

October Newsletter 2022



In Memoriam – Micah David Bycel

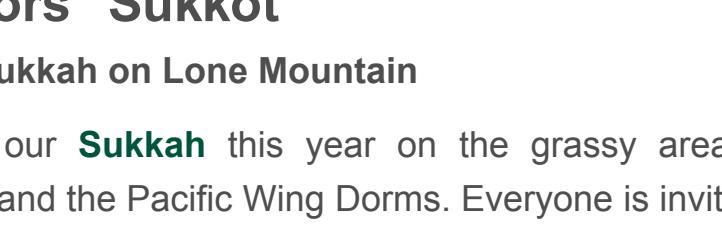
It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Micah David Bycel, the older son of USF's Rabbi Lee Bycel, the Sinton Visiting Professor of Holocaust, Genocide, and Refugee Studies and faculty member of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice. Rabbi Bycel, a valued member of the USF community for well over a decade, has had a profound impact on the Swig JSSJ program and its faculty. He has been a mentor to Professor Hahn Tapper since 2007, as well as a mentor to and former teacher of Rabbi Camille Shira Angel since rabbinical school. Oren Kroll-Zeldin and Micah Bycel were very close lifelong friends. They grew up together in Los Angeles, where Oren's and Micah and Lee's families were very close.

Micah passed away on Aug. 27, 2022. **A detailed obituary about this remarkable person can be found on Jweekly.**

Micah's family is honoring his life through two organizations that were close to his heart:

- *Camp Newman* - Micah grew up spending summers at camp and continued to hold it as a special place throughout his life. **Donations to a scholarship fund in his memory can be made via the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).** Please make sure to note that the donation is in Micah's memory.
- *Down Syndrome Achieves* - Micah's niece, Ayala, has Down syndrome and Micah made it a priority to support the DS community. **Donations can be made to Down Syndrome Achieves.**

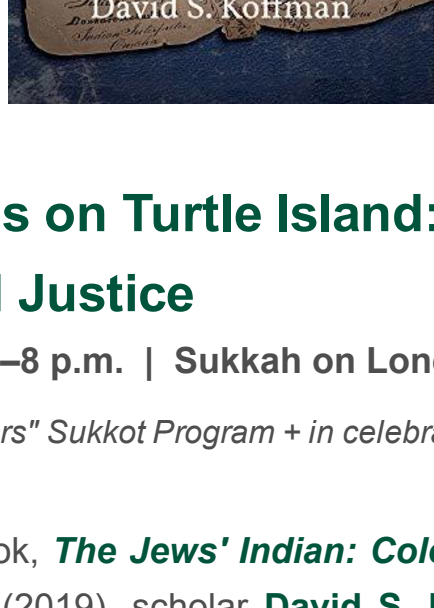
May Micah's memory be a blessing. *Zichrono livrach.*



"Open Doors" Sukkot

Oct. 10–18 | Sukkah on Lone Mountain

USF will host our **Sukkah** this year on the grassy area between Lone Mountain Main and the Pacific Wing Dorms. Everyone is invited to spend time in the temporary dwelling throughout the weeklong Jewish holiday, which is called **Sukkot**, whether hanging out, eating lunch or dinner with friends, or using this space 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

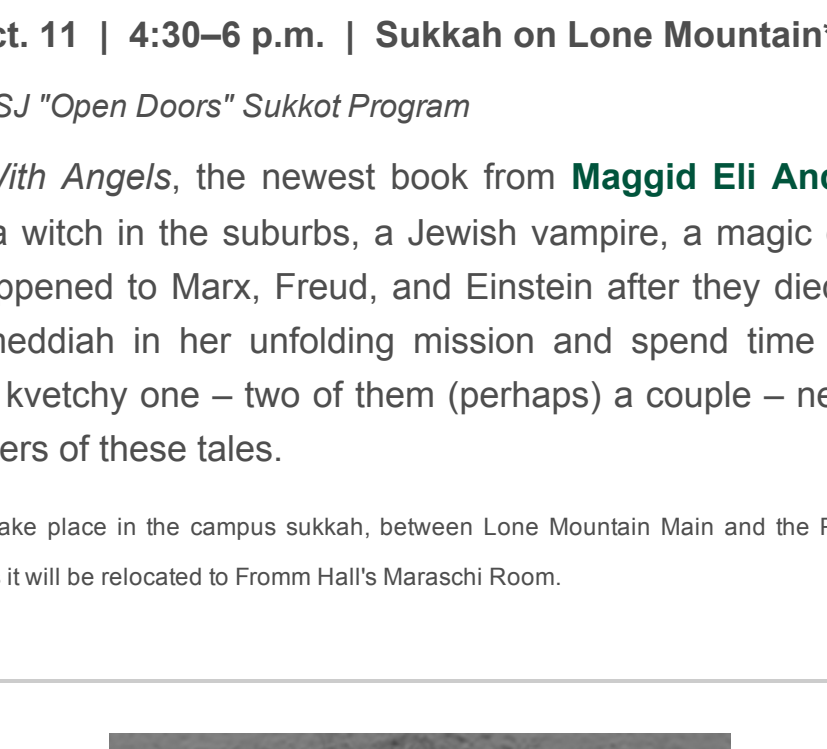
Monday, Oct. 10 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Sukkah on Lone Mountain* & Online

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. 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 Professor **Kouslaa Kessler-Mata**, an American Indian studies scholar, will moderate a Q&A discussion.

* The event will take place in the campus sukkah, between Lone Mountain Main and the Pacific Wing dorms. However, if it rains it will be relocated to Fromm Hall's Xavier Auditorium.



Texting With Angels: An Evening With Maggid Eli Andrew Ramer

Tuesday, Oct. 11 | 4:30–6 p.m. | Sukkah on Lone Mountain* & Online

Part of the JSSJ "Open Doors" Sukkot Program

In *Texting With Angels*, the newest book from **Maggid Eli Andrew Ramer**, you'll meet a witch in the suburbs, a Jewish vampire, a magic dog, and find out what happened to Marx, Freud, and Einstein after they died. You'll learn about the meddiah in her unfolding mission and spend time with a goofy angel and a kvetchy one – two of them (perhaps) a couple – neither of them the transmitters of these tales.

* The event will take place in the campus sukkah, between Lone Mountain Main and the Pacific Wing dorms. However, if it rains it will be relocated to Fromm Hall's Maraschi Room.



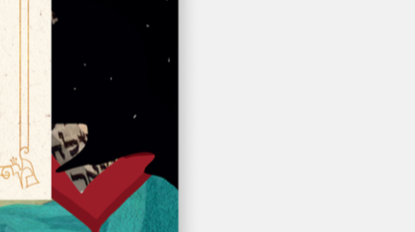
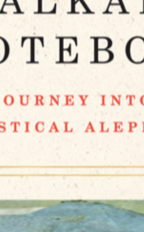
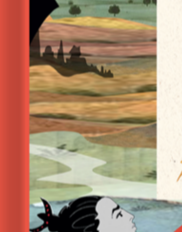
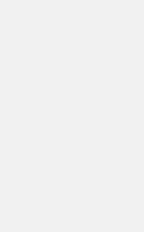
A Memory of Water with Tatiana Luboviski-Acosta

Thursday, Oct. 13 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Sukkah on Lone Mountain* & Online

Part of the JSSJ "Open Doors" Sukkot Program

Tatiana Luboviski-Acosta is a queer Jewish Nicaraguense artist, poet, and sexual health educator from the lands of the Tongva people who now lives in Yelamu, Ramaytush Ohlone territory. They are the author of *The Easy Body* (Timeless, Infinite Light, 2017) and *La Movida* (Nightboat Books 2022). Their writing has appeared in *New Life Quarterly*, *The Anarchist Review of Books*, *Open Space*, and the SFMOMA parking garage. Join us for an evening where they will share their writing with the USF community.

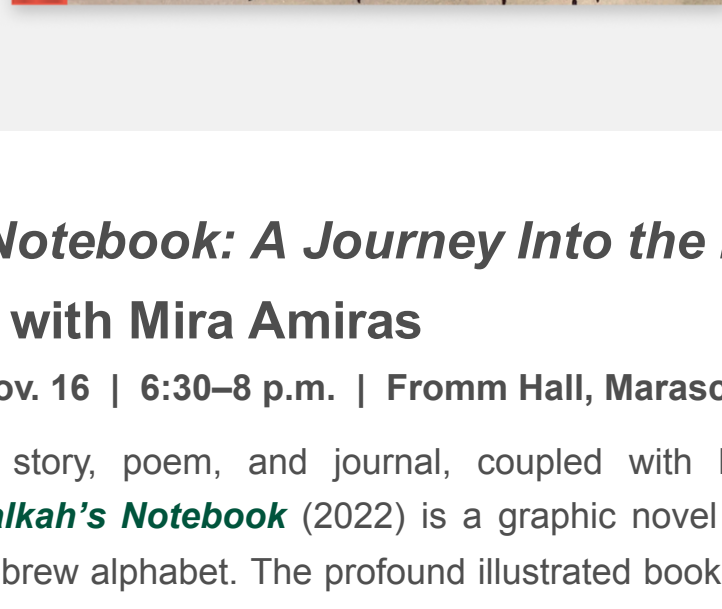
* The event will take place in the campus sukkah, between Lone Mountain Main and the Pacific Wing dorms. However, if it rains it will be relocated to Fromm Hall's Xavier Auditorium.



USF Shabbat in the Swig JSSJ Sukkah with Value Culture

Friday, Oct. 14 | 5–7 p.m. | Sukkah on Lone Mountain

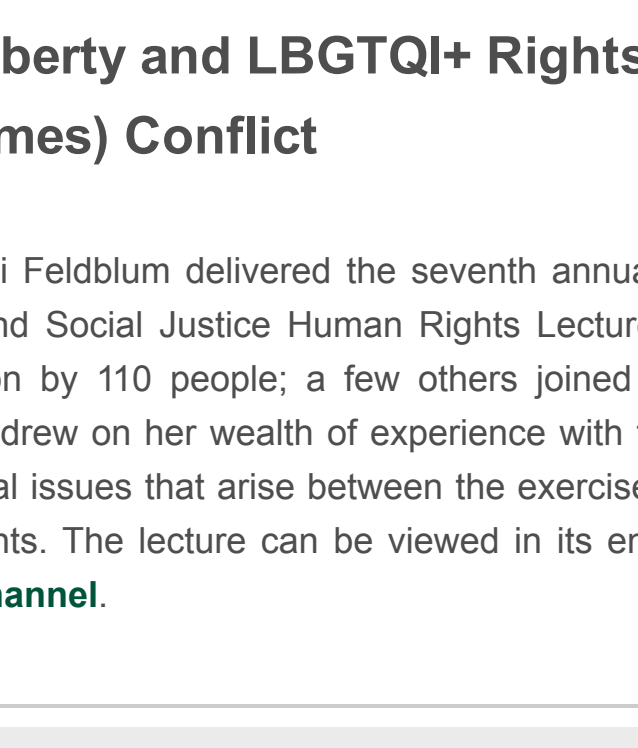
Come and join us in celebrating Shabbat in the Sukkah with speakers, food, music, and community! This event is open to all students, regardless of identities.



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

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

Parts bedtime story, poem, and journal, 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. Author and creator **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 by the **Department of Theology and Religious Studies**.



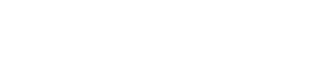
Religious Liberty and LBGTQI+ Rights: Navigating the (Sometimes) Conflict

On Sept. 13, Chai Feldblum delivered the seventh annual Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice Human Rights Lecture. The lecture was attended in person by 110 people; a few others joined online. During the lecture, Feldblum drew on her wealth of experience with the law to expound on the myriad legal issues that arise between the exercise of religious liberty and LBGTQI+ rights. The lecture can be viewed in its entirety on **the Swig JSSJ YouTube channel**.

Your generous support of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice will help us engage students in both theoretical and practical approaches of social justice and activism rooted in the Jewish traditions.

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