



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

TOURS

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National Museum of American Jewish History Partners With Other Institutions For Enhanced Tours

Visits to the Beth Sholom Congregation, the only Jewish house of worship designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, are now being offered by the National Museum of American Jewish History as part of a series of packages designed to enhance group visitor experiences.

In addition to Beth Sholom, the Museum is partnering on tours with Congregation Mikveh Israel, known as the synagogue of the American Revolution, and beginning May 12, with The Franklin Institute, which is exhibiting *Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times*.

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“Many of our visitors are looking to explore additional aspects of Jewish life and history,” said Ivy L. Barsky, the Museum’s Gwen Goodman director and COO. “We are so pleased to be offering these packages and partnering with our Philadelphia colleagues. The beneficiaries are, of course, visiting groups who will enjoy a day or days exploring our rich Philadelphia and Jewish history.”

Beth Sholom, located in Elkins Park, Pa. about 45 minutes from the Museum, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2007. Visits to the synagogue, completed in September 1959, include docent-led tours of the main sanctuary and the sisterhood chapel, and a 22-minute film narrated by Leonard Nimoy.

Congregation Mikveh Israel is located a block from the Museum. It is an active congregation serving about 200 families and still follows the Spanish and Portuguese tradition in its services. Tracing its roots to 1740, it is the oldest formal congregation in Philadelphia and the oldest continuously operated synagogue in the United States. During docent-led tours, visitors will learn about the historic synagogue’s history and tradition.

The exhibition at the Franklin Institute features the most comprehensive collection of 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls ever organized and displayed in North America, plus more than 500 artifacts from Israel and Qumran, and offers an unparalleled glimpse into the ancient past.

Tours of the Museum and Mikveh Israel or Beth Sholom start at \$15 per person. Packages with the *Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibition start at \$24. Evening ticket times are available for The Franklin Institute Thursday through Sunday. These packages are available for groups of 15 or more.

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The Museum is exploring tour packages with additional Philadelphia institutions, including Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program.

For more information on these, and other Museum packages, please call 215.923.3811 ext. 141 or visit www.nmajh.org/groupvisits.

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