



## Travel Series Continues, Upcoming Programs and More - December 2, 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](http://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/u-s-travel-series)

### YEAR END GIVING

As the secular year comes to a close, we hope you will help us strengthen our Jewish identity and presence here in Chelsea. Your support enables us to maintain and secure our historic synagogue, conduct services and provide high quality programming to our community in Greater Boston and now online around the world. Thank you to those who have already donated!

**Giving Page** - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/giving/>

### 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!



### **Changing From within: Religious Coercion in Israel and the Role of Tzohar**

Tuesday, December 3, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

The Zohar organization was established to tackle some of the most pressing issues in the non separation of religion and state in Israel. Diving head first into significant challenges for Jewish communities both locally and globally, they address key questions such as: Who has the right to immigrate? Who is recognized as Jewish and allowed to marry in Israel? How should prayers be conducted at the Western Wall? Should public transportation operate on Shabbat? Who can issue a kashrut certificate? These issues reflect broader societal dilemmas. We invite you to join us for a conversation with Rabbi David Stav, Co-founder and Chairman of Tzohar, as we delve into the organization's challenges, achievements, and its unique vision for the future of Israeli society.

**Rav David Stav** is the Chief Rabbi of the city of Shoham and the co-founder and chairman of Tzohar, an Israel organization that fosters vibrant and inspiring Jewish identity in order to guarantee the Jewish future of the State of Israel. Tzohar provides an array of Jewish lifecycle programs and services for hundreds of thousands of Israelis every year, shapes Jewish life in Israel through advocacy and legislation, and cultivates an influential and responsive Religious Zionist leadership. With over 1,500 volunteers and a firm commitment to Jewish Law, Tzohar is a socially conscious movement securing an ethical, inclusive, and united Jewish society. Rav Stav is a graduate of Yeshivat Mercaz Harav and holds semicha for Dayanut from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. He is a leading rabbinic figure in the Religious Zionist community in Israel. He is a noted posek who has written halachic works which address cutting edge issues at the intersection of Jewish law and modern life. He and his wife, Aviva, live in Shoham and have nine children.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlcuqqrTkpGNImss9E9dd7-ZvljipWlaS-#/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/tZcldeitqD0vE9flx3lflWjVvSwdwGY42kwC#/registration>

### **Mouth Creates Worlds: A Vocal Mystical Exploration**

Sunday, December 8, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

What does it mean when we say the Hebrew language contains ancient knowledge that can expand our consciousness? Have you ever experienced your voice and speech as a tool for healing and empowerment? International vocal artist Victoria Hanna invites you to join her in a fascinating exploration of vocal research she has been conducting for years. In this session, Victoria will take us behind the scenes of her craft and inspiration, from her Orthodox upbringing in Jerusalem and her struggles as a child, to her discovery of the transformative power of language and voice. Together, we'll learn to feel the human voice, the language, and the letters as raw materials and as a gateway to new spaces of consciousness and creativity. Victoria will demonstrate texts from the oldest Kabbalistic book, *Sefer Yetzira* ("The Book of Creation"). This groundbreaking work aims to connect us to the primal use of the mouth as a tool of creation.

International vocal artist **Victoria Hanna** is a multidisciplinary artist, voice and language explorer. She creates and composes along with constant research of the human voice and its possibilities. Hanna draws inspiration from the ancient Hebrew tradition, which relates to the voice, mouth, and letters of the Hebrew alphabet as tools of creation. Hanna's sound and video installations have been displayed in institutions such as the Eretz Israel Museum, Jewish Museum Vienna, Jewish Museum Frankfurt, and Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna. Her performance art has been exhibited at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, BAM, and New York Kitchen. In 2015, Forbes magazine selected her as one of the 50 most influential women in Israel, and she was awarded the Rozenblum Award for Outstanding Artists in 2022. Hanna researched and has taught at the most distinguished universities around the world, including Yale, Stanford, Berkeley and more.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUPf--vrjwoH9WQ8dq2zBIH1XAuu\\_GQIMyF#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUPf--vrjwoH9WQ8dq2zBIH1XAuu_GQIMyF#/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](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](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)