



Staten Island Advance

Friday, Sept. 23, 2011

Lecture at Wagner to consider status of 'American Synagogue'

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — “The Decline of the American Synagogue? Challenges and Future Possibilities” will be the topic of a free lecture on Oct. 4 at Wagner College, Grymes Hill.

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, co-founder and executive director of Mechon Hadar (**Mechonhadar.org**), will speak at the first event of the seventh annual Jewish Culture Series, sponsored by the JCC. Wagner College’s Chai Society and the Hillel Foundation are hosting the event.

Mechon Hadar has launched Yeshivat Hadar (Yeshivathadar.org), what it bills as the first full-time, egalitarian yeshiva program in North America, where Kaunfer teaches Talmud. A Dorot fellow and Wexner graduate fellow, Kaunfer is the author of “Empowered Judaism: What Independent Minyanim Can Teach Us About Building Vibrant Jewish Communities.”

He will speak at 8 p.m. in Spiro Hall 4. For information, email chaisociety@wagner.edu.