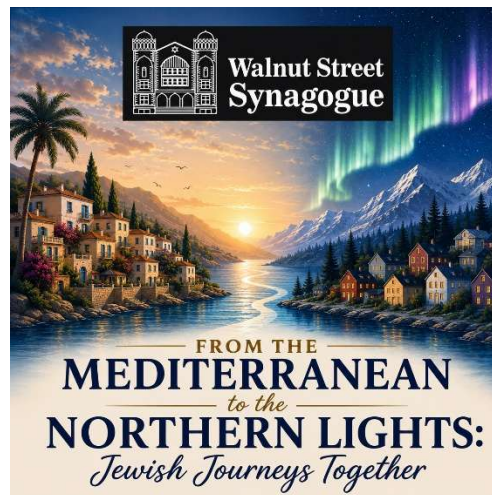




From the Mediterranean to the Northern Lights series returns Thursday, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – July 6, 2026

FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS: JEWISH JOURNEYS TOGETHER



Jewish Norway Tour

Thursday, July 9, 12:00 pm ET (online)

Our series continues with a tour of the Jewish community in Norway. The Jewish presence in Norway began in the mid-19th century, after the repeal of the 1814 constitution's "Jew Clause" in 1851 — a change driven by poet and activist Henrik Wergeland. Early Jewish settlers, many from Eastern Europe and Denmark, established communities in cities such as Trondheim and Oslo. The Trondheim synagogue, once a train station, stands as a symbol of survival and adaptation. During the Holocaust, over a third of Norwegian Jews were deported and murdered, leaving deep scars on both cities' communities. Post-war years saw a gradual rebuilding of Jewish life, balancing tradition with the realities of modern Norwegian society. Today, Trondheim and Oslo reflect a blend of resilience, migration, and living heritage.

Our guide, **Louise Kahn**, is a Norwegian-born Jewish social entrepreneur, cultural organizer, and civic leader focused on strengthening Jewish identity and dialogue in Europe. Born and raised in Norway in a Jewish family with strong Zionist roots, she later moved to Israel, where she has been based since young adulthood. Kahn is the founder of Kos & Kaos, a Nordic Jewish network that creates platforms for open conversation, intellectual exchange, and community-building around issues such as antisemitism, identity, and the public discourse surrounding Israel. She is also the founder of Compass North, an initiative focused on connecting Nordic Jewish voices, fostering cross-border collaboration, and addressing contemporary challenges facing Jewish communities in Northern Europe. Through roundtables, debates, and cultural programming, her work aims to counter polarization and create space for nuanced, inclusive dialogue. Her work sits at the intersection of identity, technology, and civic engagement, with a particular focus on amplifying underrepresented perspectives and strengthening Jewish communal resilience in Europe.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-norway-tour-tickets-1989621841487?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!



Reality and Imagination: Rembrandt and the Jews in the Dutch Republic

Tuesday, July 7, 3:30 pm ET (online)

Join curator Prof Michael Zell and co-curator Simona Di Nepi for a virtual tour of the exhibition *Rembrandt and the Jews in the Dutch Republic* currently on view at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston (MFA). In the 17th century, Jews played a critical role in the vibrant visual culture of the Dutch Republic—as patrons, collectors, and subjects of art, particularly in the work of Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669) and his circle. Living in the heart of Amsterdam’s Jewish district, Rembrandt received commissions from his Jewish neighbors, incorporated them into biblical scenes, and depicted them in character studies.

Michael Zell is Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Boston University. He has published widely on seventeenth-century Dutch artistic culture, with a particular focus on Rembrandt and Vermeer. He is the author of *Reframing Rembrandt: Jews and the Christian Image in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam* (2002) and *Rembrandt, Vermeer, and the Gift in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art* (2021), as well as co-editor with Alan Chong of *Rethinking Rembrandt* (2002). In addition to co-curating with Simona Di Nepi the MFA exhibition *Reality and Imagination: Rembrandt and the Jews in the Dutch Republic*, he was co-curator with Joseph Koerner of the exhibition *Lifeworld: Portrait and Landscape in Netherlandish Prints, 1550–1650* at the Harvard Art Museums (1999–2000).

Simona Di Nepi is the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Curator of Judaica at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where she is responsible for building and displaying the Judaica collection, and for curating *Intentional Beauty: Jewish Ritual Art from the Collection*, the museum's first Judaica gallery.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/YRSGvZrQLaLB3j7aq8wrQ#registration>

The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Vantage Point on Judaism in Antiquity

Part 2 – The Four-fold Division of the Priestly Library - Sunday, July 12, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Part 3 – The struggle on the Calendar: Holy Place, Holy Time, Holy Liturgy, Holy Memory - Sunday, July 19, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Part 4 – Pharisees and Sadducees: Oral Authority or a Written Authority? - Sunday, July 26, 1:00 pm ET (online)

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

The unexpected finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls between 1947-1956 shed a new light on Jewish history in antiquity. Their final authoritative bilingual editions in Hebrew and in English or in Aramaic and in French or English became available only in the last few decades. All the unknown Hebrew and Aramaic manuscripts written on parchment, are a part of a priestly sacred library of authors who describe themselves as “The priests the sons of Zadok and their allies”. In this series we’ll discuss the four fold nature of the unknown books, the background of their authors and their purpose, the historical background of their writing in the two last centuries BCE in relation to the bitter dispute on the priestly calendar, and the connection of the scrolls to the ongoing conflict between the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Rachel Elior is the John and Golda Cohen Professor Emerita of Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Mystical Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she taught for decades and twice served as Chair of the Department of Jewish Thought. A leading scholar of Jewish mysticism and the Dead Sea Scrolls, her research spans early Jewish mystical traditions, Heikhalot literature, Kabbalah, Hasidism, Messianism, Sabbatianism, and the place of women, slavery, and freedom in Jewish culture and religious

history. Prof. Elior is the author of 20 books and more than 120 scholarly articles, with works translated into multiple languages. Among her books are *The Unknown History of Jewish Women*, *Israel Ba'al Shem Tov and His Contemporaries*, and *The Three Temples: On the Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*. Her scholarship has received numerous honors, including the Gershom Scholem Prize for Research in Kabbalah and an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1Ncd0M6hRxtBcQPt-cHYA#/registration>

The New Syria – New Enemy or New Friend

Tuesday, July 14, 3:30 pm ET (online)

Syria is one of the most consequential and least understood countries in the Middle East, and few Western Jews have had the opportunity to witness its dramatic transformation from the inside. Join Rabbi Asher Lopatin for a fascinating firsthand account of his groundbreaking visits to Syria in 2025, beginning just months after the fall of the Assad regime and continuing through two subsequent missions. Rabbi Lopatin will share the remarkable story of how these journeys came about, what he encountered on the ground, and whether a new chapter in Syria's relationship with the West, and perhaps even with Israel, may be possible. Drawing on candid conversations with government officials, business leaders, educators, cultural figures, and ordinary Syrians from all walks of life, he will offer a rare glimpse into a country long viewed as one of Israel's most implacable adversaries. Combining personal stories, political insight, and on-the-ground observations, this promises to be an extraordinary look inside a nation at a historic crossroads.

Rabbi Asher Lopatin is the rabbi of Kehillat Etz Chayim in Detroit and the Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. He is a Rhodes Scholar with an M.Phil in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford University. He has rabbinic ordination from Rav Ahron Soloveichik and Yeshiva University and is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Rabbi Lopatin is married to Rachel Tessler Lopatin and they have four children.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/a0eHA7CKQGOHVjdVfZvgsQ#/registration>

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Jewish Stories of Revere Beach

Sunday, July 26, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm ET

(in-person program presented by the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at American Ancestors at 176 Garfield Avenue, Revere)

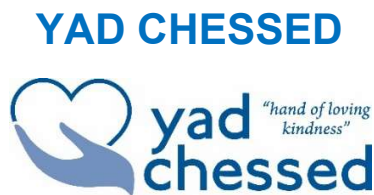
Take a trip back in time to celebrate summers at Revere Beach! Join the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center in Revere for an afternoon of stories, conversation, and history of the Jewish summer community in Revere Beach. This lively event will feature a discussion about the popularity of Revere Beach as a summer destination for the Greater Boston Jewish community in the mid 20th century, opportunities for participants to share memories, and a kosher ice cream social.

More information and register here - https://www.americanancestors.org/events/jewish-stories-revere-beach?utm_campaign=18167937-FY26%20JHC&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--W9W_Tmh_oBa414mDPwbgu-7uXSyyxDIEQ-qzhh2Q7FCxu2PuzpMRXrlZ8-CY6VmNsNmHdmXyKb6isE2limVq5TmLd-Q&hsmi=423239499&utm_content=423239499&utm_source=hs_email

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 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 (chesed) 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>

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/>

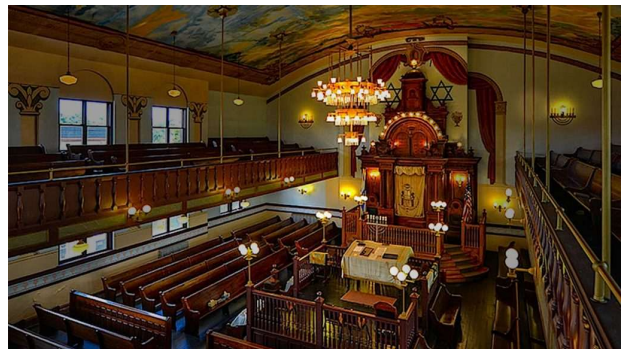
Facebook Page - Walnut Street Synagogue

<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)



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Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com