



Israeli Mosaic Film Series, High Holidays, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – September 23, 2024

CHELSEA JEWISH HERITAGE DAY



Thank you to all who attended Chelsea Jewish Heritage Day yesterday! We would appreciate any feedback you have regarding our event.

ISRAELI MOSAIC FILM SERIES

Our Israeli Mosaic Film Series concludes this week! This series features three films which depict three very different elements of Israeli society and portray its rich diversity. Each film will be available for screening on your own online followed by a live discussion with the filmmaker in Israel.

Complete details of the series - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/israel-film-series/>



Honey Trap

Discussion - Thursday, September 26, 11:30 am EDT (online)

Keryat Moshe, home of a large Ethiopian Jewish community, is considered in main street media one of the toughest neighborhoods in Israel. With a rich traditional lifestyle, this immigrant community lives socially apart from modern “white” Israeli society. In recent years, a mass building of luxury villas and skyscrapers cleaned out the orchards surrounding the neighborhood making it a close and condense ghetto. Hana, the heroine of the film has a dream, to change the reality of the neighborhood, for 8 years, she’s involved in the national priority construction program that will catapult the residents into a new era. But, as she manages to push the project, she finds herself drowning in her personal life as a long and painful divorce process could result in the loss of her home and place in the neighborhood.

Aalam Warqe is an award winning script writer and director, born in 1979 in Awash, Ethiopia, Aalame immigrated to Israel in 1991. She graduated from Sam Spiegel Film & Television School. In 2012 Aalam-Warqe along with Kobi Davidian co-funded Black and White films. In 2016 her short fiction film *Facing the*

Wall won Best Short Film at the 33rd Jerusalem International Film Festival. As her other short experimental fiction film *Transitions* has screened in festivals around the world. her 2018 debut feature-length drama *Fig Tree* screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the Eurimages Audentia Award for Best Female Director. In 2021 her documentary *With No Land* was aired over the Israeli public television channel and started its festival tour.

Director and producer **Kobi Davidian** was born in 1980 in Jerusalem, Israel. He graduated from the Arts and Cinema program at Tel Aviv University in 2006. Kobi has worked as a researcher and a producer for different television shows and documentary films before starting his career as an independent filmmaker. In 2012 he co-funded Black and White films along with Aalam Warqe. His documentary *Turbulence* and short experimental fiction *Transitions* films were screened and won prizes in festivals around the world. In 2018, he produced and directed a testimonial archive, *Memories of Ethiopia*, for the Israeli national archive. In 2021 his documentary *With No Land* was aired over the Israeli public television channel and started its festival tour.

Register for film and discussion - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/israeli-mosaic-film-series-honey-trap-tickets-991404616897?aff=oddtcreator>

HIGH HOLIDAYS

The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to offer High Holiday services this year in our historic synagogue. Our spacious 1,100 seat sanctuary has plenty of room for you, your family and friends. **Advance registration is required due to security, planning and public health considerations. There is no charge to attend services, but donations are suggested.** This year we will be welcoming Cantor Steven W. Dress who together with Saadia Weisenberg will be leading services. Registration is available online on our High Holidays webpage by following our link below. Listings in our Yizkor book cost \$18 per individual name and will be grouped in the book by the individual or family remembering their family members and friends. You do not need to live in Greater Boston, attend services at our shul or have a family connection to our community to submit names for inclusion in the Yizkor book. All are welcome, including those in our nationwide virtual learning community. We will mail a copy of the book to any U.S. mailing address shortly after Yom Kippur.

High Holidays information including registration for services and Yizkor book -

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/high-holidays-20245785/>

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!



Illuminating the Shem Tov Bible – A Masterpiece of Medieval Jewish Art and Scholarship
Monday, September 23, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for an exclusive one-hour CSP online event exploring the extraordinary **Shem Tov Bible**, an illuminated manuscript recently on auction at Sotheby's. This remarkable work of art reflects the confluence of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim aesthetic traditions of medieval Iberia. Created by Rabbi Shem Tov Ibn Gaon, a renowned halakhic and kabbalistic scholar, this manuscript not only preserves the biblical text with unparalleled accuracy but also stands as a monument to Jewish scholarship and artistic virtuosity. Our expert guide, Shaul Seidler-Feller, Judaica specialist at Sotheby's, will lead us through the rich history and cultural significance of the Shem Tov Bible. Shaul, who studied Jewish history at Yeshiva University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been involved with Sotheby's Books and Manuscripts Department since 2017 and will share insights into the manuscript's origins, the artistic

techniques behind its illustrations, and its unique place in Jewish history. Don't miss this opportunity to explore one of the most important surviving Hebrew Bibles from the High Middle Ages and the stories it holds.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqduGgpz4pHdC1h8u_eOQcSryB4Kj3bckJ#/registration

The Hidden Life of J.D. Salinger

Tuesday, September 24, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for an illuminating book talk with distinguished journalist and author Stephen B. Shepard as he discusses his new book, "Salinger's Soul." Discover the hidden life of J.D. Salinger, the renowned author of "The Catcher in the Rye," as Shepard delves into the lesser-known aspects of Salinger's Jewish heritage, his exploration of various religions, and the writings he produced during his years of seclusion. As the literary world eagerly anticipates the release of Salinger's unpublished works, "Salinger's Soul" provides essential context and a deeper understanding of this enigmatic figure. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the untold stories of one of literature's most fascinating characters.

Stephen B. Shepard is the Founding Dean Emeritus of the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York. He served as a senior editor at Newsweek, the editor of Saturday Review, and editor-in-chief of Business Week. From 1992 to 1994, he was president of the American Society of Magazine Editors. Before teaching at CUNY, Shepard was a faculty member at the Columbia Journalism School, where he was co-founder and first director of the Knight-Bagehot Fellowships, a mid-career program for working journalists. His book about journalism, *Deadlines and Disruption: My Turbulent Path from Print to Digital*, was published in 2012. His second book, published in 2018, is *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-Reading, Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers*. And his most recent book is *Second Thoughts*, a series of essays published in 2021. A native New Yorker, Shepard graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, then received his bachelor's degree from the City College of New York and his master's degree from Columbia University. He is married to Lynn Povich, author of *The Good Girls Revolt*, published in 2012. They have two children and two grandchildren.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocuGppisqGNBtUNfV-LDOFQ_9tSRF9DRh#/registration

Grit & Grace: Over 150 Years of Jewish Life in the Lower East Side

Part 4 - Thursday, September 26, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

In 1654, a small group of Portuguese Jews landed in what was then The New Netherlands, and they settled an area that was to become the Lower East Side. Some 250 years later, the Lower East Side was arguably the most densely populated area in the world; jam-packed with immigrants, mostly Jewish, from Eastern Europe. Join us as we look at more than 150 years of life on the Lower East Side. We will discuss what brought the immigrants to this small area of New York City, how they lived, the food they ate, the arts and culture they created, and also the ways that people used to escape from the filth, the noise, the heat, the crowds and just everyday life.

Dr. Sharon Keller, who served as CSP's 15th Annual One Month Scholar in residence in January 2016 and who earned her doctorate at New York University (NYU) in the Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies in the area of Bible and the Ancient Near East, is a member of the Classics faculty at Hofstra University. She has been an Assistant Professor of Bible and Ancient Semitic Languages at The Jewish Theological Seminary and at Hebrew Union College; she has also held appointments at NYU, and New York City's Hunter College—teaching biblical text courses as well as more general courses in biblical literature and history, as well as the courses in the art and archaeology of the lands of the Bible and the ancient Mediterranean world. She has written and edited numerous scholarly articles and academic books, most of which relate to the interplay between biblical Israel and ancient Egypt. Her most popular book, *Jews: A Treasury of Art and Literature* was awarded the prestigious National Jewish Book Award. Known for the enthusiasm and humor that she brings to all of her talks that make otherwise esoteric subjects easily accessible, Sharon is an in-demand lecturer and adult education course instructor throughout the United States.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc-murzovHtxB2-1pdOhSb1S2IfvGpLd#/registration>

Hidden Splendors – The Stunning Baroque Synagogues of Piedmont, Italy

Sunday, September 29, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

In Piedmont, Italy the Jewish community built many synagogues over a period of four centuries. The earliest Ghetto synagogues are usually unmarked on the street and occupy residential-type buildings with sanctuaries located on upper floors for greater security and better lighting. Nondescript on the exterior, the sanctuaries are ornately decorated within with richly carved Baroque and Rococo arks and tevahs, and gilded and painted walls and ceiling. The Piedmontese synagogues at Alessandria, Asti, Biella, Carmagnola, Casale Monferato, Cherasco, Cuneo, Ivrea, Mondovi, and Saluzzo, survive as largely unknown architectural treasures, but they are gradually being restored and opened to the public. In this talk, lavishly illustrated with his all new photos, Dr. Samuel Gruber examines some of the most dazzling synagogues in Europe and relates them to the artistic and religious movements of the time.

Samuel D. Gruber, Ph.D, accomplished researcher, author, curator and consultant, is the founder and managing director of Gruber Heritage Global (GHG) – a cultural resources consulting firm. For more than 35 years he has been a leader in the documentation, protection, preservation and presentation of Jewish cultural heritage sites around the world. He has written two books about synagogue architecture – *American Synagogues: A Century of Architecture and Jewish Community* (2003) and *Synagogues* (1999), and has contributed numerous chapters, articles and conference papers to other publications. Since 2008 he has written a popular blog “Samuel Gruber’s Jewish Art and Monuments.” Dr. Gruber has a B.A. in Medieval Studies from Princeton University, and M.A, M.Phil. and Ph.D. Degrees from Columbia University in Art History and Archeology; with a specialization in the history of architecture. He is a Rome Prize winner and Fellow of the American Academy of Rome and has received numerous research grants and has participated in many grant-funded team projects. Dr. Gruber has taught in the Jewish Studies Program at Syracuse University since 1994 and has given courses at Binghamton, Colgate, Columbia, Cornell and Temple Universities and LeMoyne College where he has taught about medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Jewish art and architecture; Holocaust art and memory; and the history of plastics. Dr. Gruber lives in Syracuse, NY where he is an active member of Temple Concord, is past president of the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY) and is active in local art, history, and architecture efforts.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZwud-ChqzkjHd1Jb7xe8Xp507hMWxrkp8A1#/registration>

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

An Evening of Remembrance and Hope

Monday, October 7, 7:00 pm (in person at the Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston)



Amid ongoing heartache and devastation, we're proud to partner with CJP, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, the Israeli-American Council (IAC), the Consulate General of Israel to New England, and others across Greater Boston to commemorate the first anniversary of October 7 together with our entire community. The event will feature stories from those most directly affected on or by October 7, music to heal our souls, inspiring speakers to remind us of the resilient spirit of Israel and Israelis, and opportunities to mourn, honor survivors and heroes, and fill one another with strength and hope for our collective future.

https://ma.cjp.org/aneveningofremembranceandhope?utm_campaign=240820-fy25-october-7-memorial-event&utm_source=toolkit&utm_medium=partner-communications&utm_content=october-7-evening-of-remembrance-and-hope

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teen Antisemitism Task Force

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 pm (online program sponsored by the Lappin Foundation)

High school students of all faiths are invited to join the Teen Antisemitism Task Force. Be educated about antisemitism and learn ways to combat it at your schools, on social media, and in your communities. This month's topic will be "Managing Stress and Developing Coping Skills around Antisemitism" and the presenter will be Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern.

Teen Antisemitism Task Force Flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Teen-Antisemitism-24-25-Calendar.pdf>

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/143>

SHUL TOURS

If you live in the Boston area and have never seen our historic shul, or haven't visited in a while, or if you plan to visit the area, we welcome you to see our shul in person and take a tour! We were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Please follow the link below for more information and to request **Individual/Family** or **Group (new)** tours.

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

GIVING

Please visit our Giving page to send tributes, recognize yahrzeits and make other general donations to support the Walnut Street Synagogue. Donations can be made online or through the mail.

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/giving/>

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 (chedsed) 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@yadchedsed.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchedsed.org.

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

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

GIVING

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<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>

The Walnut Street Synagogue is the center for Jewish history, education and culture serving Chelsea, Greater Boston and beyond and is the historic home of Congregation Agudas Sholom. (added to National Register of Historic Places in 1993)



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