



Jewish Journeys to the Far East, Revisiting (the History of) Jewish Chelsea, Shared Legacies, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – April 28, 2025

HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) begins Tuesday evening
יום הזיכרון

Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) begins Wednesday evening
יום העצמאות

JEWISH JOURNEYS TO THE FAR EAST

Our new live virtual travel series, *Jewish Journeys to the Far East*, continues in two weeks.



Join us for the second session in our series on May 7 at 7:00 pm ET when we will visit the Jewish community in Taiwan. We will learn about how Taiwan's Jewish community began in 1955 on a military base and is now deeply rooted in the life of the island. They may have one of the world's only shuls that was unaffected by the pandemic! In fact, their Chanukah gathering of 200 during Covid may have been one the world's largest (legal) celebrations. Our guide will be Leon, an artist who co-leads the Taiwan Jewish Community together with the 102-year-old Rabbi Einhorn. Leon's art is a powerful form of storytelling and much of his latest work, including 'dream-scapes' and a Haggadah, is a journey into the exciting revival of Jewish life in that corner of Asia.

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-journeys-to-the-far-east-taiwan-tickets-1263043670619?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/>

REVISITING (THE HISTORY OF) JEWISH CHELSEA

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm ET (online)



Join American Jewish historian Dr. David E. Kaufman for an hour-long exploration of the Jewish past of Chelsea, lovingly called 'the Jerusalem of Massachusetts.' Dr. Kaufman will treat this remarkable history in multiple contexts, ranging from how the Chelsea experience exemplifies the Jewish relationship to cities throughout history to his own family history in the Chelsea Jewish community.

Dr. David E. 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 an online 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. Dr. Kaufman was our featured speaker for Chelsea Jewish Heritage Day in September 2024. For those who have attended programs with our partner, the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program, you will also recognize Dr. Kaufman as a frequent and particularly eloquent speaker there.

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revisiting-the-history-of-jewish-chelsea-tickets-1336032261459?aff=oddtcreator>

SHARED LEGACIES: AMERICAN LESSONS OF BLACK/JEWISH COOPERATION

Sunday, June 8, 1:00 pm ET (in-person at Williams School, Chelsea)



photo courtesy of Menemsha Films

Please join us for a screening of the film, *Shared Legacies*, about Black-Jewish cooperation during the civil rights movements of the 1960s, on June 8 at the Williams School in Chelsea. Besides the film, the program will provide an opportunity for discussion with Chelsea City Councilor Leo Robinson and Janna Kaplan. Janna's late husband Edward Kaplan and his father Kivie Kaplan, Boston industrialist and former president of the NAACP, appear in the film.

Registration opens soon

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!



My Great (and Short) Great Grandfather – Eliezer Ben Yehuda, and the Revival of the Hebrew Language

Tuesday, April 29, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Join us for a fascinating online session with Gil Hovav, renowned Israeli author and publisher, as he shares a personal perspective on the revival of the Hebrew language. Once nearly extinct for 2,000 years, Hebrew was brought back to life almost single-handedly by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, a visionary and one of the founding fathers of Zionism. As Ben-Yehuda's great-grandson, Hovav will unveil family secrets and hidden stories passed down for over a century, offering a unique glimpse into this unprecedented linguistic miracle. Don't miss this captivating journey into history, heritage, and the power of language.

Gil Hovav, Israel's leading culinary journalist and television personality, comes from one of the most respected lineages in the Jewish world. He is the great-grandson of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language, the grandson of Itamar Ben-Avi, who began modern Hebrew journalism, and the son of Moshe & Drora Hovav, "founding members" of Israel's modern day public radio. Gil, himself, with his illustrious career in journalism, publishing, television and as an author, has played a major role in the revival of Israeli cuisine and the change Israel has undergone in recent years, from a country of basic traditional foods into a "gourmet nation."

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/m3SBGmqFSmiYIFpJuWoFlg#/registration>

Collecting the Dream – Theodor Herzl, Zionism, and One Man's Passion for a Visionary's Legacy

Thursday, May 1, 3:30 pm ET (online)

In celebration of Israel's 77th birthday, join us for a special one-hour program featuring David Matlow, the world's foremost collector of Theodor Herzl memorabilia and author of *Collecting the Dream*. Drawing from the largest private Herzl collection in the world, David will share some of the most remarkable and meaningful items he has gathered—each one offering a window into the life, vision, and enduring legacy of the father of modern Zionism. Through these rare artifacts and personal stories, Matlow invites us to reflect on Herzl's timeless message of human rights, equality, and Jewish nationhood, and to be inspired by the dream that helped shape the State of Israel and continues to guide its future.

David Matlow is a corporate and private equity lawyer at Goodmans LLP in Toronto and past Chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. He was co-chair of Toronto's 2015 Campaign for the United Jewish Appeal and is a member of the board of the Ontario Jewish Archives and the iCenter for Israel Education. David founded his one person initiative, The Herzl Project, through which David hopes to inspire people to be a little like Herzl and pursue their dreams while working to improve the future of the Jewish people and the State of Israel and help build a better future for everyone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/T66DXXCcTICGaDmELXiuNQ#/registration>

Laundering Antisemitism – Ethnic Studies, Identity Politics and the University

Sunday, May 4, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Join us for a thought-provoking online CSP event with Dr. Marc Dollinger, as he shares insights from his forthcoming academic memoir exploring the complexities of campus antisemitism across the political spectrum. Once labeled a "self-hating leftist Jew" at a conservative college and later criticized as a "right-wing Zionist imperialist colonizer" at a progressive university, Dr. Dollinger draws from personal

experience to examine how antisemitism manifests in higher education today. Through the lens of identity politics, ethnic studies, and shifting campus climates, this conversation will unpack the challenges Jewish students and faculty face and what it means to navigate academic spaces as a proudly Jewish and Zionist scholar in a polarized world.

Dr. Marc Dollinger, CSP's 20th Annual One Month Scholar in Residence in 2019, holds the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility at San Francisco State University. A leading scholar in American Jewish history, he is the author of four books, including *Black Power*, *Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*, and contributes regularly to major academic encyclopedias. His forthcoming work, *Laundering Antisemitism: Identity Politics, Ethnic Studies, and the University*, is an academic memoir exploring his experience as a Jewish and Zionist professor in today's political climate. Dr. Dollinger is also a dedicated communal leader, serving on numerous Jewish educational and organizational boards, including the Union for Reform Judaism and the American Jewish Historical Society.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/NqDzG0mER9GJwK1jN7JQKQ#/registration>

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

State of Hate and Antisemitism: Virtual Community Briefing

Monday, April 28, 1:00 pm ET *(online program presented by ADL New England)*

In this special community briefing, we will take a deep dive into the alarming trends impacting the Jewish community that ADL continues to track, and what it can tell us about the state of hate in the U.S. and New England. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from ADL experts and New England community leaders, and will hear ways that they can use this information to strengthen their fight against antisemitism in their communities and beyond.

https://adl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SXIV8U1XSmOT89IBHqj_g#/registration

In Conversation with Hen Mazzig

Tuesday, April 29, 8:30 am ET *(online program presented by Combined Jewish Philanthropies)*

In this special community briefing, we will take a deep dive into the alarming trends impacting the Jewish community that ADL continues to track, and what it can tell us about the state of hate in the U.S. and New England. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from ADL experts and New England community leaders, and will hear ways that they can use this information to strengthen their fight against antisemitism in their communities and beyond.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-conversation-with-hen-mazzig-tickets-1329964111459?utm_campaign=9022024-250226-fy25-in-conversation-with&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-UlcPTGXA5fiCAcsD9JHcJBGRgFFyL5RpP7YtCSdTUxdr_Urkay4v37mQmM4gAam4ljfwoOj7VuXiXqjQT5-F9lv2ssS8SuuPUC67PS22mRFmUJqY&hsmi=357275440&utm_content=357275440&utm_source=hs_email

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! 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. Please follow the link below for more information and to request Individual/Family or Group tours.

<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

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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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