Summer Appeal, Chelsea's Immigrant Jewish Artists and Artisans, Walkabout Tel Aviv, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – August 25, 2025

SUMMER APPEAL

Our Summer Appeal is now underway. Donations can be made online or through the mail. Your support enables us to expand our program offerings and address increased security, maintenance, insurance and utilities costs for our American Jewish landmark. Thank you for your continued support!
More information and online donations here - https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/summer-2025-appeal/

CHELSEA'S IMMIGRANT JEWISH ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

Sunday, September 7, 1:00 to 4:30 pm ET (in-person at the Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, Chelsea)

Join us for an afternoon to celebrate Jewish immigrants of the last century who became artists and artisans. **Tour the historic synagogue** that is on the National Register of Historic Places**. Explore Judaica, artwork, photos, documents, books, posters and plaques** from the Walnut Street Synagogue, synagogues in Chelsea that have closed, along with fraternal, social and educational organizations from Chelsea and beyond. **Dr. Samuel Gruber, art and architecture historian and Simona Di Nepi, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Curator of Judaica at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** will speak at 2:00 p.m. They will introduce the work of Jewish immigrant artists and artisans in Chelsea and Greater Boston active during the early 20th century and will explore their legacy and how their work is utilized, preserved and appreciated today. One of the prominent artisans that will be discussed is Sam Katz. Katz, a prolific woodworker and cabinetmaker who built numerous synagogue Torah arks in the Boston area immigrated to America in 1910 and established himself in Chelsea around 1916.
Register here - https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chelseas-immigrant-jewish-artists-and-artisans-tickets-1560185128719
Learn more about the series here - walnutstreetsynagogue.com/immigrant-jewish-artists-and-artisans

WALKABOUT TEL AVIV

Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 pm ET (online)

From ancient port to global hotspot, Tel Aviv is a city built on layers - of history, architecture, culture, and flavor. Renowned tour guide Gila Levitan will lead us on an eye-opening four-part virtual journey that will take you far beyond the guidebooks. Each session uncovers a different dimension of Tel Aviv's evolution, blending past and present with stories, sites, and street-level discoveries you won't find on your own. Join us for the second session, ***Foundations: From Colonies to City Streets,*** on September 17. We will trace the earliest breakaway neighborhoods: the serene charm of the American and German Colonies, with their red-roofed houses and tree-lined lanes, to the artistic enclave of Neve Tzedek, the first Jewish neighborhood established outside Jaffa. Traversing Park HaMesila, the former Ottoman railway line turned green promenade, we will move through eclectic Florentin and bustling Levinsky Market until we arrive at Rothschild Boulevard, the pulsing heart of the modern city.
Register here - https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walkabout-tel-aviv-culture-foundations-from-colonies-to-city-streets-tickets-1461659536019?aff=oddtdtcreator
Learn more about the series - https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/tel-aviv-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!

Echoes by the Lake – Jewish Heritage of Ohrid Macedonia
Tuesday, August 26, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Step into the stunning lakeside city of Ohrid, North Macedonia, on this live-stream walking tour that blends natural beauty, ancient history, and rich Jewish heritage. As we explore its cobbled streets, medieval churches, and Ottoman-era architecture, we'll also uncover the little-known story of Ohrid's historic Jewish community. From hidden landmarks to stories of resilience, discover how Jewish life once thrived in this Balkan crossroads, and how its legacy still echoes through the city today.
Since the age of 20, our guide, **Apostolis Karajanis** has been driven by a passion to share the beauty of Ohrid with the world. After earning his Bachelor's degree in Tourism in Greece, he returned to his hometown in 2012 to pursue his dream of becoming a professional tour guide. That dream soon led him to open his own tour agency. Today, after many years of experience, guiding remains Apostolis's greatest passion, a calling he continues to fulfill with enthusiasm and pride.
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/45iXCgYbQPapQg9fEATYVg#/registration

Echoes of Olympus – The Enduring Gifts of Ancient Greece
Part 4 – The Stage of Humanity: Greek Drama and the Birth of Storytelling - Thursday, August 28, 3:30 pm ET (online)

Join Dr. David Mendelsohn for this four-part series exploring the profound and lasting influence of ancient Greek civilization on our modern world. From the birth of democracy in Athens to the philosophical

insights of Socrates and Aristotle, each session traces the roots of contemporary thought, governance, and aesthetics to their classical origins, while also considering the significant influence and interaction Greece had with other cultures, including Egypt and the Near East. The series delves into the architectural elegance of temples and theaters, the moral and civic dimensions of Greek drama, and the enduring relevance of Greek philosophy as a guide to ethical living. Together, these sessions offer a rich tapestry of how ancient Greece, shaped both from within and through cross-cultural exchange, continues to define our political systems, artistic ideals, and cultural imagination.
Part 4 – The Stage of Humanity: Greek Drama and the Birth of Storytelling - The series concludes as we trace how epic poetry, tragedy, and comedy helped shape storytelling from Homer to Hollywood.
Dr. David Mendelsohn holds a PhD in Classics/Linguistics, an MA in Archaeology/Linguistics, and an Honors BA in Classical Studies. A recipient of Canada's prestigious Trudeau Prize, he lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Ronny, and their three children. For over 25 years, Dr. Mendelsohn has researched Jewish communities across the world, including in Germany, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Eastern Europe, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Egypt, and India. Combining his expertise as a historian, archaeologist, and sociolinguist, he uncovers the unique influences of local cultures while identifying the shared threads that connect these diverse Jewish communities. A seasoned scholar and educator, Dr. Mendelsohn has previously led Greece trips and specializes in Islamic Studies, Arab-Israeli culture, Bedouin law, and the intersection of language and culture in Arabic and Hebrew.
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/T5iaO42aT-qjWtBlJdH3Vw#/registration

Jewish Underground Militias in Pre-State Israel
Sunday, August 31, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Throughout history, Jews around the world have generally avoided military involvement, especially in contexts where the armed forces showed little concern for their needs or identity as Jews. One of the most fascinating exceptions emerged in pre-State Palestine, where, beginning in 1907, Jews under both Ottoman and British rule began forming their own defense organizations, sometimes against outside enemies, and at times even against one another. This session will explore the evolution and impact of groups such as Hashomer, the Jewish Legion, the Jewish Brigade, the Haganah, Palmach, Irgun, and Lehi. Their legacy continues to shape the Israel Defense Forces to this day.
Prof. Paul Liptz, CSP's 19th Annual CSP One Month Scholar (2020), is a renowned social historian who served on the faculty of Tel Aviv University for 40 years. Born in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), he arrived in Israel as a volunteer on June 4, 1967, just one day before the outbreak of the Six Day War. He studied and taught at the Hebrew University before joining the Department of Middle East and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, where he lectured on a wide range of topics. Deeply involved in the Reform movement, he taught at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem for 25 years and worked closely with NFTY in Israel. Over the past five decades, Prof. Liptz has been affiliated with numerous academic and educational institutions, and has traveled extensively, lecturing and leading workshops in more than twenty countries.
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/MAy05l8zQzO8ZPNU0AHB7A#/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 and help us preserve, maintain and secure our 116-year-old

building. Donations can be made online or through the mail. Tributes and other donations may be recognized on our Giving Page unless otherwise requested.
https://walnutstreetsynagogue.com/giving/

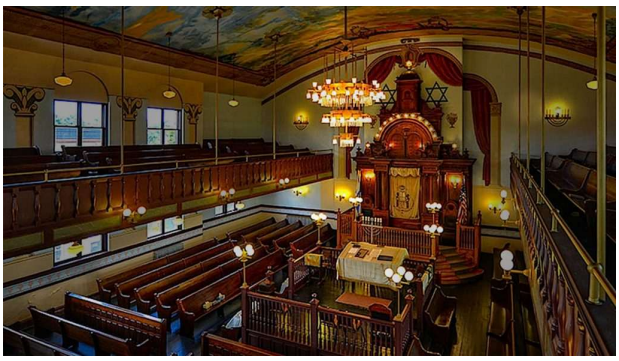
YAD CHESSED

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

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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