

**March 2023 Newsletter**

Two Jewish rug merchants in their shop located in Shiraz, Iran. Notice the large map of Iran in the background (© Hassan Sarbakhshian).

**The Jews of Iran****Sunday, March 5 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room**

Acclaimed scholar **Lior B. Sternfeld** will offer an interactive presentation on the Jews of contemporary Iran, the largest population worldwide of Jews in a Muslim-majority country. A professor of history and Jewish studies at Pennsylvania State University, Sternfeld is the author of the award-winning ***Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth Century Iran*** (2018) and co-author of ***Jews of Iran: A Photographic Chronicle*** (2022) with Hassan Sarbakhshian and Parvaneh Vahidmanesh.

You can read an article published by the *J Weekly* about this event [here](#).

**The Alvin H. Baum, Jr. Memorial Lecture****Sunday, March 26 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room**

The second annual Alvin H. Baum Jr. Memorial Lecture in honor of an LGBTQIA+ Jewish social justice activist will be delivered by former **California State Senator Mark Leno**. Leno was the first openly gay man elected to the state senate. His tireless efforts on behalf of LGBTQIA+ communities have paved the way for marriage equality in our state.

**Social Justice Passover Seder****Tuesday, April 11 | 6:30–8 p.m. | McLaren Conference Center**

The 13th annual social justice Passover Seder will focus on anti-racism. We will tell the Passover story while making connections between the ancient story of moving from slavery to freedom and contemporary anti-racist activism.

**Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine****May 22 – June 6**

In partnership with the University of San Francisco and the **Center for Transformative Education**, the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice is excited to relaunch **Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine** (BBIP). This groundbreaking conflict transformation program is designed for students of all backgrounds to explore questions central to international studies, comparative analysis, identity formation, narrative construction, politics, religion, and more.

**This two-week summer course** takes students to the Middle East on a journey that combines rigorous academics and practical hands-on training with the intent to explore questions at the core of all conflicts. Moving past the stage of practical peace agreements or beyond "building bridges," the program challenges participants to look at long-term solutions to end intercommunal conflict.

[Apply Now »](#)**HEBREW  
SAN FRANCISCO  
SUMMER 2023****Hebrew San Francisco — Summer 2023****July 10–28 | Monday–Friday | 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–2 p.m. | Online**

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the summer 2023 **Hebrew San Francisco: Ulpan program!** Similar to the past few years, this summer's program will take place online. Class times will be from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and teachers will hold additional optional office hours daily from 1–2 p.m.

Tuition for the program is \$1,500. Thanks to the generosity of the Firehouse Fund, we are able to offer scholarships for this intensive Hebrew language summer experience. Please email Swig JSSJ Program Assistant Director **Oren Kroll-Zeldin** with any questions. **Visit our web page** for more information.

[Register Now »](#)**ARABIC  
SAN FRANCISCO  
SUMMER 2023****Arabic San Francisco — Summer 2023****July 10–28 | Monday–Friday | 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (Level 1); 2–5 p.m. (Levels 2-3) | Online**

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the summer 2023 **Arabic San Francisco program!** Welcoming anyone interested in the Arabic language, we offer multiple levels of instruction in small class settings. The focus of the program is on the Levantine dialect of Arabic, though students in Level 1 will spend the first part of the program learning to read and write in Arabic. All instruction for the program will take place online. Classes for Level 1 will be from 9 a.m.–12 p.m., and Levels 2 and 3 will be from 2–5 p.m.

Tuition for the program is \$1,500. Thanks to the generosity of the Firehouse Fund, we are able to offer scholarships for this intensive Arabic language summer experience. Please email Swig JSSJ Program Assistant Director **Oren Kroll-Zeldin** with any questions. **Visit our web page** for more information.

[Register Now »](#)

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

[GIVE NOW >](#)Join the conversation **#USFCA**UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice(415) 422-6601  
USFCA.EDUDIRECTIONS  
CONTACT US