



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Swig Program in Jewish Studies
and Social Justice

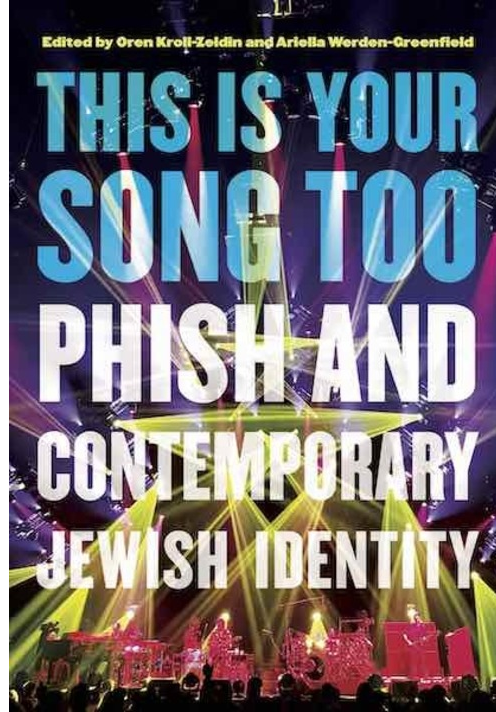
October Newsletter 2023



***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 joins the Israeli military; 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.



NEW PODCAST!

Episode 1
Sukkot: Stories of Inclusion
with JEDI Leaders



Tzadikim — A New Podcast!

We are very excited to announce the release of the first episode of our new podcast! Step into the sukkah with us as we engage in a thought-provoking conversation with JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Program Manager Chel Mandell, esteemed JEDI professor and Founding Director of Imani Strategies Imani Chapman, and Joyous Justice Founding Director April Baskin. In this inaugural episode, we explore the vital role of inclusion in the sustainability of Jewish communities and delve into strategies for fostering continuous learning within our institutions.

You can listen to the podcast [here](#).



"Open Doors" Sukkot

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who came to the sukkah this year to celebrate Sukkot. It was fun to eat food, pray, engage in meaningful conversation, and spread the joyousness of the holiday collectively with the USF community and beyond. The sukkah was filled daily with the sounds of laughter, music, and spirit.



Hebrew Language Conversation Tables

Thursdays | 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. | Kalmanovitz Hall Atrium

Join Professor Dalit Gvirtsman for Hebrew language conversations every Thursday for the remainder of the semester. Sponsored by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, these conversation tables are open to Hebrew language speakers at all levels, from beginner to advanced. Take this opportunity to learn more about the Hebrew language, practice your skills, and connect with others interested in learning Hebrew. For more information, contact Professor Gvirtsman at dgvirtzman@usfca.edu.

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Our first cohort of JEDI masters are in the first semester of their learning journey. Together, they are gaining invaluable skills and blazing a pathway to a more just and inclusive world. It's not too late. Join the JEDI + JSSJ certificate program now. Accepting rolling applications at usfca.edu/JEDI.

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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