

JEWISHcolorado
BUILDING COMMUNITY **TOGETHER**

2026-2027 Speaker Series & Community Conversations

The Jewish community continues to face opportunities and challenges around our shifting role in the American Jewish landscape, our relationship with Israel as well as questions about how we can hold our community together in increasingly divided times. There are few spaces for facing these hard conversations across difference head on. In our role as convener and connector, JEWISHcolorado brings to the community a year-long speakers series and set of Community Conversations that allows for both public events with world-class scholars as well as smaller, group-facilitated conversations and workshops led by experts in the field. These programs focus on topics related to Israel, the United States, America at 250, and the relationship between the two. We invite you to join us for one or all of these one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage in the future of the Jewish people.



October 7, 2026: An Evening of Remembrance with Matti Friedman

Join JEWISHcolorado, the University of Denver Center for Judaic Studies, and our community partners as we mark the three-year anniversary of the 2023 Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel with an evening featuring acclaimed author and journalist Matti Friedman. We gather at this pivotal moment before Israel's national elections that also serve as a focal point for ongoing reckoning and commemorations.

October/November/December 2026 Sapir Salons I : (Fixing) America

JEWISHcolorado is launching a series of Sapir Salons, facilitated small group conversations based on articles from the SAPIR Journal. Sapir is a journal exploring the future of the American Jewish community and its intersection with cultural, social, and political issues. We will explore an article in the latest SAPIR Journals, (Fixing) America and Influence. Salon groups will convene one salon meeting in the Fall and one in the early new year. We welcome people of various backgrounds and perspectives to participate in these meaningful conversations and “join a like-minded community of different-minded thinkers.”

December 14 & 15, 2026: For the Sake of Argument

Public lecture and facilitated workshops

Listening Across the Divide: What Jewish Anti-Zionists Are Telling Us

Over the past year, For the Sake of Argument conducted in-depth qualitative research with Jewish anti-Zionists across the United States. In this talk, we share key findings from our “Listening Tour,” including the journeys that led participants to anti-Zionist positions, the assumptions that were challenged, and the emotional realities often hidden behind public debates. Participants will gain insight into how anti-Zionist Jews understand Jewish belonging, community, and moral responsibility — and will have the opportunity to think about what this means for educators, communal leaders, and anyone working to navigate today’s divisive Jewish landscape.

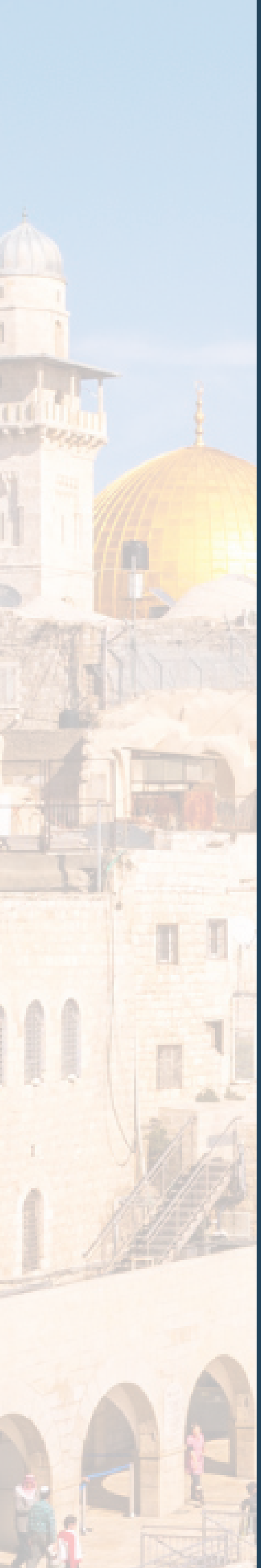
Facilitated Workshops

Conversations about Israel and Zionism are straining many Jewish families and communities, leading to silence, resentment, and broken relationships. This workshop offers mindsets and techniques for staying connected across deep disagreement, and an opportunity to practice these skills.



January 6, 2027: Sarah Hurwitz: Reclaiming the Jewish Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us

What does it mean to be Jewish during a time of rising antisemitism? Sharing insights from her visits to dozens of college campuses and her research on Jewish history, Sarah delves into the history and impact of antisemitism: How has it evolved and spread? What was the cost to Jews of efforts to seek safety and acceptance by assimilating? How has antisemitism shaped Jewish identity, and how does it continue to affect Jews today? And most importantly, how can Jews reclaim our story and our tradition and live proudly, boldly, and joyfully as Jews?



January/February/March 2027 Sapir Salons II : Influence

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March 15-17, 2027: Resetting the Table

Facilitated workshops

Speaking Across Conflict Workshops

Resetting the Table (RTT) brings decades of conflict expertise to an ambitious vision: to build a cohesive, resilient society in the U.S. RTT's framework weaves together theory and practice from multiple fields: mediation, peacebuilding, deliberative democracy, trauma therapy, and social research. RTT's celebrated workshop provides two foundational skills for productive communication on charged political issues and a forum for dialogue across disagreement. Participants don't just "talk about talking;" they internalize bridge-building skills and mindsets by investigating strong differences in the room. The methodology is practice-based and experiential, walking leaders through road-tested exercises they can replicate in their own institutions to build capacity for navigating differences.



April 14, 2027: At a Crossroads: Jewish Life and the American Promise at 250—An Evening with World-Renowned Rabbi David Wolpe

As the United States nears the end of its 250th year, the American Jewish story brings our country's defining promise into sharp focus: the freedom to live openly as Jews. World-renowned Rabbi David Wolpe explores what it will take to move toward a future of Jewish confidence, vitality, and possibility. Drawing on the remarkable American Jewish experience, he asks: How do we confront hatred while strengthening Jewish life? What responsibility do we bear for sustaining America's promise? And as the nation begins its next chapter, what are each of us called upon to do?

For more information on these lectures, sessions, and workshops, please contact:

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