

2023 SPECIAL LECTURE



Sponsored by A L T I V E at Eastern Cemetery

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023 -

India & Congress Streets - The Ethnic History of an Intersection

presented by Ted Fleischaker

A Sunday afternoon lecture exploring how history shaped the Portland of today

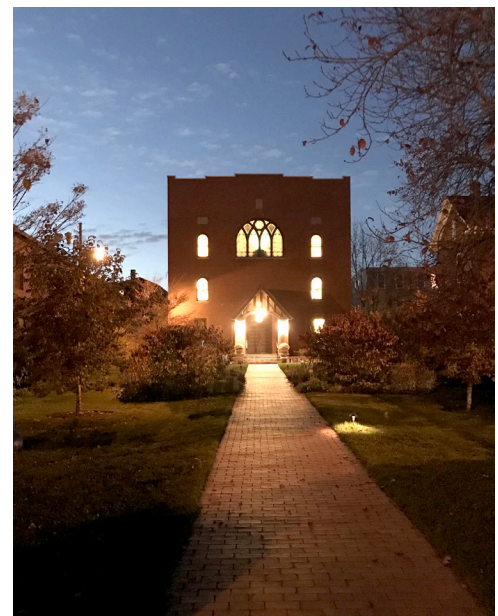
In the 1920s and before, many Jewish immigrants settled on Portland's Munjoy Hill and adjoining streets. There are not many folks still around from the 1920s who remember, but we know that the neighborhood changed as one went up the hill on Congress Street and the roadways which cross it. The higher one went, the the higher the percentage of Jewish residents.

The bottom (think India Street and adjoining roads like Federal, Fore and Newbury) was a thriving Italian area. There were fruit vendors, The Pen and Pencil Club (known for late night parties) and the Village Cafe. Micucci's Grocery and St. Peter's Church with its annual Italian Street Festival are remnants of those days. Halfway up the hill was where Irish immigrants and others who worked the Grand Trunk Railroad and the port resided.

There was also a Jewish community along Hampshire Street. This included a Kosher bakery, a couple of Kosher butchers and other shops and residences. There were a number of synagogues in this area, two of which still stand: Etz Chaim at India and Congress Streets, and the building which used to house Shaarey Tphiloh on Newbury Street.

So whatever happened to Punsky's Drug Store? Levinsky's Army & Navy? The Kosher bakeries along Hampshire Street? And the additional synagogues which at one point dotted this area? And what historic remnants are there of this once robust Jewish neighborhood?

Attend our Sunday February 12th lecture and find out answers to these and many more questions, all within the walls of our historic 1921 Etz Chaim Synagogue & Maine Jewish Museum building.



Lecture begins at 1:30 PM at Etz Chaim Synagogue, 267 Congress St. Portland, ME.

Lecture is free. Donations to Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery or Etz Chaim are gratefully accepted.

Go to www.spiritsalive.org/lectures for more information

This lecture is presented by Spirits Alive, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of historic Eastern Cemetery, at the foot of Munjoy Hill on Congress St. www.spiritsalive.org