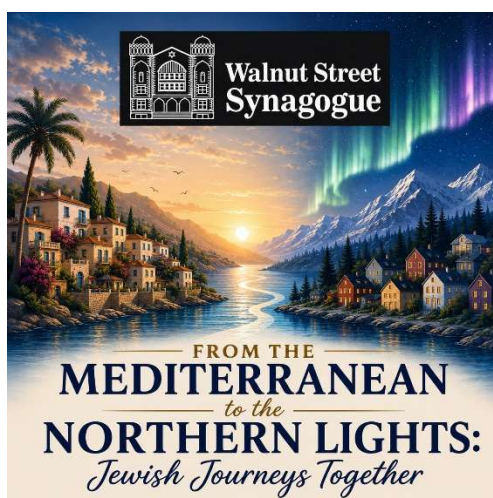




**From the Mediterranean to the Northern Lights series  
starts next week, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and  
More –  
June 8, 2026**

---

**FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE NORTHERN  
LIGHTS: JEWISH JOURNEYS TOGETHER**



**Xueta Island Film Screening & Q&A with Filmmaker**

Thursday, June 11, 12:00 pm ET (online)

***Xueta Island*** is a documentary film that explores Inquisition history, Jewish revival, and identity. Some Catholics on the Spanish island of Mallorca (Majorca) have been discriminated against for centuries because their surnames have a connection to a Jewish heritage. They not only endured stigma and humiliation: they were also deprived of fundamental rights as citizens. While a few have been inspired to return to the faith of their ancestors, their recent entry into the leadership of the local Jewish community has caused an unforeseen controversy among its members. Are they the best suited to lead Mallorquin Judaism despite not having practiced their faith for centuries? **Join filmmaker Dani Rotstein on a Director Talkback after viewing the film that will be open for two days before the online discussion.**

**Dani Rotstein** is a content producer, entrepreneur, and storyteller from New Jersey whose international media career led him to Mallorca in 2014. There, he uncovered the island's little-known Jewish history, inspiring his co-direction of the documentary *Xueta Island* and sparking a mission to help revive Jewish memory in Spain. He founded Jewish Majorca, a travel company offering immersive Jewish heritage tours across Spain and Portugal. Dani also leads the Re-Emerge Project, a documentary series exploring emerging Jewish communities across Latin America. Through storytelling and travel, he connects past and present, one journey at a time.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/xueta-island-film-screening-ga-with-filmmaker-tickets-1989345346483?aff=oddtcreator>

Learn more about the series here - <https://walnutstreetsynagogue.org/mediterranean-to-northern-lights/>

## 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!



### **From Sand to Skyline – An Urban Tel Aviv Exploration**

**Part 1 – Built to Tell: Tel Aviv in Architecture** - Thursday, June 4, 1:00 pm ET (online)

**Part 2 – Markets & Migrations: A Taste of Tel Aviv** - Thursday, June 11, 1:00 pm ET (online)

In this second two-part installment of our Tel Aviv series with Gila, we dive into the city's origin story through two lenses that define it: architecture and flavor.

**Part 1 – Built to Tell: Tel Aviv in Architecture** - We will trace the city's evolution from eclectic Ottoman facades to the clean, modernist lines of Bauhaus design, exploring Rothschild Boulevard, Kikar Bialik's historic municipal building, and the transformation of a sandy outpost into the iconic White City.

**Part 2 – Markets & Migrations: A Taste of Tel Aviv** - We will follow the city's history through its kitchens and markets, from the restored Saron Market in a 19th century Templar colony to the vibrant Hatikvah Market, discovering how waves of immigration shaped Tel Aviv's culinary identity one street food bite at a time. Together, these sessions reveal a city built not only in stone and steel, but in stories, spice, and restless reinvention.

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Gila Levitan moved to Israel 20 years ago, transitioning from a career in physiotherapy to becoming a top-rated tour guide, celebrated on TripAdvisor. With her passion for detail and love for teaching, Gila will enrich your knowledge and inspire your next adventure. Don't miss this chance to uncover the lesser-known treasures of Israel with one of the country's most acclaimed guides.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/c1vieW9URpipdIUx8aAXpQ#/registration>

### **Holy Loopholes – Adaptation and Integrity in Jewish Law**

**Part 5** - Sunday, June 7, 3:30 pm ET (online)

**Part 6** - Sunday, June 14, 3:30 pm ET (online)

**Part 7** - Sunday, June 21, 3:30 pm ET (online)

**Part 8** - Sunday, June 28, 3:30 pm ET (online)

(online in partnership with the Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program)

Join us for a provocative and engaging series on some of the most eyebrow-raising practices in Jewish law — from the Eruv and selling Chametz to Heter Iska, Prozbul, Shemitah sales, Shabbat elevators, and more — beginning with an opening session titled “Are the Clever Jews Trying to Fake Us Out?” We start with the nagging question many people have when they encounter these practices: are these authentic expressions of halachic seriousness, or just brilliant religious workarounds dressed up to look legitimate? With honesty, nuance, and intellectual rigor, this series will explore how generations of rabbinic thinkers confronted real human needs while remaining deeply anchored to the framework of Jewish law, revealing that what may first look like legal sleight-of-hand often opens into a much deeper story about responsibility, creativity, and the moral life of halacha.

**Marc Michael Epstein**, winner of CSP's 4th Annual Maimonides Award for Excellence in Adult Jewish Education and the 2015 National Jewish Book Award in Visual Arts for *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink*, grew up in Brooklyn in a family of Slonimer and Lubavitcher Hasidim and Romanian socialists. Since 1992 he has taught at Vassar College as Professor of Religion (and founding Director of Jewish Studies), offering courses on medieval Christianity, Jewish texts, and the interplay of religion, art, and politics. An Oberlin and Yale graduate with research at the Hebrew University, he is the author of numerous studies of Jewish visual and material culture, including *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination*, named a Times Literary Supplement “Best Book of the Year.” Formerly Director of Hebrew

Books and Manuscripts at Sotheby's, he now consults internationally for libraries, museums, auction houses, and private collectors; his newest book is *People of the Image: Jews and Art*.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/Cu3Xn9DKR5SnUOfuGE2urA#/registration>

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### **Challapalooza: Boston's Jew-ish Music Festival**

Sunday, June 21, 11:00 am to 8:00 pm ET

*(in-person program in Cambridge, exact location to be provided with tickets)*



From 11:00 am to 8:00 pm Challapalooza will have Boston's greatest Jew-ish bands including Yiddish song band *Levyosn*, Old-Time dance band The Ruth and Ben String Band and many more! Alongside the music festival, teachers will present thought provoking and no-barrier-to-entry classes on anything from Jewish weaving, to Mishnah, to Klezmer history. Also present will be kosher food trucks and Jew-ish art makers selling their wares and tables from local Jewish organizations, synagogues and artists.

**More information and tickets here - <https://www.challapalooza.org/>**

## 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.org/visit/>

## 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](mailto:intake@yadchedded.org) for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed to [info@yadchedded.org](mailto:info@yadchedded.org).

**Support Yad Chessed** - <https://givebutter.com/yadchedded>

## 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.org/giving/>

## VISIT US ONLINE

Website

<https://walnutstreetsynagogue.org/>

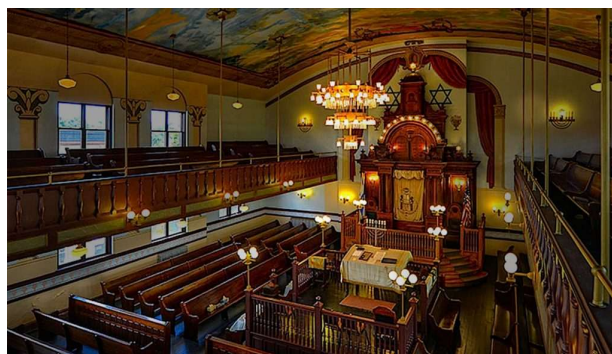
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<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](mailto:central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com)