

Swig Program in JSSJ Fall 2022 Events

We are excited to announce our fall 2022 events for the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, all of which will now take place in person! As always, every event is free and open to the public. If you have any questions, please contact Swig JSSJ Program Assistant Director **Oren Kroll-Zeldin**.



Religious Liberty and LGBTQI+ Rights: Navigating the (Sometimes) Conflict

Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Xavier Auditorium

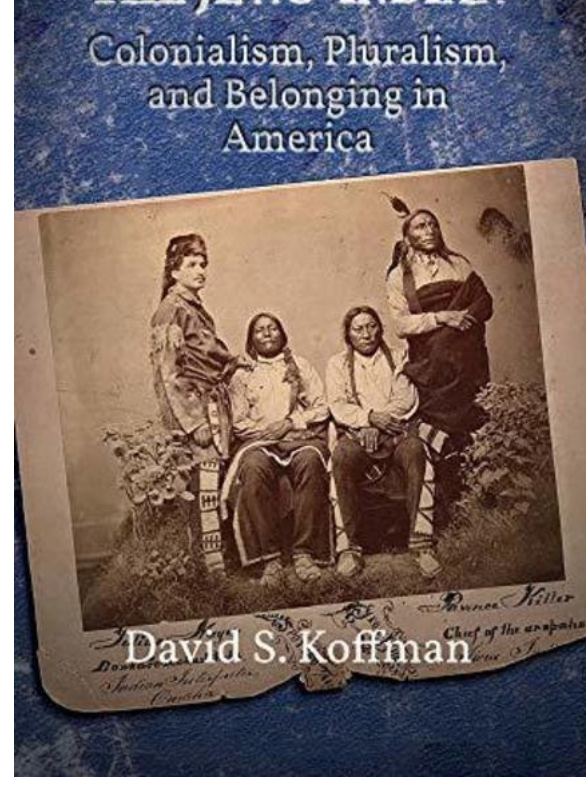
The seventh annual Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice Human Rights Lecture will be delivered by **Dr. Chai Feldblum**, a renowned civil rights advocate and scholar who specializes in issues regarding LGBTQI+ individuals, people with disabilities, and women, a former commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and one of the authors of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. For many people, there is no conflict between the exercise of their religious liberty and their support of LGBTQI+ rights. But for some — especially those who believe complying with LGBTQI+ civil rights laws infringes on their exercise of religion — this is a real conflict. In this talk, Feldblum will discuss ethical reasons for acknowledging this tension, offering ideas for reconciling religious liberty and LGBTQI+ rights in a pluralistic society.



"Open Doors" Sukkot

Oct. 10–18 | Sukkah on Lone Mountain

Lone Mountain will host our **Sukkah** this year on the grassy area between Lone Mountain Main and the Pacific Wing Doors. Everyone is invited to spend time in the Sukkah throughout the week-long **Sukkot holiday** in October. All are welcome to hang out, eat lunch or dinner with friends, or use this temporary structure as a place to relax and recharge. In addition, we will be hosting special events and programs in the Sukkah (see below). For more information contact **Rabbi Angel** or stop by University Ministry.



Jews and Indians on Turtle Island: Between Colonialism and Justice

Monday, Oct. 10 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Main Campus - Location TBD

Part of the JSSJ "Open Doors" Sukkot Program + in celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day

In his award-winning book, ***The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America*** (2019), scholar **David S. Koffman** investigates the history of relations between American Jews and American Indians, both in the realm of cultural imagination and face-to-face encounters. The exchanges between these groups were numerous and diverse, at times harmonious, other times discordant. American Jews could be as exploitative of Indigenous cultural, social, and political issues as other American settlers. Yet, at the same time, a cadre of Jewish lawyers, civil servants, and New Deal Era activists played a significant role in turning centuries-long anti-Indian government policy on its head, creating what some would call the most progressive pro-Indigenous approach the U.S. had ever known. Drawing from his extensive and original archival research, in this talk Koffman will discuss this largely unknown piece of modern Jewish history within the context of both the longer, more complex entanglements between settlers and Indigenous peoples in American history, and contemporary Jewish efforts to grapple with the legacies of colonialism and advance the cause of justice on Turtle Island.

Immediately following Koffman's talk, USF Politics Professor **Kouslaa Kessler-Mata**, an American Indian studies scholar, will moderate a Q&A discussion.



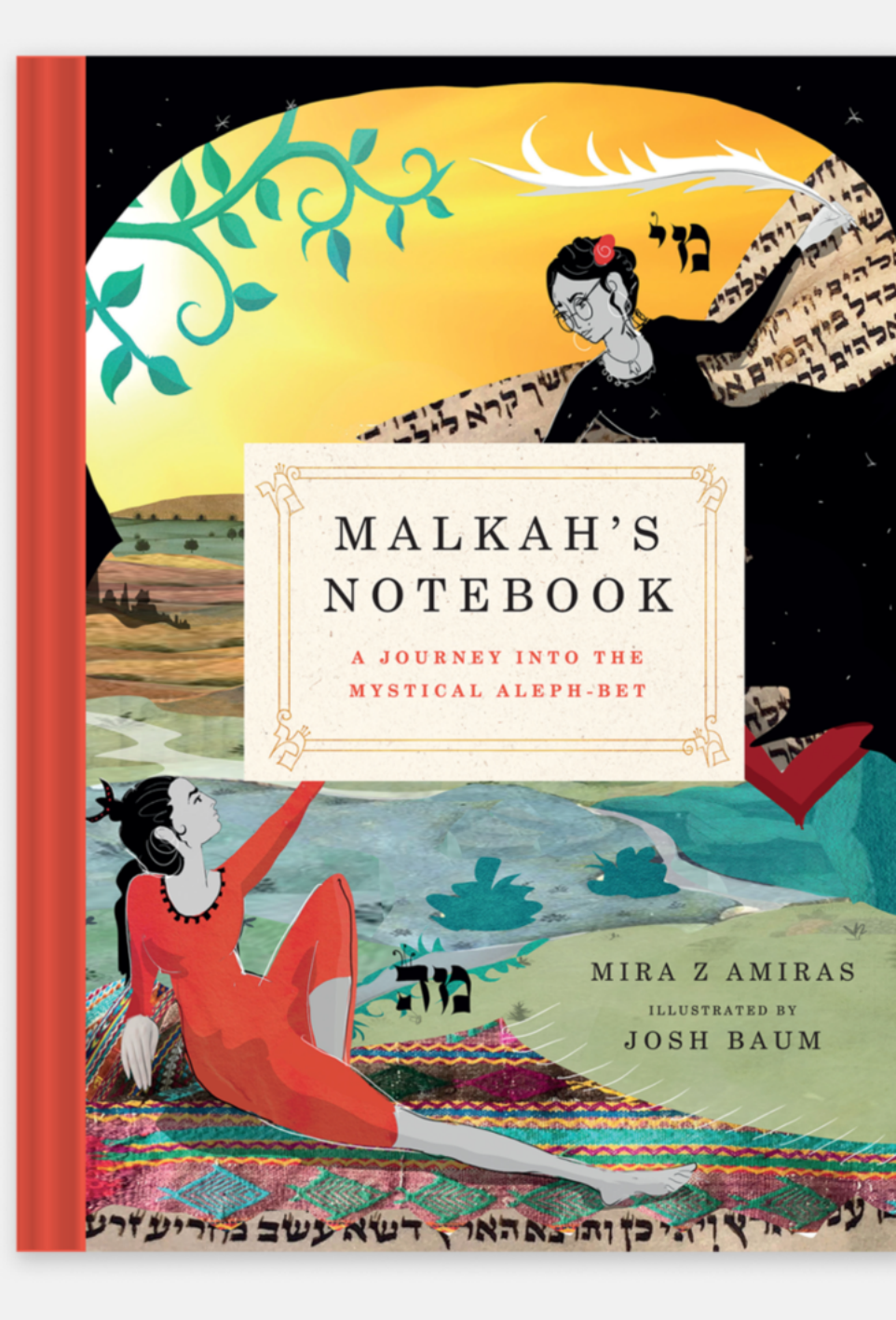
Digital Storytelling and Black Jewish

Empowerment

Thursday, Oct. 13 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Main Campus - Location TBD

Part of the JSSJ "Open Doors" Sukkot Program

Tova Ricardo is a social media content creator and award-winning spoken word poet who uses digital storytelling to speak about her experiences as a Black Ashkenazi woman, a proud Zionist, and an observant Jew. Under the social media handle **@tovathepoet** and in collaboration with the **Tel Aviv Institute**, a multidisciplinary online laboratory, Ricardo crafts digital content and poetry that encourage dialogue about Jewish cultural diversity, Torah, intersectional Black Jewish identities, and Black American empowerment. As a former Oakland youth poet laureate and Columbia University alumna, Ricardo has written for and been featured by *J. the Jewish News of Northern California*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Jewish Women's Archive, American Friends of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, and Hillel International. Join Ricardo as she performs original spoken word poetry and speaks about how digital storytelling is an avenue for uplifting marginalized identities and histories.



Malkah's Notebook: A Journey Into the Mystical Aleph-Bet with Dr. Mira Amiras

Wednesday, Nov. 16 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room

Parts bedtime story, poem, and journal, and coupled with highly evocative illustrations, ***Malkah's Notebook*** (2022) is a graphic novel about, and love letter to, the Hebrew alphabet. The profound illustrated book tells the story of the relationship between young Malkah and her father, who tries to teach her to read the **Torah**. But with each piece of learning, Malkah's questions multiply. Within the very first line of the book of Genesis, she discovers a secret story of creation, which opens a door to life's greatest mysteries. Her journey takes her through Jewish mystical texts, far-off places, archaeological digs, ancient gods, and ultimately into the nature of existence itself. The author and creator of this groundbreaking graphic novel, **Dr. Mira Amiras**, will discuss her process in creating this extraordinary graphic novel, as well as her subsequent film, ***The Day Before Creation***. Co-sponsored with the **Department of Theology and Religious Studies**.

Corrections

In addition to taking a moment to lay out the exciting events we have planned for fall 2022, we wanted to amend some of the information we shared in our May 2022 "End of the School Year" summary. More specifically, during the 2021-22 academic year:

- We hosted seven public events, which were attended by approximately **1,350 people** both in person and online. Among these programs, we welcomed Dr. Cornel West to campus as part of the Davies Seminar taught by Professor Aaron Hahn Tapper, which 750 people attended. In addition, during an unforgettable evening in March, we launched the **Al Baum, Jr. Memorial Lecture**, which preserves the memory of Al Baum, Jr. by honoring an exceptional LGBTQ+ Jewish social justice activist. Over 200 people were in attendance, including students, faculty, staff, and community members.
- We offered **35 classes**, including our extraordinary Hebrew and Arabic summer offerings, with **695 enrolled students**.
- We **graduated eight JSSJ minors**.
- We generated a profound number of new friends and donors through our innovative programming.