



Shared Legacies film screening and conversation, Jewish Journeys to the Far East, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – May 26, 2025

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)



Kivie and Emily Kaplan with Martin Luther King Jr.
(photo courtesy of Janna Kaplan)

Join us for a screening of the film, *Shared Legacies*, a moving documentary about the critical historical lessons of the Black Jewish Alliance during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, at the Williams School in Chelsea. Following the film, we will have a conversation with a personal and local perspective featuring Chelsea City Councilor Leo Robinson and Janna Kaplan from Brandeis University. Janna's late husband, Edward Kivie Kaplan (1942-2024) was the son of Kivie Kaplan (1904-1975), a Boston industrialist who was deeply involved in the Jewish social action and in the Civil Rights movements. Kivie Kaplan was elected National President of the NAACP in 1966 and served until his death in 1975. Both Kivie and Edward appear in the film. Kivie's wife Emily was from Chelsea and her family was affiliated with the Walnut Street Synagogue. **The program is free to attend, but advance registration is required.**

Event website - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/shared-legacies/>

Jewish Journal article (May 22) - [https://jewishjournal.org/2025/05/22/chelsea-shul-to-screen-film-about-black-jewish-](https://jewishjournal.org/2025/05/22/chelsea-shul-to-screen-film-about-black-jewish-alliances/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKhY8FleHRuA2FibQl9cTEH9xfp0Aas0TSFTJD8_T7tg_aem_nUxrWgNuS0ZpEQADTYGeYwCMYazy9oFXokEFIMOGA76SpdGbxI9cTEH9xfp0Aas0TSFTJD8_T7tg_aem_nUxrWgNuS0ZpEQADTYGeYw)

[alliances/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKhY8FleHRuA2FibQl9cTEH9xfp0Aas0TSFTJD8_T7tg_aem_nUxrWgNuS0ZpEQADTYGeYwCMYazy9oFXokEFIMOGA76SpdGbxI9cTEH9xfp0Aas0TSFTJD8_T7tg_aem_nUxrWgNuS0ZpEQADTYGeYw](https://jewishjournal.org/2025/05/22/chelsea-shul-to-screen-film-about-black-jewish-alliances/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKhY8FleHRuA2FibQl9cTEH9xfp0Aas0TSFTJD8_T7tg_aem_nUxrWgNuS0ZpEQADTYGeYwCMYazy9oFXokEFIMOGA76SpdGbxI9cTEH9xfp0Aas0TSFTJD8_T7tg_aem_nUxrWgNuS0ZpEQADTYGeYw)

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shared-legacies-american-lessons-of-black-jewish-cooperation-tickets-1353947997909?aff=oddttdtcreator>

JEWISH JOURNEYS TO THE FAR EAST

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 pm ET (online)



Join us for the third session in our series on June 11 at 7:00 pm ET when we will visit the Jewish community in Indonesia. We will learn about how the Jewish community in Indonesia is reemerging. Community members are united in rediscovering their identity and developing a minhag from Sumatra to Papua. Each of the vibrant communities have long and diverse Jewish connections with a Judaism unique to their culture and history. Our guide will be Rabbi David Kunin, who along with his wife Shelley and colleague Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, has worked with the vibrant Jewish community in Indonesia.

Register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-journeys-to-the-far-east-indonesia-tickets-1263056107819?aff=oddtcreator>

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!



Creation, Retaliation, Chosenness and Faith – Four Challenges to the Bible

Session 4 - Tuesday, May 27, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Join us for a compelling four-part series with Rabbi Dr. Rafi Zarum, based on his recent award-winning book, *Questioning Belief*. In this thought-provoking series, Rabbi Zarum tackles some of the most pressing and challenging questions at the intersection of tradition, ethics, and contemporary thought. Drawing deeply from classical Jewish sources while engaging with modern sensibilities, he offers surprising, provocative, and energizing insights that speak to today's Jewish experience. Over four sessions, we'll explore: what the Creation story teaches us if it's not taken literally, the ethical dilemmas raised by King David's actions and their relevance to modern warfare and shared responsibility, the complex and often misunderstood notion of the Jewish people as "chosen", and what belief means in a Jewish context, even for those who question or reject the idea of God. Whether you're a seeker, a skeptic, or a committed believer, this series will invite you into a rich and honest conversation about faith, identity, and meaning in the modern world.

Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum is Dean of the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) where he holds the Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought, established by the Zandan family. He lectures in Jewish philosophy and education, and trains teachers and rabbis. Rabbi Zarum has a PhD in Theoretical Physics from King's College London and an MA in Adult Education from University College London. His rabbinic ordination was awarded by the Montefiore Kollel and Rabbi Sacks, and he is also a graduate of the

Mandel Leadership School in Jerusalem. Rabbi Zarum regularly writes articles for the Jewish press and essays for journals. His recent book, *Questioning Belief: Torah and Tradition in an Age of Doubt*, published by Koren, was the finalist in the Rabbi Sacks Book Prize, awarded by Yeshiva University. Rabbi Zarum appears on many podcasts and recently launched his own, *Big Questions of Jewish Belief*. He is an acclaimed educator who travels the globe lecturing in many Jewish communities and diverse institutions.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/8tQYRc1QYQGh0oc4Q#/registration>

The Jewish Legacy of Bulgaria and Greece

Session 4 - Thursday, May 29, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Join us for a captivating four-part series with Jewish heritage educator Evgenia Kempinski as we explore over two thousand years of Jewish history in Bulgaria and Greece, lands where Jewish communities have contributed richly to cultural and spiritual life for centuries. From ancient settlements to vibrant Sephardic centers, this journey will trace a powerful legacy of resilience and creativity.

Session 4 - We will reflect on the post-war experience and the state of Jewish life in Bulgaria and Greece today.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with a rich, lesser-known chapter of Jewish history and identity. Evgenia Kempinski is a professional Jewish tour guide, born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia. With over fifteen years of experience guiding Jewish heritage tours in her hometown, she has developed a deep passion for uncovering and sharing the stories of the Jewish Diaspora. With her family she spent six enriching years living in Israel and now resides in Barcelona, continuing her mission to connect people with Jewish history and culture around the world. She is the founder of the Online Jewish Travel Club, a vibrant community that brings together Jews from different countries through a shared love of travel, art, and Jewish heritage.

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

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 (chedsed) 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

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/>

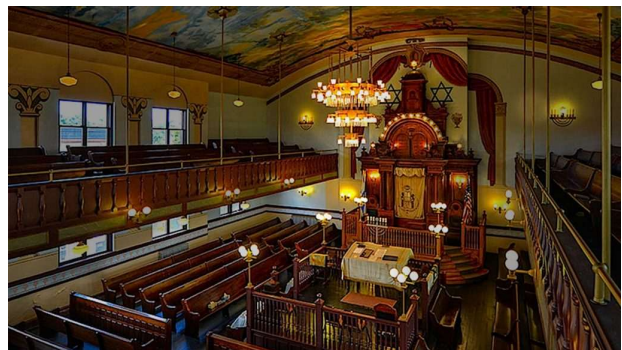
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<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