



Announcing Four Lesser Known American Jewish Communities – October 31, 2024

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to announce the launch of our *Four Lesser Known American Jewish Communities*, a four-part live virtual tour series.

Our series begins on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00 pm ET when we will visit **New Mexico**. 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.

Our series continues on Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 pm 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.

We head to a warmer climate on Wednesday, January 15, at 7:00 pm when we will visit **Hawaii**. Jews are first mentioned in Hawaii in 1798, with notable early sugar plantations and commercial activity and King Kalakaua's German Jewish Attorney-General. Our guide will be Larry Seth Steinberg who oversees historic records and artifacts at Temple Emanu-El in Honolulu.

Our series concludes on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00 pm when we will head to the Caribbean and visit **Puerto Rico**. We will learn about how a few families connected by shared customs and a profound spiritual bond to Torah, came together to reclaim their Jewish identity. Our guide will be Ernesto Rivera Pardo who was born and raised in Puerto Rico and is a leader of Abraham Shalom Synagogue in Ceiba.

Complete descriptions of each session along with registration links are found on our website (walnutstreetsynagogue.com/u-s-travel-series). **You will need to register for each session individually** and we will send Zoom links a few days before each session. There is no charge.

This series is made possible by a grant from the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund and other generous donors. Additional sponsorships are available (see our sponsorship form or event website).

Please join us. I hope to see you online for this upcoming series!

L'Shalom,

Edward Medros
President, Walnut Street Synagogue