



Announcing Shared Legacies - film screening followed by conversation with a local perspective (June 8 at 1:00 pm in Chelsea) – released May 11, 2025

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to invite you, your family and friends to **Shared Legacies: American Lessons of Black/Jewish Cooperation** that will be held at Williams School in Chelsea on Sunday, June 8, at 1:00 pm. The school is located across the street from our historic synagogue.

Join us as we screen 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. 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 and his father Kivie, who were lifelong residents of Greater Boston and were key players in the Civil Rights movement, appear in the film.

Leo is a lifelong Chelsea resident and is the longest serving member of the Chelsea City Council. He has served as its president seven times. As president, Leo wrote the Affordable Housing Ordinance and oversaw three searches for the City Manager position. He is the co-founder of the Lewis Latimer Society with his brother Ron Robinson. Leo has had close friendships with members of Chelsea's Jewish community since childhood.

Janna is a Senior Research Scientist at Brandeis University's Ashton Graybiel Spatial Orientation Lab. Janna's undergraduate and graduate degrees are from the University of Leningrad (now, St. Petersburg). Janna came to the United States from the former Soviet Union as a Jewish political refugee, fleeing state sponsored antisemitic violence and intellectual and cultural suppression. 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. Kivie's wife Emily was from Chelsea and her family was affiliated with the Walnut Street Synagogue.

We will have nosh and the opportunity to schmooze with community members from Chelsea and beyond.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chelsea Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional funding has been provided by the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund. Additional sponsorships are available (see our sponsorship form or event website).

The program is free to attend, but advance registration is required.

Visit our website at walnutstreetsynagogue.com/shared-legacies for complete details and to register.

Please join us. I hope to see you in Chelsea on June 8!

L'Shalom,

Edward Medros
President, Walnut Street Synagogue