Walkabout Tel Aviv Returns, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – October 6, 2025

Sukkot begins this evening. Chag Sameach! חג שמח

WALKABOUT TEL AVIV

Wednesday, October 22, 7:00 pm ET (online) RESCHEDULED

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 third session, ***Built to Tell: Tel Aviv in Architecture,*** on October 22. We will Tel Aviv's built identity from its earliest stylistic experiments to its modernist aspirations. We'll visit icons like the Rothschild kiosk, the site of everyday interactions and coffee-fueled conversations; the former municipality building in Kikar Bialik, a relic of civic pride; and the wide boulevards lined with clean, functional Bauhaus façades, influenced by European émigrés fleeing fascism. We will also explore Tel Aviv's later embrace of modernism and new urbanism, where glass towers now rise beside low-rise heritage homes. Architecture here isn't just aesthetic, it's political, personal, and prophetic. Each building is a window into the dreams and dilemmas of a city that's always looking forward, yet grounded in its past.

Register here - https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walkabout-tel-aviv-architecture-built-to-tell-tel-aviv-in-architecture-tickets-1461998921129?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!

Ben Sira, Enoch, and Jubilees – Jewish Texts at the Edge of the Canon
Part 1 – Ben Sira - Thursday, October 9, 3:30 pm ET (online)
Part 2 – Enoch - Thursday, October 23, 3:30 pm ET (online)
Part 3 – Jubilees - Thursday, October 30, 3:30 pm ET (online)

In this three-part series, we'll explore three ancient Jewish works that stood just outside the biblical canon yet shaped Jewish imagination for centuries.
Part 1 – Ben Sira: A 1,900-year-old book that almost, but didn't quite, make it into the Bible, the Book of Ben Sira (also known as Ecclesiasticus) is full of moral advice, beautiful psalm-like passages, and some unfashionable views about women. We will look at its fascinating history and sample some of the text.
Part 2 – Enoch: Enoch only has a tiny part in the book of Bereshit, but his apparent failure to die inspired later Jews to fill in the rest of his story. We're going to take a look at the First Book of Enoch, from the 3rd century BCE, which includes a tour of heaven, a universe bristling with angels, a solar calendar, and lots of apocalyptic stuff.
Part 3 – Jubilees: Back in the second century BCE, an adventurous Jew decided to rewrite the Bible … and produced the Book of Jubilees, a fascinating read with all sorts of secret information on the calendar, the early life of Abraham, and God's plan for the Jewish people.
Rabba Dr. Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz obtained her PhD from University College London (in Jewish Studies and Anthropology), her MA from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (in Prehistory), and her BA from Cambridge University (in Archaeology and Anthropology). In 2021 she received Orthodox rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Maharat, New York. She has also participated in the Cambridge Senior Faith Leadership Program and held a Susi Bradfield Women Educators Fellowship. She is a Teaching Associate at Cambridge University, an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Jewish Studies, Manchester University, and a lecturer and Research Fellow at London School of Jewish Studies. She is currently writing her second book, on the history and development of Limmud. Her first book, published in 2021 by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, was Challenge and Conformity: The Religious Lives of Orthodox Jewish Women.
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/42w8H2zrT6K58xPw3MYCSA#/registration

The Simchat Torah Flag – From Biblical Roots to Modern Israeli Icon
Sunday, October 12, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Colorful, festive, and deeply symbolic, the Simchat Torah flag has long captured the imagination of Jewish children and communities. Although its material history extends only to the late 19th century, its conceptual roots lie in biblical and rabbinic traditions of the degel ("banner") and degel Torah. This lecture traces how the flag became a miniature emblem of joy, devotion, and continuity, first in the Ashkenazi communities of Eastern Europe, later reshaped by Zionist imagery, and eventually reinterpreted in Israel and America. Its evolving iconography, from the emblems of the Twelve Tribes, Torah scrolls, and the Ark flanked by Moses and Aaron, to Zionist leaders such as Herzl and Nordau, and even the victorious generals of the Six Day War, mirrors changing Jewish identities, hopes, and ideals. Today, contemporary designs reflect the diversity of Jewish life, ranging from ultra-Orthodox interpretations to politically correct, modern versions.
Shalom Sabar is a professor of Jewish art and folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He researches Jewish and folk material culture and ephemera, objects associated with the cycles of life and of the year, and ritual and custom in the Jewish communities in Europe and in Islamic lands. He is also interested in the culture of Italian Jews and the Sephardic diaspora in Europe, the cultural and artistic interrelationships between the Jewish communities and their Christian and Muslim neighbors, and the image of the Jew and Hebrew writing in art. Prof. Sabar received his PhD in Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles.
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/O9MRwWaSQA-MOZd9pMwP8A#/registration

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAMS

Nova Exhibition
Friday, September 26 through Tuesday, October 21
(in-person at the former FW Webb Building, 307 Dorchester Avenue, Boston)

The Nova Exhibition, presented by the Tribe of Nova Foundation, is an in-depth remembrance of the brutal massacre at The Nova Music Festival on October 7th, 2023. The installation sets out to recreate a festival dedicated to peace and love that was savagely cut short by a terrorist attack on that fateful day. The attack at The Nova Music Festival was the largest massacre in music history.
More information and tickets here - novaexhibition.com

Walk for Women's Health
Sunday, October 19, 12:30 pm ET
(in-person in Chestnut Hill presented by Hadassah Northeast – location to be provided upon registration)

Join a community event for Hadassah members and nonmembers, men and women. The goal is to support Hadassah's work in Israel and the US to improve women's health, through breast cancer research, heart health awareness, gender equity in medical research, and advocacy for reproductive rights. Funds raised will also support the continued construction of the Gandel Rehabilitation Center and trauma-related medicine in Israel. Children 12 and under do not need to register. Leashed dogs are welcome. Registration Fee: $30 per person, children under 12 are free.
More information and register here - https://hwzoa.networkforgood.com/events/87376-hne-walk-for-israel-women-s-health-registration-2025

Antisemitism, An American Tradition
Wednesday, October 29, 7:30 pm ET
(online program presented by the Lappin Foundation)

Join the Lappin Foundation for Professor Pamela S. Nadell's talk about her new book, *Antisemitism, an American Tradition.* Prof. Nadell is the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History at American University. The book has already been acclaimed as "the book that the world needs now." The book investigates the dark history of how this hate threaded across the American past from colonial times to today. The program is free and everyone is welcome.
Register here - https://www.lappinfoundation.org/2025/09/01/antisemitism-an-american-tradition/

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

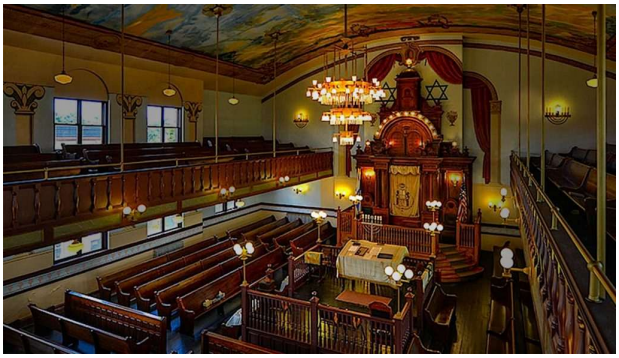
yad chessed "hand of loving kindness"

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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