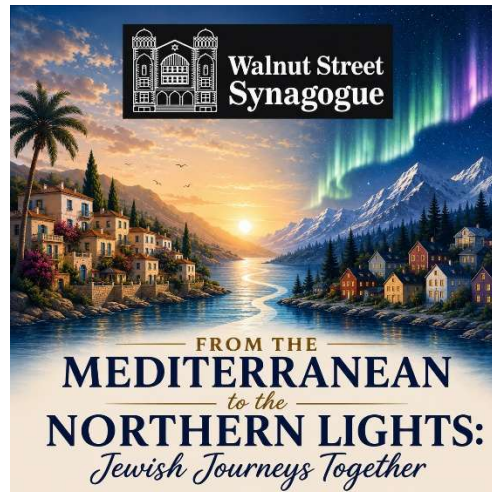




From the Mediterranean to the Northern Lights series returns in August, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – July 20, 2026

TISHA B'AV BEGINS WEDNESDAY EVENING

FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS: JEWISH JOURNEYS TOGETHER



Jewish Izmir Tour

Thursday, August 13, 12:00 pm ET (online)

Our series continues with a tour of the Jewish community in Izmir, Turkey. Izmir's Jewish community is small but vibrant, preserving traditions through religious and cultural activities. Jewish presence in Izmir dates back centuries, with a major influx of Sephardic Jews after the 1492 Spanish expulsion, shaping the city's economy, culture, and intellectual landscape. A unique aspect of Jewish life in Turkey is the connection to Ladino, the historical language of Sephardic Jews. Though less spoken today, it remains a cultural link to the past. In this virtual tour, Ceki will offer personal insights and historical perspectives on Jewish Izmir, guiding participants through its historic synagogues and exploring the community's evolution, challenges, and unique traditions with visuals, stories, and interactive discussion.

Our presentation will be given by **Jacob Ceki Hazan** who was born and raised in Izmir and is now based in Sweden. Jacob is a Turkish-Italian Sephardic Jew with deep Mediterranean roots and a family network that spans the globe. Jacob who goes by "Ceki" was born and raised in Izmir and was among the last graduates of the city's final Jewish primary school. Though his native language is Turkish, he grew up surrounded by Ladino, French, English, Hebrew, and Portuguese, spoken by relatives who had emigrated from Izmir. After living in several countries, he returned and became an active figure in the Izmir Jewish community as a researcher and project developer. He led Despertar Izmir, an EU-funded Jewish heritage initiative, and manages the community's website, izmirjcc.org. His work centers on educational resource development and learning design for non-profit organizations across Europe, particularly in youth and adult education. Passionate about the power of books, videos, podcasts, and digital tools, he explores how these mediums can inspire meaningful learning experiences and how libraries can evolve to serve diverse communities. Having lived in several countries, he is fascinated by how knowledge is created,

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jewish-izmir-tour-tickets-1989626954781?aff=oddttdtcreator&keep_tld=true

CSP

The logo for the Orange County CSP Community Scholar Program. It features a blue circle with the words "ORANGE COUNTY" at the top and "COMMUNITY SCHOLAR PROGRAM" at the bottom. In the center, the letters "CSP" are written in a large, white, stylized font.

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

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/join/join?from=addon>

Part 1 – The Pull of Gravity - Tuesday, July 21, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Part 2 – Tide Table - Tuesday, July 28, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Part 3 – Kentridge in Conversation - Tuesday, August 4, 1:00 pm ET (online)

South African superstar William Kentridge is one of the top contemporary artists in the world today, acclaimed internationally, but the Jewishness of his life and work is rarely discussed. Within cultural circles he is considered the peer of David Hockney, and occasionally they explore similar territory (although with utterly different aesthetics). His drawings, tapestries, sculptures and installations are exhibited at the best art galleries in the world, his prize-winning series of animations receive rave reviews whenever shown and he is also an opera set designer and director, his production of Orfeo is currently selling out Glyndebourne, the UK's premiere opera venue. The son of Nelson Mandela's lawyer, he brings together the worlds of post-apartheid South Africa and Lithuanian Jewish memory, weaving themes from Jewish texts, ritual, and tradition into work that explores identity, history, and belonging. In this series, in addition to our transatlantic learning between London and California, we will travel from Johannesburg to Lithuania to Rome, exploring how Kentridge's Jewish heritage informs his artistic thinking. The series will culminate with an online conversation with the artist himself.

Part 1 – The Pull of Gravity - In this session we'll explore Kentridge's biography and how his life has

shaped his work. We'll do a close reading of some of his international drawing and sculpture installations and think about his theatrical and operatic work too, "unlocking" the Jewishness of his thinking and creative process as we explore his incredible imagination and aesthetic. We'll also learn about some of the collaborators who have helped him build a *Kentridgian* world of shape and sound.

Part 2 – Tide Table - William Kentridge is probably most famous for his animations; a series of black and white short films built across decades which unpick South Africa's history and politics. In today's session we'll learn how they developed, the controversies around their portrayals of South African Jewish identity and closely read one of the series, *Tide Table* (2003), to champion him as an important, if complicated, Jewish political and artistic voice.

Part 3 – Kentridge in Conversation - Over the course of our learning journey, Aviva Dautch has drawn on extensive time she spent with Kentridge in his Johannesburg studio, as well as interviews with colleagues and collaborators who have helped illuminate his life, work, and artistic vision. Now, after exploring the themes, influences, and historical contexts that shape his extraordinary career, we will have the rare opportunity to hear directly from one of the world's most acclaimed contemporary artists. Join us as Aviva and William Kentridge reflect on art, memory, Jewish identity, South Africa, and the creative process – and bring your own questions for what promises to be a fascinating and memorable conversation.

Dr. Aviva Dautch is the Executive Director of Jewish Renaissance, the UK's quarterly Jewish arts magazine and the leading English-language Jewish cultural publication in Europe. She is an academic in the field of Jewish literature: her PhD received Royal Holloway's Reid Scholarship and a research award from Brandeis University, and she is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. During the academic year 2025-2026 Aviva will be the first ever Scholar-in-Residence for the University of Oxford's Vera Fine Grodzinski Jewish Women's Voices program at the Oxford Centre for Life Writing. Aviva frequently lectures on modern Jewish culture at the London School of Jewish Studies, JW3 Community Centre and Limmud. She has worked as a curator, producer and educator for many of the major London arts institutions, including the British Library, the British Museum, Bethlem Museum of the Mind, The Royal Academy and Tate Modern. Aviva is also an award-winning poet and a regular arts broadcaster for BBC Radio 4.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/5fYsNqfbRiulq43UwR6d9Q#/registration>

What Has Rome to Do with Jerusalem?

Thursday, July 23, 1:00 pm ET (online)

When the First Jewish Revolt ended in 70 CE, the destruction of the Second Temple marked a turning point not just in Jewish history, but in Roman imperial identity. This lecture examines how the Flavian dynasty turned their conquest of Judea into imperial propaganda, from the Arch of Titus to coinage proclaiming *Judaea Capta*. We'll explore how Rome used Jewish defeat to define its own triumph, and how the Jews, in turn, transformed catastrophe into spiritual resilience and renewal.

Professor Jodi Magness is a leading expert in archaeology and Jewish history, specializing in the Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic periods in the Land of Israel. She is the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she has taught since 2002. Prof. Magness' research focuses on topics like ancient synagogues, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Roman-era Jerusalem. She has authored several award-winning books, including *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth* and *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*, and is a frequent contributor to scholarly journals. Prof. Magness has directed numerous excavations in Israel, including the famous Roman siege works at Masada and the ongoing excavations at Huqoq in Galilee. Her work has earned her prestigious awards, such as the 2025 Martha and Artemis Joukowsky Distinguished Service Award from the Archaeological Institute of America. Prof. Magness has also been featured in documentaries, including *Jerusalem* (2013) and *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman* (2016). A dedicated educator, she has created popular courses on the archaeology of the Holy Land, available through The Great Courses. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Prof. Magness has held leadership roles in organizations such as the Archaeological Institute of America and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. She is an Honorary President of the AIA and continues to influence the field of archaeology.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dKxqEtpFQcWLyrPiWwl1Kw#/registration>

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

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

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/join/1Ncd0M6hRxtBcQPt-cHYA#/registration>

COMMUNITY PARTNER 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 Rumney Marsh Academy, 140 American Legion Hwy #3, Revere) **NEW LOCATION**




Jewish Stories of Revere Beach
Sunday, July 26, 2026 | 3-5 p.m.
Free In-Person Event
Rumney Marsh Academy, 140 American Legion Hwy #3, Revere, MA
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.

Did you grow up going to Revere Beach?
Did your parents or grandparents go to Revere Beach?
Are you a Revere Beach regular today?
Are you interested in learning more about Revere Beach's Jewish history?
Then this event is for you! Learn more at [jewishheritagecenter.org/events](https://www.jewishheritagecenter.org/events)



Registration is required—
Scan to secure your spot!



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. Space is limited. Advance registration is required

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-qzhh2Q7FCxu2PuzpMRXrIz8-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



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)



Walnut Street Synagogue, 145 Walnut Street, PO Box 505265, Chelsea, MA 02150-5265
Contact us at: central.walnutstreetshul@gmail.com