



## Happy Passover, Jewish Journeys to the Far East starts Wednesday, JCCNS Tour, Upcoming Programs and More – April 7, 2025

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### Passover starts Saturday evening! חג פסח שׁמח

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### JEWISH JOURNEYS TO THE FAR EAST

Our new live virtual travel series, *Jewish Journeys to the Far East*, begins Wednesday evening.



Join us for the first session in our series on April 9 at 7:00 pm ET when we will visit the Jewish community in South Korea. We will learn about how Jews have been residing in Korea since the 1950s due to the presence of American soldiers and since the beginning of this century, South Korea has grown into a popular global destination for business, education and travel. Our guide, **Anna Jo**, is the co-founder of Hakehillah Korea. She arrived in South Korea in 2010 and is among the first generation of Jews in South Korea to make real Jewish history and community there.

**Register here** - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-journeys-to-the-far-east-south-korea-tickets-1262822458969?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Learn more about the series including information about an in-person series viewing opportunity for those in the Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere and East Boston areas.

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/far-east-travel-series/>

### 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!



## The World Zionist Organization Elections – Shaping Israel’s “Day After”

Monday, April 7, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Between October 7th and 8th, 2023, Israel faced an unprecedented crisis, exposing critical failures and reshaping the nation's trajectory. As the country reckons with the aftermath of that horrific day and the ongoing war, what role can American Jews play in shaping Israel's "Day After"—the Jewish state that will emerge from this moment? Join Yizhar Hess, a leading voice in global Zionist leadership, for a powerful discussion on the World Zionist Organization (WZO) elections and their impact on Israel's future. From religious pluralism and national security to Israel-Diaspora relations and Zionist priorities, this conversation will provide crucial insights into how global Jewish voices can influence Israel's future at this critical crossroads.

**Yizhar Hess**, a tenth-generation Jerusalemite, has an extensive background in Jewish communal leadership, law, journalism, and education. He earned a BA in Political Science and Hebrew Literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a law degree from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, an MA in Jewish Studies from the Schechter Institute, and a PhD in Sociology and Education from Sussex University in England. His career has spanned roles as Deputy Director at the Shorashim Centre for Jewish Studies, Jewish Agency shaliach to Tucson, and Director of Partnerships for the Jewish Agency. From 2007-2020, he served as Executive Director of the Masorti Movement in Israel, where he played a key role in negotiations with the Israeli government over egalitarian prayer at the Kotel and became a leading advocate for Jewish pluralism. As the senior representative of MERCAZ, the Conservative/Masorti slate, he is a member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, the Board of Trustees of Keren Hayesod, and the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as the senior representative of MERCAZ in Israel's National Institutions. A regular contributor to the Israeli press on religion and state, Hess co-edited *Questions About God*, published by Ma'ariv. He lives in Modi'in with his wife Yael, a former IDF colonel, and their children, Achiad and Mica.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CKoABle6QoKIs48w9NLloA#/registration>

## Zionism Today – Back to the Future

**Session 1 – Aspirations and Challenges of Contemporary Israel - Tuesday, April 8, 3:30 pm ET (online)**

**Session 2 – The Dangers of Nationalism and Messianic Politics** - Tuesday, April 15, 3:30 pm ET  
(online)

**Session 3 – The Pursuit of an Inclusive Zionism Rooted in Peace** - Tuesday, April 22, 3:30 pm ET (online)

In an era of heightened political antagonism, this series invites us to re-engage with the redemptive possibilities of Zionist ideology through the lens of foundational texts and visionary thinkers such as Ahad Ha'am, Martin Buber, Moshe Avigdor Amiel, and R. Yehuda Amital. Together, we will explore the humanistic spirit of the Zionist revolution. Don't miss this opportunity to reclaim the values and principles of Zionism to inspire a new generation

**Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller** recently celebrated his 40th year of working with students and faculty as the Executive Director of the Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He is currently Director Emeritus. He was ordained in 1971 at Yeshiva University where he completed a Masters in Rabbinic Literature. Chaim has been a lecturer in the Departments of Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA and in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. He is currently a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute North America and of the Wexner Heritage Foundation. He was the founding director of the Hartman Fellowship for Campus Professionals and a founding member of Americans for Peace Now. In 2014 he initiated a fact-finding mission for non-Jewish student leaders to Israel and the Palestine Authority which is now offered on ninety campuses. In 2020 a Festschrift entitled *Swimming Against the*

*Current: Reimagining Jewish Tradition in the 21st Century* was published in Chaim's honor. He is married to Dr. Doreen Seidler-Feller, a clinical psychologist and is the father of Shulie, a photojournalist and Shaul, an ordained rabbi who is currently serving as a Judaica consultant at Sotheby's while pursuing a doctorate in Jewish History at the Hebrew University.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/KThaiSFsQcq1JqQqbXyvPw#/registration>

### **Next Year in the White House – Barack Obama's First Presidential Seder**

Thursday, April 10, 3:30 pm ET (online)

Join us for a captivating online book talk with Eric Lesser and Richard Michelson as they share the inspiring true story of how a small Seder dinner on the 2008 campaign trail led Barack Obama to establish the first-ever Presidential Passover celebration in the White House. While Christmas and Easter traditions had long been observed by U.S. presidents, it wasn't until 2009 that Passover was officially celebrated at the White House. The journey began a year earlier when three campaign staffers, determined to hold a Seder, gathered in a hotel basement with candidate Obama, sharing the rituals, stories, and a hopeful toast: "Next year in the White House." Now, this remarkable moment is brought to life for young readers in a beautifully illustrated picture book by award-winning author Richard Michelson and illustrator EB Lewis. Don't miss this special conversation about history, tradition, and the power of storytelling.

**Eric Lesser** is an attorney and former Massachusetts state senator from Longmeadow and was a traveling aide on President Barack Obama's first campaign and at the White House. Eric organized the Obama Seders along with two friends, and his memories form the basis for this book.

**Richard Michelson** is a poet, children's book author, and art dealer whose children's books have been listed among the 10 Best Books of the Year by *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly* and *The New Yorker* and among the twelve Best Books of the Decade by Amazon.com. He has been a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award, the Harlem Book Fest Wheatley Award, and the National Jewish Book Award, as well as receiving two Skipping Stones Multicultural Book Awards, a National Parenting Publication Gold Medal and an International Reading Association Teacher's Choice Award. In 2009 Michelson received both a Sydney Taylor Gold and Silver Medal from the Association of Jewish Librarians, the only author so honored in AJL's 50-year history. Michelson received his second Silver Medal in 2017 and his second Gold Medal in 2018. Additionally, Michelson won the 2017 National Jewish Book Award. Michelson is the owner of R. Michelson Galleries, the host of Northampton Poetry Radio, and served two terms as Poet Laureate of Northampton, MA.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/NyRcZK8NTTi0k6la26mtcQ#/registration>

### **Sacred Spaces and Holydays – Forging Israeli Identity**

Session 2 - Sunday, April 17, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Join Mike Hollander in this thought-provoking two-part series exploring how early Israel crafted its national identity through sacred spaces and commemorative days. We'll delve into the significance of Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem, home to the graves of Theodor Herzl and Israel's political leaders, the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, and the military cemetery, which reflects the heavy price of Jewish sovereignty. We'll also examine the creation of three spring "Holydays," Holocaust Remembrance Day, Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers, and Independence Day, designed to remember, mourn, and celebrate as pillars of the young nation's identity. Together, these elements provide key insights into contemporary Israeli society and its collective memory.


Mike Hollander, a seasoned tour educator and historian, has dedicated over 30 years to leading engaging journeys across Israel and Jewish destinations in Europe. Born in Canada, Mike earned a BA in History from York University and later pursued a Master's in Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University, where he made Aliyah in 1988. After qualifying as a Licensed Tour Guide in 1994, Mike began his career educating individuals and groups of all ages, from families to interfaith clergy. He served as an educational emissary for the Federation of Zionist Youth in the UK, planning impactful programs for thousands of young participants. In 2008, he earned a Master's in Jewish-Christian Relations and expanded his expertise to Jewish heritage tours in Europe.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/tZUKfuGprzwthNLrAbEmRPIhR16ICLXDsvli#/registration>

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

### Tour the Walnut Street Synagogue with the JCCNS

Sunday, April 27, 9:45 am ET (*in person, bus leaves from the Jewish Community Center of the North Shore, 4 Community Road, Marblehead*)




**TOUR OF THE  
WALNUT STREET  
SYNAGOGUE IN CHELSEA**

Join us for a day trip to visit and learn about the historic Walnut Street Synagogue in Chelsea, one of the oldest continuously operating synagogues in Massachusetts.

**SUNDAY  
APRIL 27  
10:00AM-2:30PM**  
*meet at the JCCNS*

**\$30 JCCNS Members, \$36 Community**  
Includes travel in coach bus, tour of the synagogue and kosher lunch.

**Space is limited! Please register at JCCNS.org by Monday, April 21st.**

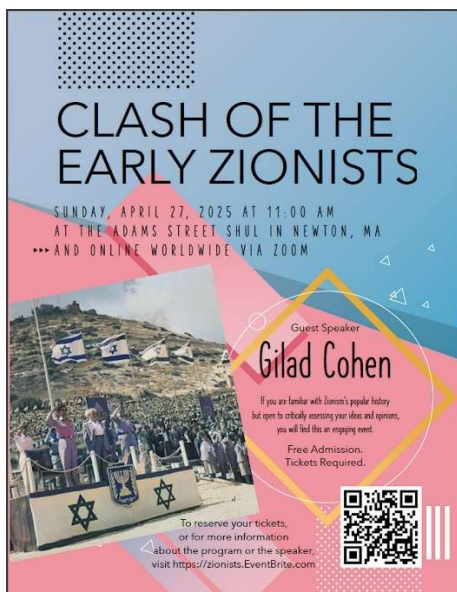


Join the Jewish Community Center of the North Shore (JCCNS) for a trip to the Walnut Street Synagogue in Chelsea including transportation, a tour and a kosher lunch. Space is limited, please register below by Monday, April 21. Cost is \$30 for JCCNS members and \$36 for community members.

<https://jccns.org/event/tour-of-the-walnut-street-synagogue/>

### Clash of the Early Zionists

Sunday, April 27, 11:00 am ET (*in person at the Adams Street Shul, 168 Adams Street, Newton, and online*)



**CLASH OF THE  
EARLY ZIONISTS**


SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025 AT 11:00 AM  
AT THE ADAMS STREET SHUL IN NEWTON, MA  
... AND ONLINE WORLDWIDE VIA ZOOM

Guest Speaker  
**Gilad Cohen**

If you are familiar with Zionism's popular history but open to critically assessing your ideas and opinions, you will find this an engaging event.

Free Admission.  
Tickets Required.

To reserve your tickets, or for more information about the program or the speaker, visit <https://zionists.EventBrite.com>



If you are familiar with Zionism's popular history, but open to critically assessing your ideas and opinions in light of academic sources, you will find Brandeis University scholar Gilad Cohen's presentation of *Clash of the Early Zionists* to be an engaging event. The speaker is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near

Eastern & Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and is a fellow of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. Tickets are free. Donations are welcome.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clash-of-the-early-zionists-tickets-1270577534609?aff=oddtcreator>

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

### Teens Feed

Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 pm ET (*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://lappinfofoundation.tfaforms.net/139>

## 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



### Fulfill a Passover Mitzvah with Yad Chessed: "Let all Who are Hungry Come and Eat"

As Passover approaches, we all have the opportunity to fulfill the beautiful mitzvah of Maot Chittim ("wheat money") by making a donation to Yad Chessed to ensure that every member of our community can afford food and joyfully celebrate this cherished holiday.

Maot Chittim is a mitzvah which dates to ancient times when individuals would contribute funds so that everyone in their community could afford the necessary provisions for the Passover holiday. Yad Chessed, an organization focused solely on assisting Jews in our community currently struggling with financial hardship and food insecurity, is committed to upholding this tradition by helping families purchase food on Passover. Your generous donation will contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind during this special time of year.

By giving to Yad Chessed, you are not only fulfilling a fundamental mitzvah but also spreading hope, joy, and unity throughout our community. And, if you know of someone in our community who is struggling with financial challenges, please encourage them to reach out to Yad

Chessed ([www.yadchedded.org/intake-form/](http://www.yadchedded.org/intake-form/)) for assistance.

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

## 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](mailto: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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Contact us at: [central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com](mailto:central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com)