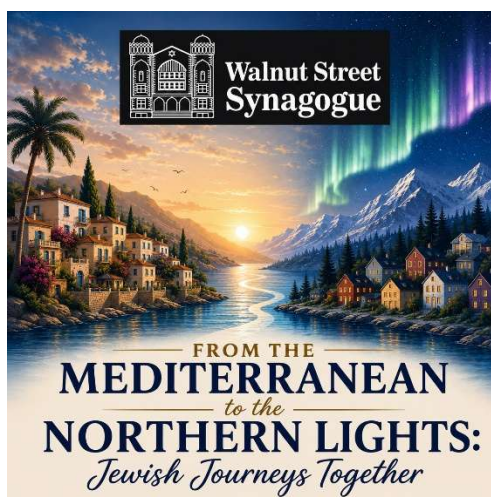




From the Mediterranean to the Northern Lights series returns in July, Upcoming Programs, Shul Tours and More – June 22, 2026

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=oddttdcreator>

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!



Jews & the News: Media, Israel & the Jewish Community

Tuesday, June 23, 1:00 pm ET (online)

In a moment when public trust in media is fragile, newsrooms are shrinking, and artificial intelligence is transforming how stories are told, what does it mean to practice honest journalism, especially when reporting on religion, Israel, and the Jewish people? Join veteran *New York Times* religion correspondent Ari L. Goldman, who spent two decades bringing deep religious literacy and narrative integrity to one of America's most influential newspapers, for a timely and candid conversation about credibility, bias, vocation, and the future of the profession. A longtime Columbia Journalism School professor and mentor to generations of reporters, Goldman will reflect on how journalists can build trust and moral clarity in a polarized age. In dialogue with Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz, respected spiritual leader and author, this program promises a thoughtful exploration of truth, responsibility, and the enduring intersection of faith and public life.

Ari L. Goldman is best known for his work covering religion for *The New York Times* (1973-1993), where he combined deep religious literacy with narrative journalism and did so as an observant Jew. At Columbia's School of Journalism for over thirty years, Goldman created and taught the influential "Covering Religion" seminar, mentoring generations of religion reporters. In 2020, the Religion News Association honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Goldman is the author of several notable books, including: *The Search for God at Harvard*, a memoir about his spiritual exploration while studying at Harvard, *Being Jewish, an accessible guide to Jewish spiritual and cultural practice* and *Living a Year of Kaddish*, about mourning his father through the Jewish mourning prayer. The Late Starters Orchestra, about learning cello and amateur music-making later in life.

Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz, a spiritual leader and scholar specializing in topics of spirituality and Judaism, teaches, writes and speaks to a wide range of audiences. He served as the rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, California, for over three decades and served as member of the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Law and Standards for twenty years. Rabbi Spitz is author of *Duets on Psalms: Drawing New Meaning from Ancient Words*, co-authored with Rabbi Jack Riemer, *Healing from Despair: Choosing Wholeness in a Broken World* and *Does the Soul Survive? A Jewish Journey to Belief in Afterlife*.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9178290208?pwd=OWVkdjZlYUJwZWdScE9lc0RldDZkdz09>

Holy Loopholes – Adaptation and Integrity in Jewish Law

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>

Beyond the Uniform: The Untold Stories of Jewish Women in Wartime

Tuesday, June 30, 1:00 pm ET (online)

Join Dr. Tamar Ketko to learn about the often-overlooked role of Jewish women during World War II. Drawing on powerful stories as well as documentary, visual, and archival sources, the talk will explore how Jewish women took part in armies and resistance movements across different fronts – from the Soviet Army to Allied forces – while navigating the unique challenges of being both women and Jews in wartime. Dr. Ketko will also examine the experiences of women in the underground and the complex story of volunteers from the Jewish Yishuv who joined the British Army, offering a nuanced and engaging perspective on courage, identity, and difficult choices.

Dr Tamar Ketko is a Senior Lecturer in History, Philosophy and Education, at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kibbutzim College of Education, Tel Aviv. Tamar does research in Education, Philosophy of History, Ethics and the Collective Memory of WWII and the Holocaust. She is the chief curator of the Chaim Herzog Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War II and one of its founders and is involved in the implementation of this subject in the academic, educational and public system.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/O7Bv2REvSC2cthvLzRGoaQ#registration>

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

Part 1 – The Dead Sea Scrolls - A new light on the sacred Priestly library found in Qumran -

Sunday, July 5, 1:00 pm ET (online)

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/1Ncd0M6hRxatBcQPt-cHYA#/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-qzh2Q7FCXu2PuzpMRXrlZ8-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 (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@yadchedsed.org for a confidential conversation. Questions can be directed

to info@yadchessed.org.
Support Yad Chessed - <https://givebutter.com/yadchessed>

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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