



CSP 20th Annual One Month Scholar Series

With **Ariel Burger** live from Sharon, MA

January 3 - January 31, 2021

Honoring Tamar and Martin Brower

This program is fully funded by a grant from
the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County

The Jewish Love Affair with Stories

OMS Partners: Congregation Beth Shalom (Seattle, WA), Congregation B'nai Tzedek (Fountain Valley, CA), Congregation B'nai Israel (Tustin, CA), Heritage Pointe (Mission Viejo, CA), Temple Bat Yahm (Newport Beach, CA), Temple Beth El of South Orange County (Aliso Viejo, CA), Temple Beth Emet (Anaheim, CA), Temple Beth Ohr (La Mirada, CA), Temple Beth Tikvah (Fullerton, CA), Temple Beth Shalom (Needham, MA), Temple Beth Sholom (Santa Ana, CA), Temple Judea (Laguna Woods, CA), Town & Village Synagogue (NYC, NY), University Synagogue (Irvine, CA) & Valley Beth Shalom (Encino, CA)

To learn about upcoming events, visit www.occsp.net. To view past CSP events, check out our [YouTube channel](#) and enjoy many sessions at your leisure.

Jewish life has always been defined by two elements: law and legend, ritual and story, practice and belief. The realm of law was defined by key legal principles and was designed to evolve with new realities. While common practices united many Jewish communities, the realm of legend and storytelling was wildly diverse, wonderfully imaginative, and often boundary breaking. Together we will explore great Jewish tales, teachings about storytelling, and the ways in which stories can enrich our lives and bring us together. Over the course of this month together, we will travel along the timeline of Jewish history, sampling key stories and visiting great leaders, thinkers, mavericks, and rebels from the Bible through the modern age.

ARIEL BURGER is the founding director and senior scholar of [The Witness Institute](#), a new project to empower emerging leaders, inspired by the life and legacy of Elie Wiesel. He is an author, artist, and teacher whose work integrates spirituality, the arts, and strategies for social change. An Orthodox-trained rabbi, Ariel received his PhD in Jewish Studies and Conflict Resolution at Boston University under Elie Wiesel. A lifelong student of Professor Wiesel, Ariel served as his Teaching Fellow from 2003-2008, after which he directed education initiatives at Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. He recently published a book about his tenure with Elie Wiesel entitled "[Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom](#)" (winner of the 2018 National Jewish Book Award for Biography). As a Covenant Foundation grantee, Ariel develops cutting-edge arts and educational programming for adults, facilitates workshops for educators, consults for non-profits, and serves as scholar/artist-in-residence for institutions around the U.S. When Ariel's not learning or teaching, he is creating music, art, and poetry. He lives outside of Boston with his family. You can learn more about Ariel and see his art at this [LINK](#).



Martin and Tamar Brower have been long-time supporters of the Community Scholar Program, and Martin serves on CSP's Board. Martin and Tamar moved to Orange County from Los Angeles in 1974, a year after Martin joined The Irvine Company as director of public relations, and they have been active members of Temple Bat Yahm since their arrival. A native of Los Angeles and a graduate of UCLA where he was editor-in-chief of the Daily Bruin, Martin served on the boards of United Way of Orange County, the Orange County Jewish Community Foundation, and the Orange County chapter of the American Jewish Committee, where he was elected as president. He is the author of three books: "Los Angeles Jew: A Memoir," "Orange County Jew: A Memoir," and "The Irvine Ranch: A Time for People." The daughter of a rabbi, Tamar was in the first graduating class of Brandeis University. In Orange County, she was an organizer and director of the former Orange County Hebrew High School; served on the founding board of Heritage Pointe, the Orange County Jewish home for the aging; and is on the board of Temple Bat Yahm's Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), having served as area director in WRJ's Pacific Region. Martin and Tamar live in Corona del Mar and have four married children, all of whom live in Southern California, and three grandchildren.

Celebrating our 20th year, the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program shares the joy of Judaism, builds community, and celebrates our Jewish heritage with a rich adult education program and unique family experiences. Whether we are picking apples for Rosh Hashana, celebrating Shabbat while camping, clapping along with Jewish Blues or Rock musicians, hosting a community-wide Shabbat Alive outdoors, learning with internationally-known scholars, making life-long Jewish friends at family and adult retreats, or providing distance learning programs during a pandemic, CSP has programs to offer for all ages. We ignite passion for Judaism!

CSP live-streams programs on our [CSP Facebook site](#) and shares recordings on our new [CSP YouTube Channel](#) (please visit and subscribe!). If you are interested in our iTunes archive of over 200 programs, you can listen at this [LINK](#). You can reach us on the web at www.ocjsp.net and by phone at (949) 682-4040.

Inspire future generations with your generosity by creating a Jewish legacy today!

Date	Time (PDT)	Topic	Audience	Registration Link
Sunday January 3, 2021	4:00 - 5:00PM	Opening Lecture: <i>The Jewish Love Affair with Stories</i>	Open	Opening
Tuesday January 5, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Tuesday Lunch Series: Part 1 <i>The Greatest Jewish Tales</i>	CSP Members	Tuesday Lunch Series
Wednesday January 6, 2021	4:00- 5:00 PM	Wednesday Evening Series: Part 1 <i>Stories by and About the Chasidic Masters (The Founder: The Baal Shem Tov)</i>	Open	Wednesday Evening Series
Thursday January 7, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Thursday Lunch Series: Part 1 <i>Tales of Conflict and Wrestling with Sacred Texts</i>	Open	Thursday Lunch Series
Sunday January 10, 2021	12:00-1:00 PM	Sunday Afternoon Series: Part 1 <i>The Life and Legacy of Elie Wiesel (Background, influences, life story)</i>	Open	Sunday Series
Tuesday January 12, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Tuesday Lunch Series: Part 2 <i>The Greatest Jewish Tales</i>	CSP Members	Tuesday Lunch Series
Wednesday January 13, 2021	4:00- 5:00 PM	Wednesday Evening Series: Part 2 <i>Stories by and About the Chasidic Masters (The Organizer: The Great Maggid)</i>	Open	Wednesday Evening Series
Thursday January 14, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Thursday Lunch Series: Part 2 <i>Tales of Conflict and Wrestling with Sacred Texts,</i>	Open	Thursday Lunch Series
Sunday January 17, 2021	12:00-1:00 PM	Sunday Afternoon Series: Part 2 <i>The Life and Legacy of Elie Wiesel (Key themes and favorites tales)</i>	Open	Sunday Series
Sunday January 17 th , 2021	4:00-5:00PM	Private Patron Event <i>Jewish Diversity and Pluralism</i>	CSP Patrons/ CSP Legacy	Patron Event
Tuesday January 19, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Tuesday Lunch Series: Part 3 <i>The Greatest Jewish Tales</i>	CSP Members	Tuesday Lunch Series
Wednesday January 20, 2021	4:00- 5:00 PM	Wednesday Evening Series: Part 3 <i>Stories by and About the Chasidic Masters (The Revolutionary: Rebbe Nachman of Breslov)</i>	Open	Wednesday Evening Series

Thursday January 21, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Thursday Lunch Series: Part 3 <i>Tales of Conflict and Wrestling with Sacred Texts,</i>	Open	Thursday Lunch Series
Sunday January 24, 2021	12:00-1:00 PM	Sunday Afternoon Series: Part 3 <i>The Life and Legacy of Elie Wiesel (Legacy, message for us today)</i>	Open	Sunday Series
Sunday January 24 th , 2021	4:00-5:00PM	Yiddish Folktales: <i>A Learning Experience</i>	CSP Members	Folktale Event
Tuesday January 26, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Tuesday Lunch Series: Part 4 <i>The Greatest Jewish Tales</i>	CSP Members	Tuesday Lunch Series
Wednesday January 27, 2021	4:00- 5:00 PM	Wednesday Evening Series: Part 4 <i>Stories by and About the Chasidic Masters (The Quest for Authenticity: The Kotzker Rebbe)</i>	Open	Wednesday Evening Series
Thursday January 28, 2021	12:30-1:30 PM	Thursday Lunch Series: Part 4 <i>Tales of Conflict and Wrestling with Sacred Texts,</i>	Open	Thursday Lunch Series
Sunday January 31 st , 2021	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Closing Event: <i>Jewish Spirituality 2021</i>	Open	Closing Event

**** All Times noted in the chart above are PST, add 3 hours for Eastern**

[Sunday January 3, 2021, Opening Program:](#)

(4:00 – 4:00PM PST/7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern)

The Jewish Love Affair with Stories

The Bible begins with the story of creation and is filled with many other tales. Later Jewish texts offer a combination of law and legend, with the two intertwined. Why is storytelling so important? What do ancient and modern teachers say about the power of stories? How might we use stories to deepen our own lives?

[Tuesday Lunch Series, January 5, 12, 19 and 26:](#)

(12:30 – 1:30 PM PST/3:30 – 4:30 PM Eastern)

The Greatest Jewish Tales

*An unapologetically biased curated series of what Ariel believes are the greatest Jewish tales of all time, based on several key elements of storytelling that we will discuss. We will explore lesser-known stories from the Bible, Talmud, Midrash, and Hasidism that challenge and complicate simplistic notions about God, what it means to be human, ethics, and meaning. ****This series is only open to CSP Members. Please visit www.ocdsp.net to learn more about CSP membership.***

[Wednesday Early Evening Series, January 6, 13, 20 and 27:](#)

(4:00 – 4:00PM PST/7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern)

Stories by and About the Chasidic Masters

The Chasidic movement transformed Judaism into a continuous adventure, giving every Jew a ladder with which to rise above themselves. In this series, we will explore stories by and about four of the most important and influential Chasidic masters: (1) The Founder - The Baal Shem Tov, (2) The

Organizer - *The Great Maggid of Mezritch*, (3) *The Revolutionary: Rebbe Nachman of Breslov*, and (4) *The Quest for Authenticity - The Kotzker Rebbe*.

Thursday Lunch Series, January 7, 14, 21 and 28:

(12:30 – 1:30 PM PST/3:30 – 4:30 PM Eastern)

Tales of Conflict and Wrestling with Sacred Texts

Conflict - sibling rivalry, tribal wars, and inner conflict - are significant themes from the Bible through modern literature. The rabbis developed sophisticated approaches to conflict transformation which can be applied to political conflicts, theological problems, and psychological struggles. This will be a combination of analysis of tales of primary conflicts in Jewish history and teachings about constructive and destructive conflict. We will also examine ways that Jewish thinkers throughout history have taught us how to wrestle with difficult texts.

Sunday Afternoon Series, January 10, 17 and 24:

(12:00 – 1:00 PM PST/3:00 – 4:00 PM Eastern)

The Life and Legacy of Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel was a towering presence on the world stage--a Nobel laureate, activist, adviser to world leaders, and the author of more than forty books, including Oprah's Book Club selection [Night](#). But when asked, Wiesel always said, "I am a teacher first." Wiesel challenged his students to explore moral complexity and to resist the dangerous lure of absolutes. In this three-part series, we will explore (1) Elie Wiesel's background, influences and life story, (2) key themes and favorite tales, and (3) Elie Wiesel's legacy - his message for today.

Sunday January 17th - Private Patron/Legacy Event

(4:00 – 4:00PM PST/7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern)

Jewish Diversity and Pluralism

*Diversity is a fact of Jewish life today. The radical openness of American society, where individuals craft their own identities based on choices that they make for themselves, leads to – and celebrates – all sorts of hyphenated and hybridized identities. Marriages to non-Jews, inter-marriage and adoption mean Jews, who have never been monolithic, are multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-racial in ways not known before. ****This event is only open to CSP 5781 Patron level donors and Legacy Members. Please visit www.occsp.net to learn more about how to become a CSP Patron.***

Sunday January 24th – CSP Member Event

(4:00 – 4:00PM PST/7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern)

Yiddish Folktales: A Learning and Art Experience

*Join us for a Zoom exhibit of an illustrated Yiddish folktale. We will view the art, Ariel will offer an artist's talk about the process of making the illustrations, and then we will analyze the story and (time permitting) look at Jewish texts related to the tale. ****This program is only open to CSP Members. Please visit www.occsp.net to learn more about CSP membership.***

Sunday January 31st, Closing Event

(4:00 – 4:00PM PST/7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern)

Jewish Spirituality 2021

What might a vibrant Jewish spirituality look like for our diverse community today? How might we design experiences and practices for ourselves and others that inspire? Drawing on teachings and practices of mystics and masters, we will learn some basic practices to enrich our lives.