

September Newsletter 2022



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 **Chai Feldblum, PhD**, a renowned civil rights advocate and scholar who specializes in issues regarding LGBTQI+ individuals, people with disabilities, and women. 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, a former commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and one of the authors of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, will discuss ethical reasons for acknowledging this tension, offering ideas for reconciling religious liberty and LGBTQI+ rights in a pluralistic society.

Teach-In on Reparations for African Americans in California and San Francisco

Sunday, Sept. 18 | 2–4p.m. | Congregation Sherith Israel & Online

We are excited to co-sponsor an important conversation about reparations in California and San Francisco led by the **San Francisco Black & Jewish Unity Coalition** in partnership with **Congregation Sherith Israel** and **Third Baptist Church of San Francisco**. The illustrious group of speakers at the teach-in includes:

Shirley Weber, PhD, California Secretary of State and author of AB 3121, which established the California State Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans.

Theopia Jackson, PhD, psychologist and co-founder of the Therapist-in-Residency Program in Oakland, an African-centered program dedicated to supervising Black clinicians-in-training.

Eric McDonnell, chair of the San Francisco Advisory Committee on Reparations for African Americans.

Rev. Amos Brown, vice chair of the CA State Task Force, member of the San Francisco Advisory Committee on Reparations, and pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco.

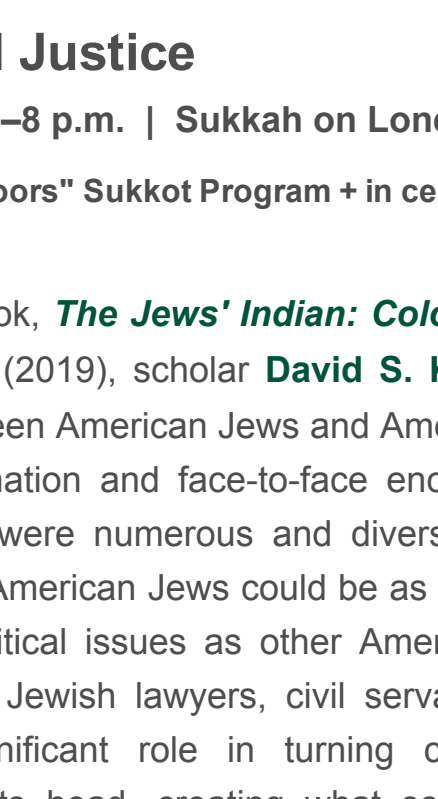
Whether you attend in person or online, **registration is required**. All are welcome.



"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 Doors. Everyone is invited to spend time in the Sukkah throughout the week-long Jewish holiday of **Sukkot**. 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

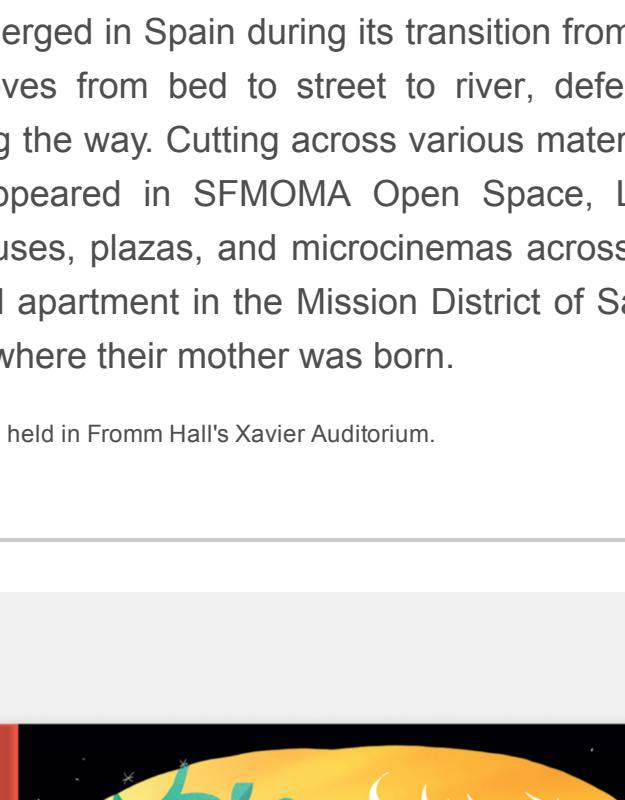
Monday, Oct. 10 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Sukkah on Lone Mountain*

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.

* If it rains, the event will be held in Fromm Hall's Xavier Auditorium.



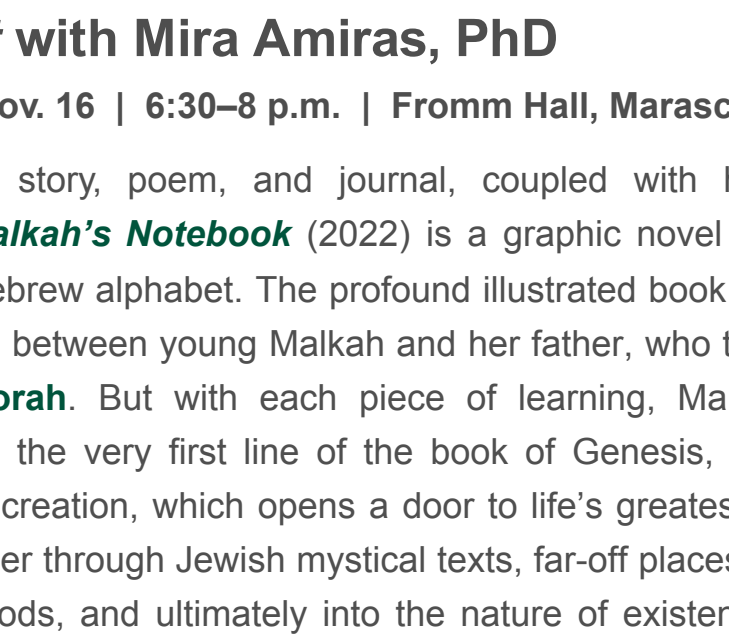
La Movida with Tatiana Luboviski-Acosta

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

Part of the JSSJ "Open Doors" Sukkot Program

Tatiana Luboviski-Acosta, a queer Latinx Jewish artist, was raised in Los Angeles, California by a family of single women, and grew up traveling and living across the western United States and Mexico with their mother, a cultural anthropologist. One of their most popular pieces of writing, ***The Easy Body*** (Timeless, Infinite Light, 2017), is a book-length poem that grew out of their research on the role of reproductive labor in Latin American revolutionary movements, their own matrilineal history, and their experiences navigating reproductive healthcare in the United States as a poor queer person of color. Their most recent work, ***La Movida*** (Nightboat Books 2022), named both for the Chicana feminist concepts of revolutionary maneuvers and submerged technologies of struggle and also the explosive queer punk movement that emerged in Spain during its transition from Franquist Fascism to democracy, moves from bed to street to river, defending memory and falling in love along the way. Cutting across various materials and disciplines, their work has appeared in SFMOMA Open Space, Los Angeles River, galleries, punk houses, plazas, and microcinemas across the U.S. They live in a rent-controlled apartment in the Mission District of San Francisco, a few blocks away from where their mother was born.

* If it rains, the event will be held in Fromm Hall's Xavier Auditorium.



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

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. 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. Author and creator **Mira Amiras**, PhD 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**.



Community Partner Opportunities

JFCS Holocaust Center University Fellowship

The **JFCS Holocaust Center** is now accepting applications for the **Pell and Manovill University Fellowships!** Through these paid fellowships, which provide undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to become essential members of the Holocaust Center staff, individuals mentor teens, work with Holocaust and genocide survivors, and facilitate virtual programming for students and adults. They also support the Holocaust Center's work in confronting antisemitism through education and public policy. Virtual programming has expanded the Holocaust Center's reach beyond California and the United States.

Each fellowship is a paid position, with a commitment of approximately 10 hours/week from October through June. Fellows may receive course credit upon completion. The application period for the 2022–23 fellowship is now open. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in becoming a Pell or Manovill University fellow should fill out an official **inquiry form**.

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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Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice

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