

NEWS:



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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Orange County Community College to Host Noted British Archaeologist Feb. 6
Dr. Irving Finkel to discuss astonishing discovery at lecture in Newburgh

(Goshen) – Orange County Community College will host British archaeologist Dr. Irving Finkel, considered the world's leading expert on Cuneiform writing, on Monday, February 6, when he delivers his lecture "New Light on Noah's Ark: An Astonishing Archaeological Discovery" at 7 pm in the Great Room of Kaplan Hall on SUNY Orange's Newburgh Campus, located at One Washington Center, Newburgh, NY 12550.

"I would like to express my gratitude to SUNY Orange President Dr. William Richards and County Legislator Patrick J. Berardinelli for their cooperation in the successful effort to bring Dr. Finkel to Orange County to reveal his important discovery," said Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana.

Dr. Finkel will reveal, for the *first time publicly*, his recent translation of a 4,000 year old tablet containing astonishing information on the Ark of antiquity. This information is to be the basis for a documentary to be hosted by Dr. Finkel.

At the British Museum for 32 years, Dr. Finkel is Assistant Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian script, languages and cultures in the Middle East Department. He is the curator in charge of the museum's approximately 130,000 cuneiform artifacts from ancient Mesopotamia, considered the largest collection of any modern museum. Finkel has reviewed each of the objects in the museum's collection at least twice.

Cuneiform writing is the world's oldest known script. It appeared in ancient Iraq in about 3000 BC, beginning as a simple pictographic system, but rapidly evolving into a fluent way of recording language by means of an elaborate syllabic system, written on tables of clay, in cuneiform, "wedge-shaped" signs.

Finkel works to promote greater familiarity with the ancient Middle East through lectures, workshops and media activity. He specializes in ancient Mesopotamian medicine and magic, and is interested in literature, religion and the history of ideas in this part of the world. He also studies the history of board games throughout the world, especially the preservation of traditional board games in many non-western societies.

This event is free and open to the public. Dr. Finkel's lecture is being sponsored by the SUNY Orange Foundation, the Global Studies Department at SUNY Orange, as well as the Orange County Historian's Office. For more information, please contact the Global Studies chair Paul Basinski at (845) 341-4828.

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