



October Newsletter

A **recent survey** published by the Claims Conference points to a significant lack of Holocaust knowledge in the United States. The survey concludes that young Californians ranks among the least knowledgeable about the Holocaust. Swig JSSJ Program Professor **Alexis Herr** published **an op-ed about her experiences teaching Holocaust education at USF** and argues that students today are eager to learn more about the Holocaust, its history, and its implications for today. The Swig JSSJ program is committed to educating students about the Holocaust within a broader context of genocide studies that enables students to make connections between historical events and the present. As Professor Herr points out, "students are more motivated than ever to learn about the origins of hate, how propaganda can motivate violence, and how resistance can save lives and change the world."

To this end, we hope that you will participate in one of our upcoming public events this month. Below you will find information about these online events, including links to register. As always, every event is free and open to the public. If you have questions, please contact Swig JSSJ Program Interim Director Oren Kroll-Zeldin at omkrollzeldin@usfca.edu.

Fighting for Peace: A Guide to the Darfur Genocide

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. • Online Webinar

Join **Professor Alexis Herr**, USF's premier genocide historian, as she delivers a



Book Talk Series lecture about her recently published book ***Darfur Genocide: The Essential Resource Guide***. The Darfur Genocide, while complex, reveals simple and undeniable truths about the power of protest and advocacy to upend human rights abuses. Professor Herr will discuss the stories of advocacy and perseverance in the face of genocide in Sudan.

[Register Here](#)

White and Jewish on the Way to Racial Justice

Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30–8 p.m. • Online Webinar

In the national reckoning over racism in the U.S., all communities have a part to play in racial justice. Jewish peace activist and feminist trailblazer **Rabbi Amy Eilberg** will present sacred texts from the Jewish tradition that inspire deep engagement with issues of racial justice and personal transformation. By engaging with Jewish tradition and contemporary politics, the lecture will focus particular attention on the complexities of white privilege for those Jews who are white while inspiring all of us to become full partners in dismantling racism in America.



[Register Here](#)

Racism, Antisemitism, and Israel/Palestine



Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:30–8 p.m. • Online Webinar

Director of the **USF Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice**, Dr. Clarence Jones, will

deliver the sixth annual Swig Program Human

Rights lecture to address the need to revitalize Black-Jewish solidarity. The persistence of structural racism, as expressed in continued police brutality against Black men and women, has been the focus of national attention with the galvanizing and potentially transformative Black Lives Matter movement. At the same time, over recent years we have witnessed a rise in antisemitism, including the murder of Jews, in our country and internationally. Racist and antisemitic violence arise largely from the same toxic source: the ideology and practice of white supremacy. Overcoming these interrelated evils requires a nonviolent response in addition to interfaith and interracial unity. Unfortunately, understanding and affirmation of the mutual dependency and shared human rights commitments of Blacks and Jews have been undermined by increasing tensions in Israel/Palestine: on the one hand, attacks on the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish state, often coming from the left, including some activists in the Black Lives Matter movement; on the other hand, the continued suppression of Palestinian self-determination. Dr. Jones will address these painful challenges and suggest a nonviolent path forward. After the lecture, Dr. Jones will be in conversation with USF **Rabbi-in-Residence Camille Angel**.

This event is co-sponsored by the USF Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice.

BREAKING BREAD AND THE BINARY

THURSDAYS

Breaking Bread and the Binary

Oct. 8 – National Coming Out Day

Oct. 15 – Native American Spirituality

Oct. 22 – The Year So Far

Oct. 29 – Intersex and Asexual Awareness Day

Nov. 5 - Dia De Los Muertos Celebracion

Qmmunity, in partnership with the **Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice** and **University Ministry**, hosts a popular weekly gathering for LGBTQIA and friends called Breaking Bread and the Binary. This event takes place every Thursday from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Also, our Rabbi-in-Residence Camille Shira Angel will be hosting a mini Spectrum Retreat on Oct. 17–18. Interested students should contact **Rabbi Angel** for more details.



JFCS Holocaust Center Conversation Circle

Our partners at the JFCS Holocaust Center are excited to announce the **Conversation Circle**, a program of the William J. Lowenberg Speakers Bureau. The Conversation Circle is an opportunity for a small group of undergraduate and graduate students to develop a deep connection with a Holocaust survivor.

Over the course of three weeks, students meet virtually with a member of the **William J. Lowenberg Speakers Bureau** and learn about their history. Through conversation, students gain a greater understanding of individual identity and the impact of the Holocaust on survivors. The program will begin this fall.

Apply to be part of the conversation. For more information, please contact **Penny Savryn**.