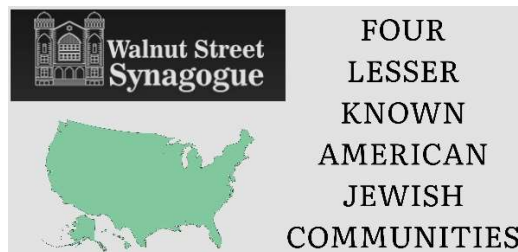




Travel Series Starts Wednesday, Upcoming Programs and More – November 18, 2024

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

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!



Bridging Cultures through Art – Hip-Hop, Poetry, and the Art of Multilingual Expression
Tuesday, November 19, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for a special one-hour online session live from Jaffa, Israel, in honor of the memory of CSP patron, Bernard "Barney" Gilmore (z"l), beloved Professor of Music at University of California, Irvine. This unique program will feature Neta Weiner and Samira Saraya, founders of the Beit System Ali movement for cultural activism, as they share their experiences in binational, multilingual artistic creation. Through live performances of hip-hop, poetry, and spoken word, along with insightful discussion on the power of art in challenging times, Neta and Samira will inspire and move us with their profound artistic vision.

Neta Weiner is an artist and social activist based in Jaffa. He is a founding member and lead singer of System Ali, a multilingual Jewish-Arab Hip-Hop project, and the artistic director of the Beit System Ali social educational movement. Weiner has created several critically acclaimed and award-winning stage works that have been produced for festivals and significant theaters worldwide. As a musician, he wrote the soundtrack for the acclaimed TV teen series "Madrasa" (meaning "school" in Arabic). Last year, Weiner released his second solo album, "Pinui Binui," written in Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, and English. Weiner is a lecturer in the Tufts University Theatre, Dance, and Performance Department. In the upcoming academic year, Weiner will serve as a guest scholar at the Schusterman Center at Brandeis University.

Samira Saraya is a Palestinian-Israeli actor, writer, director, performer, rap and spoken-word artist, and an LGBTQ activist. In 2017, Saraya won the Best Actress Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival for her performance in *Death of a Poetess*. As an actress and director, Saraya's shows and films have been acquired by Netflix and screened internationally, including at the Cannes Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival and San Sebastian Film Festival. In 2018, Saraya won the Best Screenplay Award at TLVFest for her short film *Polygraph*.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdeuqqTlrHtXI_5oYqDfCtzNdU7ws0uOd#/registration

Images Of A People – Jews in Art

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/tZcldeitqD0vE9flx3flWjVvSwdwGY42kwC#/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

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

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>

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

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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Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com