



Israeli Mosaic Film Series has begun, Chelsea Jewish Heritage Day, High Holidays, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – September 9, 2024

SUMMER APPEAL

Our Summer Appeal is now underway. Donations can be made online or through the mail. Your support enables us to expand our program offerings and address increased security, maintenance, insurance and utilities costs for our American Jewish landmark. Thank you for your continued support!

More information and Online Donations - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/summer-2024-appeal/>

ISRAELI MOSAIC FILM SERIES

Our Israeli Mosaic Film Series has begun! 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/>



Children of the Sun

Discussion - Thursday, September 5, 11:30 am EDT (online)

Children of the first kibbutzim in Israel were born in the early 20th century to youthful parents who were full of hope. They have been called “Children of the Sun,” because they considered them children of the “Sun of Nations” Revolution in Israel. They were born into a utopia and were destined to become the “New Man.” They were educated in an ideological society that aspired to replace the traditional family with the collective one, to subjugate the will of the individual in favor of the common good and a life of equality. *Children of the Sun* tells the story of the journey in search of a society’s memory and the concepts that have passed from the world. The film is a collage of over eighty amateur films that include rare footage that was shot at the kibbutzim between 1930 and 1970, including conversations with family and friends. The tapestry of rare materials from which the film is compiled creates both a very personal and very public story - a form of super story about one of the most fascinating myths of the Zionist movement in the Land of Israel.

Director **Ran Tal**, born in 1963, graduated from the Tel Aviv University Department of Film in 1994. Tal is an independent director whose documentaries focus on Israeli reality through an historic social perspective. Tal’s main focus is on documentary films, in addition to which he directs diverse television projects and is editor of artistic social endeavors. Tal is the recipient of the Ophir Prize, the Jerusalem Film Festival Volgin Award, the DocAviv Film Festival Award, the Forum for the Preservation of Audio Visual award and the Documentary Forum award. Tal also won the Ministry of Culture Cinema Art prize and the Mifal Hapayis Landau Award for Stage Art. Tal teaches cinema at the Film Departments at Sapir

College and Tel Aviv University. He is the founder and editor of *Takriv* (Close Up) online magazine for discussion and critique of documentary film (together with Anat Even) and one of the founders of Keshet Broadcasting. His other films include – *The Museum*, *The Garden of Eden*, *Jewish Time* and *My Dream House*.

Register for film and discussion - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/israeli-mosaic-film-series-children-of-the-sun-tickets-991227136047?aff=oddtcreator>

Underground Ballet

Discussion - Thursday, September 12, 11:30 am EDT (online)

When fans of the football club of Beitar Jerusalem make their way to Teddy Stadium, they hardly ever notice Nadia as she enters and makes her way to a classical ballet studio beneath the bleachers. The ceiling trembles, the cheering fills the room, but the studio remains isolated from Jerusalem's reality. A decade ago Nadia and her mother, Nina Timofeyeva, a prima ballerina at the Bolshoi Ballet, left Moscow for Jerusalem and set up the studio. It was a professional suicide. Ballet and football make for a surrealistic combination.

Writer and Director Lina Chaplin was born in Moscow. She graduated from the All-Soviet State Film Institute in Moscow as film director. (VGIK). She moved to Israel in 1976. In Russia and in Israel, she has directed over 50 documentaries. Her films have won awards at the International Film Festivals in Moscow, Haifa, Geneva, New York, and Jerusalem. One of her films was awarded the Russian State Prize. In 1999, her film *Glorious Sisters* won a bronze medal at the International Festival of documentary films in New York. Her other works include – *Next Year in Moscow*, *Georgian Fest*, *The Russian Knot* and a *Voyage into a Strange Land*.

Producer Daniela Reiss Razon received a BA in Cinema and General Studies from Tel Aviv University. She has conducted archival research for several documentaries including *The Silver Tray*, *The Settlers*, and *Mr. Gaga* along with documentaries about the Yom Kippur War and the Mossad. She is serving as the producer and researcher for other documentaries that are currently in production.

Register for film and discussion - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/israeli-mosaic-film-series-underground-ballet-tickets-991306673947?aff=oddtcreator>

CHELSEA JEWISH HERITAGE DAY



Sunday, September 22, 1:00 to 5:00 pm EDT (in person at the Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, Chelsea)

Join us for an afternoon to celebrate the nearly 140 years of the organized Jewish community in Chelsea and the 400th anniversary of the founding of Chelsea in 1624! **Tour our historic synagogue** that was built in 1909 and was added to the National Register of Historic Place in 1993. Come see our 1,109-seat sanctuary with its painted ceiling and wall frescoes, murals and carved wood Aron Kodesh. **Check out our collection of Judaica, artwork, photos, documents, books, posters and plaques** that come from our synagogue, synagogues in Chelsea that have closed along with fraternal, social and educational organizations from Chelsea and elsewhere in Greater Boston. **Explore the rich Jewish history of Chelsea** and Greater Boston and its immigration story with **Dr. David E. Kaufman**. **Learn about the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center**, our Boston-based partner that explores, preserves, and advances the history of Jewish families, institutions, and communities in New England and beyond. Enjoy our nosh and schmooze with community members from Chelsea and beyond! This program is funded in part by a Chelsea Heritage Celebrations Grant from the Chelsea Cultural Council.

Complete details - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/jewish-heritage-day/>

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chelsea-jewish-heritage-day-tickets-1006372917487>

HIGH HOLIDAYS

The Walnut Street Synagogue is pleased to offer High Holiday services this year in our historic synagogue. This year we will be welcoming Cantor Steven Dress who together with Saadia Weisenberg will be leading services. Please watch our and an upcoming mailing for details!

<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!



A Changing Israel in a Changing World

Part 2 - Changing Israel and the Great Power Competition - Tuesday, September 10, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 - Changing Israel in A Changing Middle East - Tuesday, September 17, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join us for the insightful three-part series exploring the evolving dynamics of Israel's relationships amid global and regional shifts. The series examines the impact of domestic polarization in Western states on responses to the Israel-Hamas war, Israel's place in the context of great power competition, and the implications of the war for Israeli-Palestinian relations and broader regional politics. Each session provides a comprehensive analysis of how these factors influence Israel's standing in the world and its internal divisions.

Part 2 - Changing Israel and the Great Power Competition - We live in a world where the relative power of the U.S. is declining and we see rising great power competition. This is not just a struggle over material power, but also over the values, ideas and identities that influence our world. States are pulled between universal values of liberal democracy, and demands to preserve local, regional and even civilizational values and identities. This session looks at how deep identity divides within Israel lead to diverging views about Israel's place in the world, and how that affects policy responses to events like the Russia-Ukraine war, and the growing power of China.

Part 3 - Changing Israel in A Changing Middle East - The Israel-Hamas war is an irreversible turning point for the Israeli-Palestinian arena and the wider region. Hamas's actions on October 7 were not just about Gaza but an attempt to reshape the politics of the region, against the backdrop of a trend towards Arab-Israeli normalization. This session takes stock of what has happened and why, what it means going forward for Israel's relations with the Palestinians, Arab states, and the wider world, and how Israel's response is shaped by its deep internal divisions.

Dr. Toby Greene is a visiting fellow in the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics and a lecturer in the Department for Political Studies at Bar Ilan University. He is a former Marie Curie Fellow at Queen Mary University of London and has held research and teaching positions at Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. He earned his PhD from UCL for his thesis on British foreign policy in the Israeli-Palestinian arena. Toby's research and teaching focuses on foreign policy, with a focus on civilizational identity politics in the Middle East and Europe. He publishes and lectures widely for scholarly, professional and general audiences.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcu6sqDsqE92Reg-7FsRitiNDqhl0qTnV#/registration>

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

Part 2 - Thursday, September 12, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 - Thursday, September 19, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

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-murzovHtxxB2-1pdOhSb1S2IfvGpLd#/registration>

From Accidental to Intentional Collecting – A History of Jewish Things at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston

Sunday, September 15, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Join Simona Di Nepi on a fascinating journey through the history of Judaica at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston. When, and why did the MFA begin to show interest in the field? Where is Judaica exhibited? What is the curator's dream acquisition? To answer these questions, Simona will highlight landmark moments, individual objects, and visionary donors, while also discussing the museum's methodology for the display of its Jewish collection. She will share some of her new acquisitions, and offer a virtual tour of her installations in a wide range of galleries- from Renaissance Italy and Golden-Age Netherlands, to Islamic Cultures and China.

Simona Di Nepi is the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Curator of Judaica at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where she is responsible for building and displaying the Judaica collection, and for curating *Intentional Beauty: Jewish Ritual Art from the Collection* gallery. Originally from Rome, before moving to the United States Simona studied and worked in London and Tel Aviv for 25 years. She has filled curatorial roles, in both decorative arts and Old Masters, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, The National Gallery, and the Royal Academy of Arts in London, where she cared for permanent collections and planned exhibitions. In Israel, she worked as curator at ANU: The Museum of the Jewish People and as Lecturer in Italian Renaissance art at Reichman University, Herzelyia. Simona curated the exhibitions *Reunions: Bringing Early Italians Paintings Back Together* (2005, The National Gallery, London), and *Dreyfus: The Story of a French-Jewish Family* (2014, ANU: The Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv), for which she wrote the accompanying catalogues. At the National Gallery, she also authored *From Duccio to Leonardo: Renaissance Painting 1250-1500*. In Judaica, Simona wrote essays for *Jewish Italy: Rediscovered Stories (Vol. 1&2)*, *The Routledge Companion to the Global Renaissance*, and *The Lives of Jewish Things*.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpceitrz0iHdwmETuQ8YdWb_tOJC3QQgcE#/registration

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

Confronting Antisemitism – Protests, Rallies and Encampments

Tuesday, September 17, 7:30 pm (online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)



Paul Tucker, Essex County District Attorney, will explain what is protected by freedom of and what to do when the line has been crossed.

<https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/146>

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teen Feed

Wednesday, September 18, 6:00 pm (in person at Temple Emanu-El, 393 Atlantic Ave., Marblehead)

Jewish teens in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the mitzvah of caring for the stranger by preparing meals for Lifebridge North Shore. Teens learn about the connection between Judaism and social justice while contributing to the well-being of our community. Dinner will be served to teen volunteers. *Sponsored by the Lappin Foundation*

Teen Feed flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Teen-Feed-Flyer.pdf>

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/133>

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 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>

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!

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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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