



Jewish Journeys to the Far East, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – April 21, 2025

Holocaust Remembrance Day begins Wednesday evening יום השואה

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/>

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!



Zionism Today – Back to the Future

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>

The History of the Alphabet & the Letters in Jewish Script

Thursday, April 24, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Don't miss this special conversation about history, tradition, and the power of storytelling. Archaeological discoveries have given us a history of the alphabet, starting with its invention in the deserts of the Middle East 4,000 years ago. How did the evolving alphabet shape the Bible and Jewish culture? And how did Jewish thinkers understand the letters they used? This talk will survey material from the Bible, inscriptions, and rabbinic texts to piece together the fascinating history of the Hebrew letters.

Aaron Koller is professor of Near Eastern Studies at Yeshiva University. Aaron has held research positions at Cambridge University and in the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, he has been a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and was a fellow at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in East Jerusalem and the Hartman Institute in West Jerusalem. He is the author of *Esther in Ancient Jewish Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Unbinding Isaac: The Akedah for Modern Jewish Thought* (JPS/University of Nebraska Press, 2020), among other books, the editor of five more, and is currently working on a cultural history of the alphabet. He lives in Queens, NY with his partner, Shira Hecht-Koller, and their children.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/rokTMvw1R0KJm5hziDD5XQ#/registration>

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

Yom HaShoah — Boston's Community Holocaust Commemoration

Sunday, April 27, 10:30 am ET (in person at The State Room, 60 State Street, Boston, and online)

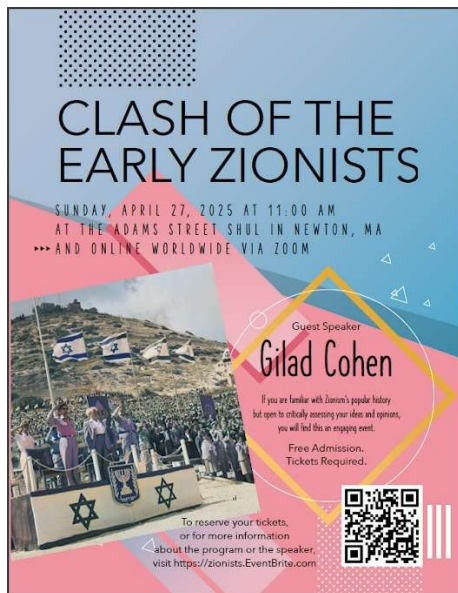
The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Boston, warmly invites everyone to join them for their annual community Holocaust commemoration. Together, we will honor the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the survivors, and their families. Following the ceremony, we will conclude with a community gathering at the New England Holocaust Memorial, in partnership with Boston 3G, Israel America Council, and members of the Greater Boston community.

Flyer - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Yom-HaShoah-2025-Flyer-1.pdf>

Register - <https://www.tfaforms.com/5169751>

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)*



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=oddttdcreator>

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_SXIV8U1XSmOT89IBHqli_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->

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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@yadchedded.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to info@yadchedded.org.

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 to be included in our weekly announcements. Photos are welcome!

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VISIT US ONLINE

Website

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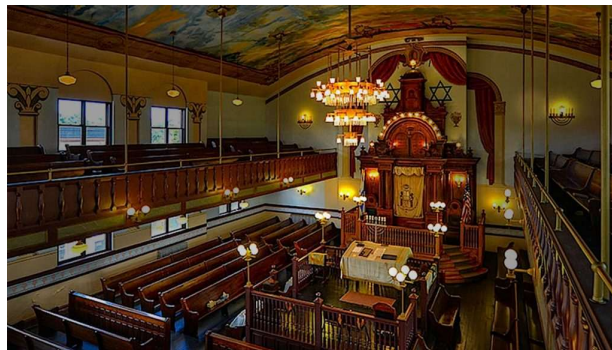
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<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