



Announcing Chelsea Jewish Heritage Day – released September 4

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to invite you, your family and friends to Chelsea Jewish Heritage Day that will be held at the Walnut Street Synagogue in Chelsea on Sunday, September 22. 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!

During our program you will be able to tour our historic synagogue that was built in 1909 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Come see our 1,100-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.

Our featured speaker will be Dr. David E. Kaufman. Dr. Kaufman is an established American Jewish historian who earned his PhD at Brandeis University in 1994. During his graduate studies, he focused on the history of the Jewish communities of the Boston area and became well known as a popular lecturer and tour guide of Jewish neighborhoods. In the authoritative volume *The Jews of Boston* (CJP, 1995), he published his first major article--on the synagogues of Boston. He is also a 'son of Chelsea' as his great grandfather was Asher Bookstein, the unofficial Sofer Stam (Torah scribe) of the Chelsea Jewish community. Dr. Kaufman is excited to be returning to the Walnut Street Shul to give a talk in which he will give context to his family history by recounting the greater, and often unappreciated, history of the Jews of Chelsea, Massachusetts. For those who have attended programs with our partner, the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program, you will recognize Dr. Kaufman as a frequent and particularly eloquent speaker there.

We will also have a presentation by our community partner, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, that explores, preserves, and advances the history of Jewish families, institutions, and communities in New England and beyond.

As you would expect, we will have nosh and the opportunity to schmooze with community members.

This program is made possible by a Chelsea Heritage Celebrations Grant from the Chelsea Cultural Council and other generous donors. Additional sponsorships are available (see our sponsorship form or event website).

This event is free to attend, but advance registration is required. Visit our website at walnutstreetsynagogue.com/jewish-heritage-day for complete details and to register.

Please join us. I hope to see you at our historic shul on September 22!

L'Shalom,

Edward Medros
President, Walnut Street Synagogue

Event website - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/jewish-heritage-day/>

Event flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Chelsea-Jewish-Heritage-Day.pdf>

Sponsorship flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Chelsea-Jewish-Heritage-Day-Sponsorship-Form.pdf>