

New Calendar Focuses On Notable Synagogues

In the last decade, photographer Laszlo Regos of Farmington Hills has spent significant time exploring, admiring and photographing noteworthy synagogues throughout the United States and Europe.

His book featuring the world-famous Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest, Hungary, was published to coincide with that synagogue's 150th anniversary last year.

This widely exhibited photographer has won a variety of awards and has photographs in both private and corporate collections. Most recently, eight of his photographs were purchased for the permanent collection of the National Museum of American Jewish History to be opened this fall in Philadelphia.

Now, Regos has released a 16-month Jewish and Gregorian calendar that includes 38 full-color photographs of 14 synagogues in 12 states. The calendar contains all major holidays, both Jewish and secular, as well as candlelighting times.

Among the synagogues spotlighted are Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., Central Synagogue in New York and Beth Shalom Synagogue in Elkins Park, Penn.

"As a Hungarian Jew who became a successful architectural photographer in this country," Regos said, "I felt obligated to give something to the Jewish community back

home and pay tribute to the memory of my grandparents and the other 600,000 Hungarian Jews who perished during the Holocaust. That was my motivation to do the Dohany Street Synagogue book. My mother still lived in Budapest and every time I visited her, I went back to the synagogue to discover every details of it. It took almost nine years to finish."



Laszlo Regos

It was during his research that he found a smaller copy of the Dohany in New York called the Central Synagogue. "As soon as I got the permission to photograph it," he said, "it became an obsession and I have been photographing synagogues ever since."

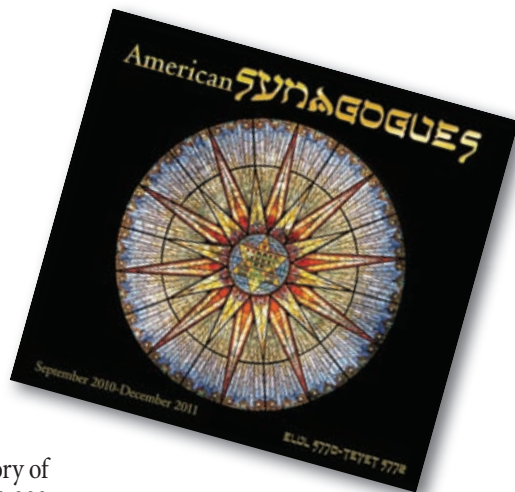
As a commercial photographer, he often travels — "and every time I try to extend my trip to find and photograph the architecturally and historically important synagogues around the U.S."

Eventually, he would like to publish a book about them. "The images in the calendar are just a small selection of my collection," he said.

Regos was born in Budapest, where the most memorable times of his early childhood were spent watching his father create magic in the makeshift photo lab in the bathroom of their small apartment.

Motivated by his love of photography, he attended the Technical University of Budapest and received a master's degree in photochemistry.

Regos emigrated to the U.S. in 1979 seeking



The 40-foot-wide Art Deco stained-glass skylight made by the Payne Studios once graced the ceiling of Temple Emanu-El in Paterson, N.J. The building is no longer a synagogue, but the beautiful window is preserved.

political, religious and artistic freedom.

Within six years, he had opened his own photography studio in Berkeley, focusing on the specialty of architectural and interior photography. His photographs have been published in a variety of magazines and in the books *Visual Merchandising*, *Store of the Year*, *The Opera House*, *Synagogue Architecture in America* and *The Dohany Street Synagogue*.

The photographer is working on another project in Europe, documenting old synagogues built during the period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "Unfortunately, they are vanishing," he said. □

American Synagogues (a Jewish Architectural Calendar) may be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWJ2WJTUei8>. The calendar is available at www.laszlofoto.com, www.amazon.com, www.calendars.com and Borders Books (Laszlo Regos Photography; \$13.99)

It Is Understood

Do I have to spell it out for you? Not at all an unusual question, but one that might often have to be answered with a resounding, "Yes!"

What may be easily understood by one, even when it is not stated outright, may easily cause some confusion in the minds of others.

When comparing, we may not realize that there could be two ways to interpret what we say. Take for example:

• I like Jane better than (she/her).

If you choose "she," it means that you like Jane better than she

does. If you choose "her," it means that you prefer one person over the other. Not the same at all.

• I like swimming more than Jim.

This could mean you enjoy swimming more than Jim does or it could mean that you like swimming more than you like Jim. Not exactly a sensible comparison, but still ...

There are many signs that can be easily be misleading just because the sign maker wanted to save space or money. Consider:

• **Sign up for fall.** Do we have to get on a list for the season change? If so, I want to sign up for summer for another several months, at least. Of course, if the sign is posted outside of a school, it would probably suggest that classes are being offered in the fall and that registration is on.

• **Do not use when flashing.** I first saw this sign near an elevator in a hotel and it

obviously (?) meant that one should not use the conveyance, but rather choose the stairs. However, it could indicate to the more perverted of us that when running around with little more on than a raincoat, one should use the stairs. The same would apply to those who are out on the street and encounter: "Prepare to stop when flashing."

There are times that seemingly logical extensions do not always bear fruit. For example:

If peanut oil is made from peanuts and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what does that say about baby oil?

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?

The next time you think that you are stating the obvious, remember that someone like me is going to twist it around, even just for fun. □

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Southeast Michigan Jewish Alliance
Program Manager: **Rachel Lachover**

Published by: **Jewish Renaissance Media**
Chairman: **Michael H. Steinhart**
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ahorwitz@renmedia.us
Chief Operating Officer: **F. Kevin Browett**
kbrowett@renmedia.us
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Fulfillment

circulationdesk@thejewishnews.com
Customer Service Manager: **Zena Davis**

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