



High Holidays, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – September 30, 2024

Wishing You and Your Family a Happy, Healthy and Sweet New Year 5785!

שנה טובה ומתוקה

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.

Please register to attend Rosh Hashana services by October 1.

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

Register here to attend services - <https://form.jotform.com/242534298414156>

Yizkor book form - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/High-Holidays-2024-5785-Yizkor-Book-Donation-Form.pdf>

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!



History & Memory – Key Themes in the Jewish Experience

Part 1 – Tuesday, October 1, 1:00 pm EDT (online)

Part 2 – Tuesday, October 8, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 3 -Tuesday, October 15, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 4 -Tuesday, October 22, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Part 5 -Tuesday, October 29, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

This five-part series offers an insightful exploration into the pivotal themes that have shaped Jewish history and identity. Instead of attempting to cover 3,000 years of Jewish existence across the globe, this series focuses on the enduring tension between ‘history’ and ‘memory’—a critical lens through which we will examine the Jewish people’s journey from their ancient origins to the present day. Each session delves into a core theme: the nature of the Jews as a people, the centrality of Torah, the challenges and opportunities of Diaspora life, the impact of sectarianism and the birth of Christianity, and the evolution of Rabbinic Judaism through the Oral Torah. This series is designed for both newcomers to Jewish history and those familiar with its basic narratives, offering a deeper understanding of its significance and relevance for Jews today.

Part 1: History v. Memory/Peoplehood – In this introductory session, we will explore the tension between history and memory as foundational elements of Jewish identity. We will also delve into the origins of the Jewish people in the ancient Near East, examining how their early history was shaped by both historical events and collective memory.

Session 2: Torah - The Authorship of the Hebrew Bible – This session focuses on the Torah, the central text of Jewish life. We will explore the authorship of the Hebrew Bible, discussing its composition, transmission, and the various traditions that have emerged around it. The session will also consider how the Torah has served as both a historical record and a source of ongoing spiritual and legal guidance.

Session 3: Diaspora - Hellenistic Culture & the ‘Blessing’ of Assimilation – In this session, we will examine the Jewish experience in the Diaspora, particularly during the Hellenistic period. We’ll discuss how Jewish communities navigated the challenges and opportunities of living in a non-Jewish environment, and how assimilation has been both a threat and a blessing throughout Jewish history.

Session 4: Synagogue - Jewish Sectarianism & the Birth of Christianity – This session explores the rise of Jewish sectarianism during the Second Temple period and its role in the birth of Christianity. We will investigate the diverse religious movements within Judaism at that time and how these divisions contributed to the development of early Christian thought and practice.

Session 5: Midrash - ‘Oral Torah’ & the Interpretive Tradition of Rabbinic Judaism – In our final session, we will focus on the Oral Torah and the rich interpretive tradition of Rabbinic Judaism. We will explore the development of Midrash, the role of the Rabbis in shaping Jewish law and theology, and how these interpretations have kept Judaism dynamic and relevant through the centuries.

David E. Kaufman, our presenter for five sessions, was born and bred in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at the Bialik Hebrew Day School and the Yeshiva of Flatbush High School. He holds degrees from Columbia College, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Brandeis University. A PhD in American Jewish History, he has taught at numerous colleges such as CUNY, Brown University, University of Massachusetts/Amherst, Hebrew Union College/Los Angeles and Hofstra University. In addition to numerous articles on the social, religious, and architectural history of the American synagogue, Dr. Kaufman has authored two books: *Shul with a Pool: The Synagogue-Center in American Jewish History* (Brandeis, 1999) and *Jewhooping the Sixties: American Celebrity and Jewish Identity* (Brandeis, 2012). David currently lives on the Upper West Side and is engaged in public education, researching, writing, and teaching the history of the New York Jewish community.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwofuytpjsrGNEPzHp-gppcylbKKcWrnyHD#/registration>

Breaking Barriers – Reflections on a Trailblazing Journey

Monday, October 7, 3:30 pm EDT (online)

Join us for an enlightening and inspiring hour-long conversation with **Rabbi Sally Priesand**, the first woman in the world ordained by a rabbinical seminary, in conversation with Rabbi Elie Spitz. Rabbi Priesand’s journey to the pulpit was born before the feminist wave of the mid-1960s but was realized thanks to the movement’s successes. Her career was marked by numerous challenges as she navigated a field dominated by male privilege. Despite these obstacles, Rabbi Priesand found a welcoming home and a pulpit at Monmouth (NJ) Reform Temple, where she served faithfully for a quarter of a century until her retirement. In this exclusive CSP online event, Rabbi Priesand will share her remarkable story, reflecting on her accomplishments, the hurdles she overcame, the significant impact she made in the world of rabbinical leadership and her vision of the future of Judaism in America. This is an incredible opportunity to learn from a true pioneer and gain insight into the history and future of women in religious

leadership.

Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz, a spiritual leader and scholar specializing in topics of spirituality and Judaism, teaches, writes and speaks to a wide range of audiences. He served as the rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, California, for over three decades and served as member of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Law and Standards for twenty years. Rabbi Spitz is author of *Duets on Psalms: Drawing New Meaning from Ancient Words*, co-authored with Rabbi Jack Riemer, *Healing from Despair: Choosing Wholeness in a Broken World*, *Does the Soul Survive? A Jewish Journey to Belief in Afterlife, Past Lives & Living with Purpose* and *Increasing Wholeness: Jewish Wisdom and Guided Meditations to Strengthen and Calm Body, Heart, Mind and Spirit* (all Jewish Lights) and many articles dealing with spirituality and Jewish law. Rabbi Spitz spent the past 17 months teaching the Psalms with half-hour presentations for each Psalm (recently completing all 150 Psalms!).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZEgduGuqzMiGNZohHY62HOnuOhs5HJ6iisG#/registration>

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

Commemorating October 7th

Sunday, October 6, 7:30 pm (online program sponsored by the Lappin Foundation)

As we gather to remember the victims of October 7th and to commemorate the day, Ido Aharoni Aronoff will share his insights about the impact of October 7th on the State of Israel and the Jewish People. Aharoni Aronoff is an Israeli diplomat, writer, lecturer and consultant. He was Israel's Consul General to New York, serving from 2010 through 2016 and he has been a member of the Tel Aviv University Board of Governors.

<https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/123>

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

Teens Feed

Tuesday, October 15, 7:30 pm (in person at Congregation Shirat Hayam, 55 Atlantic Ave. Swampscott)

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*

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

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/134>

Teen Up – Empowering Teens to Stand up to Antisemitism Using Lessons of the Holocaust

The Lappin Foundation’s Teen Up program is open to Jewish high school students and includes a free one-day trip to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC on Monday, November 11. Space is limited. Register by October 15.

Teen Up Flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Teen-Up-DC-Flyer-Fall.pdf>

Register here - <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/118>

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 (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!

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/>

VISIT US ONLINE

Website

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/>

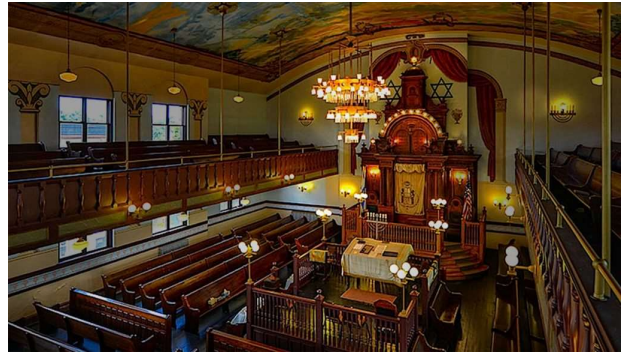
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<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)



Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, PO Box 505265, Chelsea, MA 02150-5265
Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com