



**Travel Series, Upcoming Programs, Charitable Receipts  
and More -  
February 10, 2025**

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**TU BISHVAT BEGINS WEDNESDAY EVENING!**

**FOUR LESSER KNOWN AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

Our new live virtual travel series, *Four Lesser Known American Jewish Communities*, returns on February 19.



Join us for the fourth session in our series on **Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm EST** when we will continue to enjoy some warmth and travel east to Puerto Rico! We will learn how a few families in Ceiba, connected by shared customs and a profound spiritual bond to Torah, came together to reclaim their Jewish identity. This effort laid the foundation for a thriving Anusim community dedicated to self-education and a deep passion for Jewish learning. Our guide, Ernesto Rivera Pardo, returned to his native island to continue his dedication as the leader of Abraham Shalom Synagogue in Ceiba. Ernesto's journey reflects a profound commitment to preserving and celebrating Jewish heritage, and his efforts are making a significant impact on the cultural and spiritual landscape of Puerto Rico. **Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/four-lesser-known-american-jewish-communities-puerto-rico-tickets-1062691812819?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!



## **Archaeology of the Holy Land – A Journey Through Time and Excavation**

**Session 13 – Herodian Period: Development of Jerusalem** - Monday, February 10, 1:00 pm EST

**Session 14 – Herodian Period: Caesarea, Herodium** - Wednesday, February 12, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 15 – Masada: Herod’s Palaces** - Friday, January 14, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 16 – Masada: The Roman Siege** - Monday, February 17, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 17 – Jewish Tombs and Burial Customs in Jerusalem** - Wednesday, February 19, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 18 – Ossuaries and Burial Customs** - Friday, February 21, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 19 – The Bar Kokhba Revolt** - Monday, February 24, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 20 – Aelia Capitolina (Roman Jerusalem)** - Wednesday, February 26, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 21 – The Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods** - Friday, February 28, 1:00 pm EST (online)

Join Professor Jodi Magness, a renowned archaeologist and Kenan Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in a fascinating lecture series exploring the rich history of the Holy Land from 586 BCE to 640 CE. This course covers pivotal events from the rise of Jerusalem under King David to the Muslim conquest, including the Hasmonean revolt, the grandeur of Herod’s palaces, and the Roman siege of Masada. Participants will gain deep insights into archaeological methods, discover significant tombs and burial practices, and explore how ancient texts shape our understanding of the past. Professor Magness brings her extensive expertise, as demonstrated in her award-winning books and numerous excavations in Israel, to provide a comprehensive view of how ancient Jews lived, worshiped, and interacted with surrounding empires. *This program is fully funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County.*

**Session 13 – Herodian Period: Development of Jerusalem** - Delve into Herod’s ambitious architectural projects, including the massive reconstruction of the Second Temple and other significant infrastructural developments in Jerusalem.

**Session 14 – Herodian Period: Caesarea, Herodium** - Explore Herod’s other key constructions: Caesarea Maritima as a major port and administrative center, and Herodium as his lavish fortress and final resting place.

**Session 15 – Masada: Herod’s Palaces** - Examine the palatial fortifications and the complex water system on Masada, highlighting its strategic importance and Herod’s architectural ingenuity.

**Session 16 – Masada: The Roman Siege** - Discuss the dramatic siege of Masada by Roman forces post-First Jewish Revolt, including the archaeological evidence and the historical narrative of mass suicide described by Josephus.

**Session 17 – Jewish Tombs and Burial Customs in Jerusalem** - Focus on Jewish funerary practices in the Herodian period, including rock-cut tombs, burial customs, and the theological implications of these practices.

**Session 18 – Ossuaries and Burial Customs** - Continue the discussion on burial customs with a focus on ossuaries, exploring their inscriptions and artistic decorations, and how these relate to the burial of historical figures like Jesus.

**Session 19 – The Bar Kokhba Revolt** - Survey the archaeological remains and the historical context of the Bar Kokhba Revolt, examining artifacts left by Jewish families who sought refuge in the Judean Desert caves.

**Session 20 – Aelia Capitolina (Roman Jerusalem)** - Examine the transformation of Jerusalem into the Roman city of Aelia Capitolina under Emperor Hadrian, focusing on urban design, architecture, and the suppression of Jewish religious and cultural identities.

**Session 21 – The Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods** - We wrap up our scholar-in-residence series with an exploration of Jerusalem under Byzantine and early Islamic rule, emphasizing the construction of significant Christian and Islamic religious structures, including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and discussing the broader geopolitical shifts during this period.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpceqhqjwH9RrCRits7dTFWLJ2B1JsCgYv#/registration>

## **Burning Psalms – Confronting Adonai after Auschwitz**

**Featuring Menachem Rosensaft in conversation with Rabbi Elie Spitz**

Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm EST (online)

Join us for a profound conversation with Menachem Rosensaft as he discusses his powerful new book, *Burning Psalms: Confronting Adonai after Auschwitz*. The son of two Auschwitz survivors, Rosensaft reimagines the Biblical Psalms through the lens of Holocaust trauma, lamenting, accusing, and questioning, yet still addressing God. Inspired by the voice of his older brother, Benjamin, who perished in the gas chambers, Rosensaft’s 150 psalms transform praise into dirges and festivals into mourning, while

subtly offering comfort through their very existence. Described as “one of the most powerful Jewish expressions of our day” by Susannah Heschel and “a vade mecum for those seeking meaning in the shadow of the Shoah” by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, this book is a remarkable exploration of faith, loss, and resilience. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Rosensaft reflect on his work, its historical resonance, and its profound impact on contemporary Jewish thought.

**Menachem Z. Rosensaft**, General Counsel Emeritus of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell Law School and a lecturer at Columbia Law School, is a prominent leader in Holocaust remembrance and advocacy. Appointed by Presidents Clinton and Obama to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, he has been instrumental in initiatives such as the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Holocaust-era restitution efforts. Known for organizing a 1985 protest at Bergen-Belsen and aiding in the deportation of Nazi war criminal Karl Linnas, he also played a pivotal role in the PLO's first recognition of Israel. A prolific author, Rosensaft's works include *Burning Psalms: Confronting Adonai after Auschwitz*, and he is the editor of *God, Faith & Identity from the Ashes*. With advanced degrees in law, history, and writing, he continues to contribute to global Holocaust education and the fight against historical denial, earning honors such as an honorary PhD from the University of Tuzla for his contributions to genocide remembrance and peacebuilding.

**Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz**, a spiritual leader and scholar specializing in topics of spirituality and Judaism, teaches, writes and speaks to a wide range of audiences. He served as the rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, California, for over three decades and served as member of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Law and Standards for twenty years. Rabbi Spitz is author of *Duets on Psalms: Drawing New Meaning from Ancient Words*, co-authored with Rabbi Jack Riemer, *Healing from Despair: Choosing Wholeness in a Broken World*, *Does the Soul Survive? A Jewish Journey to Belief in Afterlife, Past Lives & Living with Purpose and Increasing Wholeness: Jewish Wisdom and Guided Meditations to Strengthen and Calm Body, Heart, Mind and Spirit* (all Jewish Lights) and many articles dealing with spirituality and Jewish law. Rabbi Spitz spent the past 17 months teaching the Psalms with half-hour presentations for each Psalm (recently completing all 150 Psalms!).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZwud-uvrDkjGNy9lr-dtFGURWBwxB3crVRq#/registration>

## **The Great War – How World War I Shaped the Modern World**

**Session 3 – Lenin Comes to Power and the Yanks Are Coming** - Sunday, February 16, 1:00 pm EST (online)

**Session 4 – Germany Rolls the Dice** - Sunday, February 23, 1:00 pm EST (online)

Join us for an exclusive CSP four-part series with Professor Stephen M. Berk as we delve into the transformative impact of World War I – The Great War. This seminal event of the 20th century reshaped nations, ideologies, and societies, influencing everything from the rise of Lenin, Mussolini, and Hitler to the global movements for decolonization, women's rights, and American isolationism. Each session will focus on a pivotal aspect of the war. A distinguished historian and CSP's 10th Annual Scholar in Residence, Professor Berk brings unparalleled insight and expertise to this exploration of history that continues to shape our world.

**Session 3 – Lenin Comes to Power and the Yanks Are Coming** - We will look at revealing revolutionary changes and American involvement.

**Session 4 – Germany Rolls the Dice** - We will examine the diplomacy of war and peace.

**Stephen M. Berk**, who served as CSP's 10th Annual One Month Scholar in Residence in February 2011, is Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York, former Chair of the Department of History, Director of the Program in Russian and Eastern European Studies and Faculty Advisor to the Jewish Student Organization. He is the author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* (Greenwood Press, 1985). He is currently writing a book titled *Our People Are Your People: American Jewry and the Struggle for Civil Rights 1954-1965*. The book provides an interesting discussion of an extremely important chapter in the history of the civil rights movement and attempts to dispel the myths and misunderstandings surrounding the Black-Jewish relationship. A recipient of the Citizens Laureate Award of the University of Albany Foundation, Professor Berk has been a consultant to the Wiesenthal Holocaust Center in Los Angeles, has written articles on Russian and Jewish history, antisemitism, and the Middle East and has lectured on throughout the United States and Canada including such distinguished colleges and universities as Princeton, Vanderbilt, The University of Texas at Austin and Williams College.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZEqc-2grz8iGNG7Taf4qGE2REgRctsmAT Q#/registration>

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

### Israel Update

Thursday, February 20, 7:30 pm EST *(online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)*

Join the Lappin Foundation for an Israel update with Ido Aharoni Aronoff who will share his insights about the war with Hamas, regional dynamics and opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Aharoni Aronoff was Israel's Consul General to New York, serving from 2010 through 2016, and he is currently serving as a Global Distinguished Professor of Business at Touro University.

<https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/222>

### Israeli Art as a Window to Israeli History and Memory

Sunday, February 23, 9:30 am EST *(in person program at Temple Beth Shalom, 670 Highland Avenue, Needham)*

Join Temple Beth Shalom in Needham as Shirel Horovitz, Creative Director of the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program (CSP) and an award-winning Israeli artist and educator, explores Israeli art from the early 20th century to today. She will demonstrate how today's images of Israeli reality developed from artworks that highlight and challenge social issues, politics, economy, and religion. This will be a fascinating and unique look behind the scenes of the Israeli art world and its relation to the international art world. What's more, it will lay the groundwork for understanding the diversity of the contemporary Israeli art scene. A bagel breakfast will be served. Cost is \$10 for nonmembers of TBS. Advance registration is required.

**Register here -**

<https://congregationconnect.tfaforms.net/wf/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJ3b3JrZmxvd1Nlc3Npb25JZCI6ImM0YjFiYmE4LWE2M2YtNDAYZS1iNTgzLTKkNzk3N2U1ZThjYyIsIm5vbmNlIjoiaRjhzclhRSWNQVkoYmklzYTMzZEIRVXhRdU5CN3hWZkYIM0FmY2Y0MDI5ZiQwZDA0MzkwZjA4Zjk2ZDRjMTU2ZDA5OCIsImV2ZW50Ijoizm9ybS52aWV3LmRpc3BsYXkiLCJleHBpcmVzIjoxNzZjM5NDZjQw3fQwJjvtcgilqD4N0cvJRaOF5pkoKQvsaT9OH7P4Xu8ZnU>

### Bang! The Bert Berns Story

Thursday, February 27, 7:30 pm EST *(online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)*

Music meets the Mob in this biographical documentary about the life and career of Bert Berns, the most important songwriter and record producer from the 1960s that you likely are not familiar with. His hits include "Twist and Shout", "Hang On Sloopy", "Here Comes The Night" and "Piece Of My Heart." He helped launch the careers of Van Morrison and Neil Diamond and produced some of the greatest soul music ever made. Filmmaker Brett Berns brings his late father's story to the screen through interviews with those who knew him best and rare performance footage. Ido Aharoni Aronoff will facilitate a Q&A with Brett Berns, one of the film's directors and son of Bert Berns. The link to view the movie before the program will be sent to you when you register.

<https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/192>

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

### Teens Feed

Tuesday, February 12, 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/137>

## CHARITABLE RECEIPTS

Thank you to all of our generous donors during 2024! We have now sent receipts to acknowledge all donations made during the year. Some receipts were sent by Email while others were sent through the USPS based on donor preferences we had on file. If you have not yet received a receipt, please contact us at [central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com](mailto:central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com).

## 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 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!

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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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