upcoming Programs and More – November 4, 2024

---

### FOUR LESSER KNOWN AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

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



Join us for the first session in our series on **Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 pm EST** when we will visit New Mexico and learn about its fascinating history for Jewish history. We will learn how the northern portion of New Mexico and southern part of Colorado became a refuge for Jews expelled from Spain beginning in 1492 with the Alhambra Decree. Esteban, our guide, was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a place that his father's people have called home for centuries on the Spanish Crypto Jews side and millennia on the Indigenous American Native side. Esteban is honored to now be the director of his community, Congregation Nahalat Shalom in Albuquerque

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/four-lesser-known-american-jewish-communities-new-mexico-tickets-1061641029899?aff=oddtcreator>

Learn more about the series here - [walnutstreetsynagogue.com/u-s-travel-series](http://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!



**Images Of A People – Jews in Art**

**Part 1 – The Earliest Images – Jews as an Object of Fascination** - Thursday, November 7, 3:30 pm EST (online)

**Part 2 – Exemplification – Good Jews: Priests, Prophets, Monarchs** - Thursday, November 14, 3:30 pm EST (online)

**Part 3 – Demonization – Jews as the Root of All Evil** - Thursday, November 21, 3:30 pm EST (online)

**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/tZcldetqD0vE9flx3flWjVySwdwGY42kwC#/registration>

### **Character and Complexity – Writing Multi-Dimensional Figures in Theater**

Sunday, November 10, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for a one-hour conversation with Tony Award-winning playwright and librettist Itamar Moses, whose remarkable works have captivated audiences on Broadway and beyond. From plays like *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, and *The Four of Us*, to the acclaimed musicals *The Band's Visit* and *Fortress of Solitude*, Itamar's storytelling continues to inspire and provoke. In this special session, we will explore key moments from Itamar's illustrious career and dive into the creation of his latest play, *The Ally*. Discover how personal influences and timely themes shaped this powerful work, as Itamar reflects on the complex intersections of identity, loyalty, and social justice through the journey of his protagonist, Asaf.

**About *The Ally*** – When college professor Asaf (Josh Radnor) is asked by a student to sign a social justice manifesto, what seems at first like a simple choice instead embroils him in an increasingly complex web of conflicting agendas that challenge his allegiances as a progressive, a husband, an artist, an academic, an American, an atheist, and a Jew. With tensions at an all-time high, Asaf is forced to confront the age-old question: "If I am only for myself, what am I?"

**Itamar Moses** is the Tony Award-winning author of the full-length plays *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Celebrity Row*, *The Four of Us*, *The Band's Visit* (with David Yazbek), and *An American Tail* (with Alan Schmuckler and Michael Mahler), among others. His work has appeared both on and Off-Broadway, elsewhere in New York, and at regional theatres across the country and internationally. He has received awards for his work from the New York Drama Critics Circle, the Outer Critics Circle, the Drama Desk, and Obie awards in New York, as well as awards from the Portland, San Diego, Dallas, and Bay Area Theatre Critics Circles. He has received new play commissions from The McCarter, Playwrights Horizons, Berkeley Rep, The Wilma Theater, South Coast Rep, Manhattan Theatre Club, Lincoln Center, and The Goodman. He holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University (NYU) and has taught playwriting at Yale and NYU. Born in Berkeley, California, he now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckdOGpqD8jHNy8AE5QroeyGfL1KW91Ezvv#/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/join?tZ0sdemuzqzoG9D-N\\_5ewuFNfwKmR779DoBo#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/join?tZ0sdemuzqzoG9D-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 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.

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 Francine Wiener at 978-885-0130 or [wyner@lappinfoundation.org](mailto:wyner@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>

## Boston Jewish Film Festival

Wednesday, November 6 through Wednesday, November 20 (*in-person at venues around Greater Boston and online*)

Enjoy films, conversations, and live performances with opportunities both in-person and online!

**Learn more** - [https://ticketing.bostonjfilm.org/websales/pages/list.aspx?epguid=01e7333b-55f9-4cbf-92ca-d39f611c443d&&utm\\_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm\\_campaign=10%2f31%2f2024\\_BJFF-BadShabbos-Pepi-Lefkovitches-FreshFlix%2bevents&utm\\_medium=email](https://ticketing.bostonjfilm.org/websales/pages/list.aspx?epguid=01e7333b-55f9-4cbf-92ca-d39f611c443d&&utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=10%2f31%2f2024_BJFF-BadShabbos-Pepi-Lefkovitches-FreshFlix%2bevents&utm_medium=email)

## From Torah Arks to Yahrzeit Plaques: Preserving Our Sacred Spaces and Community History

Wednesday, November 20, 5:00 pm EST (*in person at Newbridge on the Charles, 5000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham*)

Meet the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center for an evening at Newbridge on the Charles to celebrate their past and present work to document and preserve ritual objects and spaces in our Jewish community. Ruth Fein Research Fellow Samuel Gruber will give a talk about historic ark builder Sam Katz and the history of synagogue architecture. Carol Clingan will be presented with the Community Preservation Award. Business or cocktail attire. Space is limited, and advance registration is required.

**More information and registration** - <https://jewishheritagecenter.org/events/torah-arks-yahrzeit-plaques-preserving-our-sacred-spaces-and-community-history>

## 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 Wyner at 978-565-4450 or email [swyner@lappinfoundation.org](mailto:swyner@lappinfoundation.org)

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

AJC New England Brahmin Village Jewish Community Chabad of Peabody Congregation Ahavas Achim Congregation Ahavat Olan Congregation Yeshiva of Israel Congregation Tikvah Israel, Peabody	Epstein Hill School Haleviah North Shore Pk. Jewish Community Center of the North Shore Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston Scaeville Temple Ahavat Achim Temple Beth Shalom	Temple Emanuel of Wakefield Temple Emancipator, Haverhill Temple Emancipator, Rockport Temple Ner Tamid Temple Israel Temple Tifereth Israel Temple Tikvah Shalom Temple Tifereth Israel Walnut Street Synagogue
---	---	--

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 (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](mailto:intake@yadchessed.org) for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to [info@yadchessed.org](mailto: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](mailto: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)*





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