



Summer Appeal, Taste of Jewish Culture, Crossroads and Connections, Upcoming Programs, Shul Visits and More – July 10, 2023

SUMMER 2023 APPEAL

Our Summer Appeal is underway. We welcome your support at any level. Donations can be made online or through the mail. Thank you for your continuing support!

More information and Online Donations - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/summer-2023-appeal/>

THE TASTE OF JEWISH CULTURE



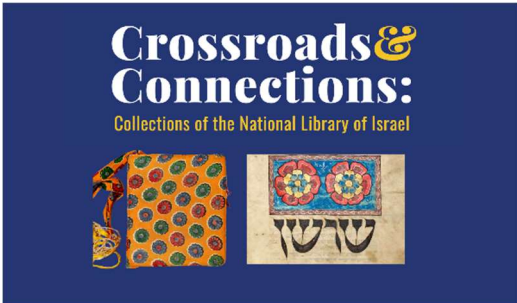
They Tried to Kill Us, We Won, Lets Eat! Jewish Food Conquers Antisemitism
Wednesday, July 19, 7:00 pm EDT (online)

Jews have been oppressed throughout history. But every pot has a silver lining. Let's look at the lighter side of darkness. How have Jews turned challenges into opportunities, and what delicious foods did we draw directly from the crucible of antisemitism? Please join us as we continue our online exploration of Jewish food traditions and the historical connections between Jews and food with Jewish Food researcher Joel Haber.

More information - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/the-taste-of-jewish-culture/>

Registration - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-taste-of-jewish-culture-tickets-460627538367>

CROSSROADS AND CONNECTIONS



The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to partner with the National Library of Israel (NLI) and NLI-USA to present the **Crossroads and Connections** virtual exhibition. The NLI is home to the intellectual and cultural treasures of Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. In celebration of Israel's 75th anniversary year, NLI presents this exhibition of 18 highlights from their collection which represent cultural and religious creativity in Israel past and present. Two alternatives are available to access the exhibition - video format and digital format which includes images of each item and additional links to relevant resources. Please follow the link below for more information and for access to the exhibition.

Crossroads and Connections exhibition - walnutstreetsynagogue.com/crossroads-and-connections

CSP

We are pleased to be a partner congregation of the Orange County Jewish **Community Scholar Program (CSP)**. Please join us at an upcoming program!

In the Lands of Sultans, Kings, and Pharaohs: The Jewish Odyssey in Three Islamic Realms

Part 1 – In the Land of Sultans – Thursday, July 13, 6:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 2 – Life in the Atlas Kingdom – Thursday, July 20, 6:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 – Between the Nile and the Pyramids – Sunday, June 23, 6:30 pm EDT (online)

In our July series with Dr. David Mendelsohn, we journey through the rich and complex history of Jewish existence in three iconic Muslim realms: the grand Ottoman Empire, the enduring Monarchy of Morocco, and the ancient land of Egypt. Dr. Mendelsohn will provide an immersive exploration into how Jewish communities didn't merely survive, but flourished under the rule of the Sultans, Kings, and Pharaohs. With an emphasis on the fusion of faiths, culture, and enduring resilience, we'll delve into the dynamics of coexistence, adaptation, and prosperity, offering a nuanced perspective on these historical periods. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the indelible imprint Jewish communities have left on these regions, shaping their diasporic narratives across centuries.

Part 1 – In the Land of Sultans – In our July series' inaugural session, "In the Land of Sultans," we embark on a journey through time, tracing the unique trajectory of Jewish life in the imposing shadow of the Ottoman Empire. Navigating the backdrop of this extraordinary historical tapestry, we'll examine how a community, expelled from one empire – Spain, found refuge and reinvented itself under another – Ottoman. In a period of great transformation, the Jewish community managed to flourish amidst the grandeur and authority of the Sultans. We will delve into the intricacies of this journey, investigating how the Jews fostered a distinctive cultural and social identity within the framework of this Islamic empire. We will unpack tales of survival and endurance, stories of unprecedented growth and contributions to Ottoman society. This series will shine a light on an era characterized by a remarkable synthesis of religious diversity and cultural intermingling. It will bring into focus the unique Ottoman Jewish experience that resonates with a profound legacy of tolerance, coexistence, and resilience.

Part 2 – Life in the Atlas Kingdom – In our second session, "Life in the Atlas Kingdom," we venture into the vibrant landscape of Morocco, immersing ourselves in a rarely told narrative of Jewish history – one where Jews were indigenous, living in concert with the Amazigh (Berber) population, centuries before Islam touched the North African shore. This installment takes us on a journey through the intricate chronicles of Jewish existence under the enduring Moroccan Monarchy. We'll unearth the trials, triumphs, and transformations of this vibrant Jewish community under the rule of Berber and Arab monarchs. This session illuminates the remarkable resilience and adaptation of Moroccan Jews to their evolving environment. It investigates their changing relationships with their homeland, their non-Jewish Moroccan neighbors, and their monarch. From epochs of tranquility and cooperation to times of tension, we will explore how this community not only survived but thrived. We'll delve into the rich tapestry of cultural fusion, exploring how Moroccan Jews have influenced, and been influenced by, Amazigh, Arab, and Islamic traditions. The narrative of Moroccan Jews stands as an extraordinary testament to adaptation, resilience, and cultural symbiosis.

Part 3 – Between the Nile and the Pyramids – In our final session, "Between the Nile and the Pyramids," guided by Dr. David Mendelsohn, we'll uncover the timeless narratives of Jewish life in the mystical landscape of Egypt. Home to one of the oldest Jewish communities globally, Egypt offers a fascinating backdrop for exploring Jewish history, culture, and identity. In this session, we'll delve deep into the enigmatic story of Akhenaten, the Egyptian Pharaoh who is often considered the world's first monotheist. We'll explore his unique role in shaping religious thought and his potential influence on early Jewish monotheism. Next, we'll navigate the time-worn tales of Elephantine Island, nestled in the Nile River. This thriving Jewish community of the 5th century BCE stands as a testament to endurance and

religious fervor, having constructed a temple modeled after the one in Jerusalem. We will excavate the stories of this island community, shedding light on how they forged a unique identity amidst the cultural intersections of ancient Egypt. We'll trace the community's journey through millennia, examining how Jews navigated life amidst Pharaohs, Islamic caliphates, and the shifting sands of modern society. From the ancient synagogues of Alexandria to their influential roles in Egypt's cosmopolitan culture, we'll illustrate how this community crafted a distinct Egyptian Jewish identity.

Dr. David Mendelsohn supervises the entire academic program of Kivunim. His areas of expertise include Islamic Studies, History and Culture of Arabs with Israeli Citizenship, Bedouin Law and the relationship between language and culture in Arabic and Hebrew. His current research examines the influence of Hebrew on the dialects of Arabic spoken in Israel. Mendelsohn also lectures on the history and relationships between Middle East countries and militant organizations. David holds advanced degrees in diverse fields: a PhD in Classics / Linguistics, an MA in Archaeology / Linguistics and an Honours BA in Classical Studies. David is the recipient of one of Canada's highest academic honors, The Trudeau Prize, and is a world medalist in wrestling. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife Ronny and three children.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwudu6urjojGdXYpUyLOu7yjqu9Oc1YmQVG?utm_source=CSP&utm_campaign=ebce5f41c2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_04_55_COPY_03&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee28fcb1-ebce5f41c2-386548940#/registration

Rafraam's Guide to Libyan Prison

Monday, July 17, 6:30 pm EDT (online)

Join us as scholar David Mendelsohn is in conversation with Rafraam Chadad about his ordeals and quite unbelievable story of imprisonment by the Ghaddafi regime. In 2010 Chadad was asked to take photographs of sites of Libyan-Jewish interest when he was arrested as a spy. He documented this questionable adventure in a book titled *Rafraam's Guide to the Libyan Prison* published in 2012 and soon to come out in English translation. Chadad, an Israeli artist and cook with dual Tunisian-Israeli citizenship, will share the story of his imprisonment and how he was finally released, not through state-to-state negotiations, but the efforts of an Austrian businessman.

Rafraam Chaddad – Born in 1976 on Djerba, an island off the coast of southern Tunisia and grew up in Jerusalem where he completed his art studies. Since 2005 he has been working on his art practice mostly between Europe, Israel and based in Tunisia in the last 8 years. In 2010, while working on a Jewish heritage project in Libya, which focused on documenting the remains of Jewish Libyan communities, he was kidnapped by the Libyan secret police and was held for six months in the notorious Abu Salim prison. Later on, Chaddad wrote an account of his incarceration, titled *Rafraam's Guide to the Libyan Prison*, published with Am Oved publishing. Since 2019, he has been conducting research for *Leftovers*, an upcoming book investigating how food practices in cities formerly occupied by the Ottoman Empire are inter-connected. The book highlights recipes particular to each place and oral histories around food-making that challenge the nationalization of food and encourage us to approach food as a shared experience. Rafraam's work reflects on his personal life experiences and comments on broader socio-political issues including migration and displacement, identity and belonging. Over the past twenty years, he's created dozens of short films and installations, which have exhibited worldwide in cultural institutions, galleries, and museums worldwide. Chaddad has held solo shows at the Mucem Museum in Marseilles and the Maximilian Forum in Munich, among others. Since 2021 Chaddad has been a guest critic in the MFA program of Columbia University.

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YAD CHESSED



Yad Chessed helps Jewish individuals and families who struggle with financial hardship pay their bills and buy food. As a social services agency rooted in the Jewish values of kindness (chessed) and charity (tzedakah), they are committed to helping those in need navigate a path toward financial stability while preserving their privacy and dignity. They provide emergency financial assistance, grocery gift cards and compassionate advice for those trying to make ends meet. Hundreds of families and individuals throughout the state rely on Yad Chessed to provide for their essentials, and even at times, a Jewish burial for a loved one. Members of our community, as well as others in the Jewish community, who need assistance may contact Yad Chessed by phone at 781-487-2693 or by Email at intake@yadchessed.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchessed.org.

Support Yad Chessed - <https://givebutter.com/yadchessed>

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

CJP Plan to Combat Antisemitism

Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) has developed a plan to combat rising antisemitism in Massachusetts. They have also recently launched their Face Jewish Hate campaign. Their campaign combines the real-life stories of antisemitic incidents happening in Greater Boston to draw attention to this issue and a resource center focused on educating, mobilizing and empowering our community.

Learn more -

https://www.facejewishhate.org/?utm_campaign=FaceJewishHate&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=258118072&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-82edGNbXkPO501V6avGb4y0al9s9NhnP2ma4wQQuGfCqG1q-9W7xfIDgT5uQQ2tjtTeo-6tGoLAXLabNBUchEb2ZHeUCavJJbGva9mvhc8ha60ydE&utm_content=258118072&utm_source=hs_email

SHUL VIDEO

In the below video you will learn about the history of our historic shul and see all of our distinguishing elements on a virtual tour. This video is narrated by Dr. Samuel Gruber and was created by CSP as the first video in their Art and Architecture Series.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxlW8lOLfyg>

VISIT

If you live in the Boston area and have never seen our historic shul or if you plan to visit the area, we welcome you to see our shul in person and take a tour! For more information, please follow the link below.

Visitor Information - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/visit/>

SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

Do you have milestones such as marriages, births, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, special birthdays, graduations, etc. to share with our synagogue family? If so, please submit details to central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com to be included in our weekly announcements. Photos are welcome!

VOLUNTEER

Do you have time to volunteer and help us grow? Please complete our Volunteer Interest Form.
<https://form.jotform.com/202885558815165>

GIVING

Please visit our Giving page to send tributes, recognize yahrzeits and make other general donations to support the synagogue. Donations can be made online or through the mail.
<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/giving/>

VISIT US ONLINE

Website

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/>

Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<https://www.facebook.com/WalnutStreetSynagogue>

Facebook Group - Jews of Chelsea, MA Then and Now

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChelseaJews>



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