



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Swig Program in Jewish Studies
and Social Justice

September Newsletter 2023



Skywatchers: The Slow Art of Belonging with ABD Productions

Tuesday, Oct. 3 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room

Join us for a special evening with ABD Productions and Skywatchers' artist-activists. Established in 2011, Skywatchers brings artists into durational collaboration with residents of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood, as they believe a relationship is the first site of social change. Large-scale transformation begins with intimate, interpersonal interactions that engender change for all involved: artists, participants, and audiences. Centering residents' lives and experiences, this multi-disciplinary, mixed-ability ensemble creates artworks that amplify neighborhood stories while interrogating the poverty industrial complex, illuminating marginalized narratives, and positioning community voices in the civic discourse through

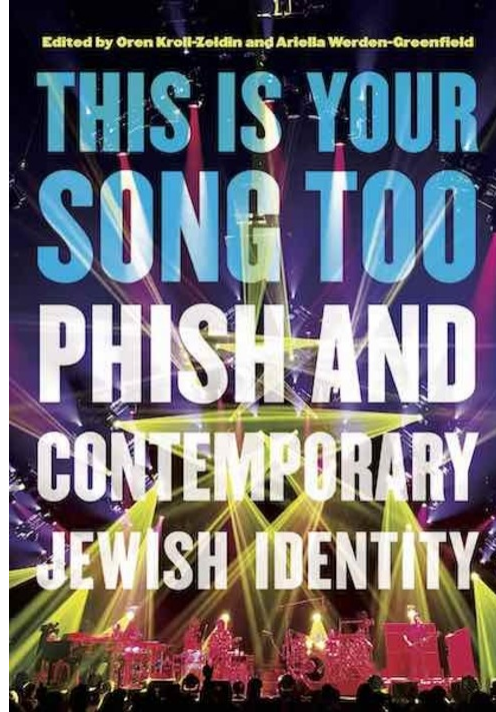
the arts. This evening will include presentations of Skywatchers' art, followed by conversations with their artists. Part of the JSSJ "Open Doors" Sukkot Program, this event is co-sponsored by the **Department of Critical Diversity Studies** and the **Department of Performing Arts and Social Justice**.



***Israelism* Film Screening**

Monday, Oct. 30 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room

Join us for a special screening of the new award-winning film ***Israelism***, which focuses on two young American Jews raised to defend the state of Israel at all costs, one of whom joins the Israeli military while the other fights for Israel on “the other battlefield,” America’s college campuses. Yet a chasm emerges in their Jewish identities after witnessing Israel’s mistreatment of the Palestinian people firsthand. Overall, their stories reveal the American Jewish community’s generational divide regarding what the Jewish State means to Jewish Americans. The film screening will be followed by a moderated discussion led by a member of the Swig JSSJ Program faculty. This event is co-sponsored by the **Program in Middle Eastern Studies** and the **Department of Politics**.



This Is Your Song Too: Phish and Contemporary Jewish Identity

Wednesday, Nov. 15 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Fromm Hall, Maraschi Room

The rock band Phish has a diehard fan base and a dedicated community of enthusiasts — Phishheads — who follow the band around the country. What may be surprising to some, however, is that a significant percentage of Phishheads are Jewish. Aside from two members of the band raised as Jews themselves — bassist Mike Gordon and drummer Jonathan Fishman — Phish has even been known to play Hebrew songs in concert. This event celebrates the publication of the book ***This Is Your Song Too: Phish and Contemporary Jewish Identity***, co-edited by JSSJ faculty member **Oren Kroll-Zeldin**. The book argues that Phish is one avenue through which contemporary Jews find cultural and spiritual fulfillment outside the confines of traditional institutional Jewish life. In effect, Phish fandom and the live Phish experience act as a microcosm through which we see American Jewish religious and cultural life manifest in unique and unexpected spaces. Joining Kroll-Zeldin in conversation will be the book's co-editor, **Ariella Worden-Greenfield**, who is also the associate director of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History and special adviser on antisemitism at Temple University, as well as book contributor **Rabbi Joshua Ladon**, director of education for the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.



"Open Doors" Sukkot

Sep. 29 – Oct. 6 | Sukkah on Welch Field

We will build our **Sukkah** this year on Welch Field between St. Ignatius Church and Kalmanovitz Hall. Everyone is invited to spend time in the sukkah throughout the week-long **Sukkot holiday**, held this year at the end of September and the beginning of October. Everyone is 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 throughout the week. For more information, contact **Rabbi Camille Shira Angel** or stop by University Ministry.

JSSJ Open Doors Shabbat Sukkot with JCCSF and Value Culture

Friday, Oct. 6 | 5–7 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays of Sukkot and Shabbat with a festive meal in the JSSJ campus sukkah on Welch Field with friends, old and new. This Shabbat meal is co-sponsored by the **Jewish Community Center of San Francisco** and **Value Culture**.



the
Holocaust
Resource Center
of Kean University



RAMAPO
COLLEGE
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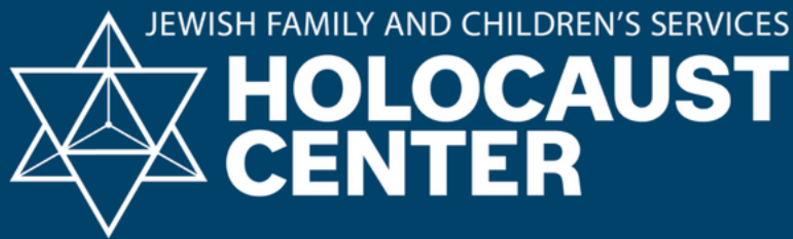
WARNINGS FROM RWANDA: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GENOCIDE

Warnings from Rwanda: Social Responsibility and Genocide

Wednesday, Sep. 27 | 1:30 p.m. | Online

JSSJ Professor Alexis Herr, a comparative genocide historian, will be delivering an online keynote address for the Holocaust Resource Center at Keane University. The fact that genocide is never inevitable should inspire hope. But if genocide isn't inevitable and therefore preventable, why does it keep happening? You are invited to join us for a discussion on Rwanda's path to genocide, social responsibility, and genocide prevention.

[Register for the online lecture»](#)



**“I now know that I can help to make the
change I want to see in the world.”**

—Eve, University Fellow, 2022 – 2023

Community Partner Opportunity

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 2023–24 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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