



Supporting psychological approaches to enhancing Jewish identity and defeating antisemitism

## ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH PSYCHOLOGISTS

APA Program on Antisemitism

August 8-10, 2024

### 1) Two Historical Narrative Pathways of Jewish Family Trauma: Impact on our Contributions to Psychology and its Leadership Positions

**Date:** Thursday, August 8

**Time:** 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6, 606

**Division 56:** Trauma Psychology

**Co-chairs:** Ester Cole & Lu Steinberg

#### Presenters

- Ester Cole
- Lu Steinberg

#### Description

This session will present 2 divergent narratives of intergenerational trauma, and reflect on their links to resilience. Building on experiences of trauma from a strength viewpoint, Post Traumatic Growth will be discussed. Examples of a comprehensive EDI framework will be applied to marginalized immigrants, refugees, and their families.

#### **Ester Cole Abstract, “Living Through Refugee and Immigrant Experiences: My Devotion to Multicultural Psychology”**

Being a child of parents who were traumatized and subjected to several re-traumatizations throughout their lives, education for their offspring was an anchor in stability and offered opportunities for a better tomorrow. The values of social justice, human rights and inclusivity were part of parenting during all developmental milestones. The relationship between the self and society became a mission and a way of life. The world of psychology and specifically multicultural building blocks towards the integration of immigrants and refugees in society paved the way for my education, international collaboration and clinical work. This allowed for commitment for advocacy and leadership in both the United States and Canada utilizing an ecological EDI model while building resilience in communities, which became a process made easy given the evolution of psychology organizations. Tools, examples and resources will be embedded in the presentation.



## **Lu Steinberg Abstract, “Holocaust Trauma and Resilience: A Therapeutic Journey Toward Representing the Underrepresented”**

Having grown up with the Holocaust as a backdrop, as the child of two survivors, I was both aware of profound losses and the fragility of the human condition as well as the possibility that life as one knows it can be snatched away, and yet also aware of the incredible resilience of the human spirit, as my very existence was a testament to that. In this talk, I will share the ways this history has contributed to a calling to pursue justice and attend to the underrepresented both those who aren't in the room, and experiences that exceed representation because of their traumatic register.

My familial traumatic history spurred a search for what's hidden in people's utterances and in each individual, hence encouraging a pursuit of psychoanalytic training and the division of psychoanalysis, including helping to build a section devoted to the intersection between psychoanalysis and social responsibility, as well as helping to develop policy while on Apa council and revive the Divisions for Social Justice. The goal of this work, much inspired by familial traumatic experience, has always reflected a seeking to collaborate on ways we can engage psychological science to not only help those traumatized, but to also discover all that remains hidden and gets activated at difficult moments not only for individuals and families but with ripples impacting all societally, as well as discovering tools to engage healthy debate and reflection. My parents experienced the use of psychology for dehumanization. With recent worrying trends, involving the traumatic collapse of both space and dialogue, even lurking within psychology, will reflect on ways at the current moment to engage our thinking and our science to address this.

## **2) History of APA And Antisemitism: Is History Repeating Itself?**

**Date:** Thursday, August 8

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 2, 210

**Division 26:** Society of the History of Psychology Symposium

**Chair:** Ester Cole

### **Presenters**

- Cary Nelson: *History of the BDS Movement & Its Impact on Campus Antisemitism*
- Lenore Walker: *History of Antisemitic Tropes & Violence Against Jews in APA*
- Ester Cole: *APA's Attempt to Use the Strategic Plan & EDI to Combat Antisemitism*



## Abstract

The increase in antisemitism against Jewish people is currently at the highest level since the Holocaust period in the 1930s to 1940s (PEW Center, 2023). According to the Antidefamation League (ADL, 2023) it rose over 388% after the Hamas massacre in Israel on October 7 2023 and remains at an all-time high since then. Jewish students are being bullied, harassed, and violently attacked on high school and college campuses, especially those where the Boycott, Divestment, & Sanction (BDS) movement against Israel existed. Antisemitic comments are posted on APA listservs and in some division meetings without APA condemning or sanctioning such behavior in its affiliates. The history of antisemitism within the APA, often by refusing to hold its leaders accountable for their 'scientific racism', will be discussed during this symposium and contrasted with the current climate within the organization that states its mission is to combat all forms of racism. Many are not satisfied it is moving fast enough. In the organization's zeal to dismantle some forms of racism, others such as antisemitism, are not receiving sufficient attention. We will describe the history of common antisemitic tropes and recent research (ADL, 2023) that despite attempts to discredit such misconceptions, at least half of all Americans surveyed still believe in such destructive myths.

We will discuss what actions are needed to make sure that history does not repeat itself. What can psychology, and therefore APA do, to combat prejudice and hate that fuels antisemitism and increasing violence? The EDI framework as part of APA's Strategic Plan may provide an ecological model that can systematically confront the rising antisemitism within the organization. Education around Jewish culture and unraveling myths and tropes that are often used will be suggested. Examples will be shared together with suggested tools that may be useful.

## 3) Psychological Science And The Cure of The Antisemitism Virus

**Date:** Thursday, August 8

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 899 Pike, Skagit Lower Level, Skagit 2

**Division 8:** Society for Personality and Social Psychology

**Chair:** Sarah L. Friedman

### Primary Presenter and co-Authors

- Susan T. Fiske-*Antisemitic Stereotypes: Theory, Measurement, and Innovations*
- James Packman-*New Directions in the Social Science Study of Antisemitism at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)*
- Matt Williams

**Discussant:** Michael E. Lamb

### Description

Antisemitism is on the rise. The purpose of this session is to stimulate thinking about the social science that is needed to understand antisemitism and to either mitigate or eradicate it.



## Abstract

Antisemitism, which includes expressions of bias, discrimination and hate against Jewish individuals and communities, has been on the rise in the United States (where Jews comprise about 2.4% of the population). In March 2023, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported **a total of 3,697 incidents** of antisemitism across the U.S. in 2022, an increase of **36%** compared to 2021 – also a record-setting year. Reported acts of harassment rose **29%** compared to 2021; acts of vandalism surged 51%; and physical assaults jumped 26%. Incidents increased further following the initiation of the October 2023 Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Antisemitism, however, has been around for more than two thousand years. In this symposium, the presenters will describe ideas for the building of the social science of antisemitism. The presenters will do so with the hope that this new line of scientific research will lead to a cure for the “virus of antisemitism”.

The first presentation makes the point that understanding contemporary antisemitism in the U.S. requires theory-driven investigation and validated measurement. The presenter will share details about the construction of a theory-based scale, the validation work that was done and the empirical findings. A scale was developed based on the Stereotype Content Model (SCM) regarding antisemitic stereotypes. Since theory-driven study of antisemitism could also guide interventions against antisemitism, the presenter and her collaborators seek to test theoretical models of scapegoating to assess under what conditions people stereotype, cooperate with, or turn against Jews.

The second presentation will describe the agenda of the ADL’s Center for Antisemitism Research. Using methods ranging from in-depth semi-structured interviews to randomized controlled trials, the Center has recently conducted studies designed to identify the key factors driving antisemitic beliefs. These studies will serve as the basis for the development of critical research areas.

## 4) Hatred And The Cycle of Violence: A Public Health Emergency

### A Science Summit Topic on Promoting Social Equity

**Date:** Thursday, August 8, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6, Rm. 612

**Chair:** Beth N. Rom-Rymer

#### Presenter

- Izzeldin Abuelaish, MSC, OOnt, M.D., MPH

#### Abstract

Hatred is a pressing global public health issue and a destructive contagious disease manifested in violence, extremism, and fundamentalism. Hatred is a rapidly growing epidemic and virulent public health threat. Hate crimes have been designated a public health issue by the American College of Physicians. The last several years have



seen an increase in discrimination, particularly regarding immigration, of violent racist and antisemitic incidents, a sharp rise in anti-Muslim violence, and record levels of antisemitic incidents. Hatred affects the structure and functions of heart, brain, immune system and causes malfunctioning, morbidity, and mortality. There is diminished trust in government due to abuses of power, illegal surveillance, false flag operations, and other paranoid theories, often having an origin in internet abuse and internet hate. Survey-based research demonstrates that people who have exposure to online hate are more likely to express greater levels of mistrust and hostility toward the U.S. government. Dr. Abuelaish studies the pathophysiology of hatred through a bio-psycho-social approach in which he focuses on the biological, psychological, and sociological aspects of disease and illness; the distribution and determinants of health-related states and disease in specified populations; and the prevention and management of disease. Just like other diseases, hatred does not only spread horizontally but vertically (transgenerationally).

Dr. Abuelaish will frame his talk on hatred as a disease with a concise description of the research that he conducts. The Chair will then encourage audience participation in the discussion of the biopsychosocial issues/global dangers.

## 5) Independent Practitioners And Psychological First Aid: Maui, Miami Building Collapse, Covid & Campus

**Date:** Thursday, August 8, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 800 Pike, Sagit Lower Level, Skagit 1

**Chair:** Lenore Walker

### Presenters

- Judi Steinman: Psychologists Supporting Survivors from the Maui Fire
- Ilene Serlin: Emotionally Supporting Psychotherapists During COVID
- Cassondra L. Feldman: Lessons Learned from an Integrated Response to the Champlain Tower Surfside Building Collapse Disaster
- Eleanor Pardess: Trauma Responses to Israeli Survivors of the October 7<sup>th</sup> Massacre and Hamas-Israel War

**Discussant:** Tara Liberman

### Abstract

Recently psychologists in independent practice have been volunteering to provide support for victims in disasters and wars around the world now that digital telehealth as well as in-person methods are possible. In addition to meeting with survivors, practitioners have also been able to provide consultation and support with each other. This presentation will present the efforts of volunteers working with survivors of the Maui fire, the Miami Surfside building collapse, and psychologists serving COVID survivors and lessons learned how they modified traditional disaster



theories to fit these extraordinary situations. The Hawaii Psychological Association organized practitioner members to help support the devastated fire survivors who lost their homes paying attention to their special cultural needs. They then worked together with practitioners developing support groups for students experiencing antisemitism on their school campuses. Professionals supporting victims of the building collapse developed an integrated approach together with international first responders including the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). The COVID professional support groups were organized by the APA Division 56 Interdisciplinary Task Force and reached out to other mental health professionals in various countries such as China, India, Israel, Uganda. Using the skills developed in these situations has been helpful in designing support groups to deal with the impact of the antisemitism and Israeli-Hamas war on other Jews as well as survivors themselves both in Israel and in the United States. This presentation will discuss the efforts by psychologists who participated in this work to overcome barriers, work with different cultures, modify traditional disaster work skills, integrate into their typical work, transform grief responses, and deal with their own vicarious trauma.

## 6) Development of A Theory And Measurement Of Hatred: Cognitive Dimensions Useful In Inoculating And Remediating People From A Deadly Contagious Disease

**Date:** Friday, August 9

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 800 Pike, Skagit Lower Level, Skagit 3

**Chair:** Steven Stein

### Presenters

- Steven Stein: *Measuring Hatred: Development of a Tool and Potential Uses*
- Izzeldin Abuelaish: *Overview: The Genesis of Hatred*

**Discussant:** Hortensia Amaro

### Description

This session presents the development of a model and measurement tool of hatred. While many emotions have been studied in the psychological literature, little attention has been paid to hatred. Hatred can be deadly, resulting in countless shootings, terrorist acts, and even wars. By breaking down the cognitive elements of hatred we are better able to understand, prevent, and treat cases along the hatred spectrum.

### Abstract

The concept of hatred has been studied for centuries by philosophers and theologians, and only more recently in the social sciences. Although there is no consensus on a scientific or comprehensive theory, definition, or model of hatred, it is clear that hatred is a multidimensional construct that can be expressed both internally and externally. In this presentation, we describe the development and psychometric qualities of a holistic, public health model of





hatred. The model and its measurement tool were developed to capture six constructs of hatred: 1) Physical/Somatic Symptoms, 2) Mistrust, 3) Intolerance, 4) Ingroup Superiority, 5) Activism, and 6) Retribution.

Based on the research results, we believe the model and measuring tool could provide clinical utility and be used for prevention as well as part of a remediation program for people consumed with excessive hatred of others.

## 7) Addressing the Shared Othering of the Asian and Jewish American Experience

**Date:** Friday, August 9

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center - Arch at 705 Pike, Level 2 - 2A

### Presenters

- Lu Steinberg
- Kenji Miyamoto

### Discussant

- Laura Barbanel

### Presentation Abstract

Continuing the open-ended dialogue from last year's critical conversation at the 2023 APA convention, the following session seeks to further explore the fullness and depth of the Asian American and Jewish American experience from a psychoanalytic lens. Presenters Lu Steinberg, whose mother was a holocaust survivor, and Kenji Miyamoto, whose father was born in a Japanese American internment camp, hope to free associate in dialogue under the moderation of discussant Laura Barbanel, exploring the impact of intergenerational trauma on family, community, and their sense of self. This critical conversation ponders the intersections of the Asian American and Jewish American experience, contrasting how despite the presence of violence, discrimination, and hate crimes against both communities, conspiracy theories or stereotypes such as the model minority myth emphasize affluence and success while simultaneously minimizing the severity of distress. Through dialogue, speakers hope to foster dialectical thinking and applied mentalization to explore how we hold different ideas in one's minds, and how this process of mentalization can be applied or used to deconstruct the sense of Othering involved in such stereotypes or conspiracy theories affecting the Asian American and Jewish American populations. Ultimately, through exploring individual experiences we hope to highlight shared similarities that promote a sense of solidarity not only between the Asian and Jewish American communities but across generations and all populations who have experienced the process of mentalized Othering. Only through recognizing the similarities we share with our neighbors, can we stop seeing those who are different as enemies and continue healing past and current trauma.



## 8) Fostering Support: Addressing Antisemitism's Impact on Mental Health For Youth And Families

**Date:** Friday, August 9

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 800 Pike, Sagit Lower Level, Skagit 2

**Division 43:** Society for Couple and Family Psychology

**Chair:** Tara Liberman

### Presenters

- Aleksandra Soykin
- Joanne Broder
- Robin Gurwitch
- Cassandra Feldman

### Presentation Abstract

Within three weeks of October 7th, the Jewish Community Mental Health Task Force (“MHTF”) was created. Through focus groups, MHTF learned how isolated the Jewish community was feeling as previously trusted others did not seem to understand their distress and/or intervene in the face of attacks on their Jewish identity. They were reluctant to seek support because of a lack of cultural sensitivity to or understanding of their Jewish identity.

Eighty MHTF clinicians were trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA), an evidence-informed approach aimed at reducing stress and fostering resilience following traumatic events through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network’s online course co-developed with the National Center for PTSD. Focus groups led to the creation of multiple support groups: Undergraduate and Graduate Student groups, Faculty/Staff on Campus, Parents of College Students, Parents of Teens, K-12 Educators/Staff, Hebrew-Speaking Adults, Retirees/Older Adults, Jewish Clinicians, Jewish Adults, and Employees of Jewish Organizations.

Through outreach efforts, many members of historically marginalized communities within the Jewish population including LGBTQ+, Jews of Color, low SES, and isolated adults participate in the 26 weekly support groups. Through a supportive framework, group participants share feelings, mourn losses in relationships and experiences of exclusion, and share concerns about an uncertain future for themselves and the Jewish community. They gather strength and connect with their Jewish identity.

Facilitators help participants foster adaptive coping mechanisms, problem-solve healthy routines, and inspire hope. They normalize feelings and experiences as responses to the current environment while developing community resilience. For those who need a referral for therapy, MHTF initiated creating a national directory of clinicians. Participants and facilitators share that the support groups have been “lifesaving.” Program evaluation surveys help revise the initiative as needed. Expert PFA trainers provide additional training and webinars to clinicians, demonstrating how PFA is tailored to be more culturally sensitive and effective in addressing the needs of the





## Supporting psychological approaches to enhancing Jewish identity and defeating antisemitism

Jewish community, fostering resilience during this challenging time. Clinician weekly meetings support the volunteers, discuss the successes and challenges of implementing PFA, and encourage self-care.

This presentation will highlight the immediate response of the MHTF. It will report qualitative information from Task Force leaders related to the implementation of services. Next steps and lessons learned will be shared. It will provide a roadmap for a culturally sensitive response in the face of ongoing traumatic and stressful events designed to improve resilience and overall mental health wellness in a targeted population

### 9) Visions For A New Multicultural Human Being

**Date:** Friday, Aug. 9, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 6, Rm. 616'

**Division 32:** Society for Humanistic Psychology

**Chair:** Ilene Serlin

#### Presenters

- Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, Co-Founder and Director, AMCHA Initiative: *The Double Standard in Treating Jewish Student Trauma and Antisemitism Post October 7th and How to Address It*
- Zoe Bernstein and Jennifer Locane: *Student Voices from Campuses*
- Jeff Saperstein: *Values-Based Effective Advocacy*

**Discussant:** Madeline Altabe

#### Description

What does it mean to be human? To what extent does ethnic identity determine who we are? Are there universal values of morality, how we treat one another? This panel will take on the complex question of how we address this question in our training and educational models. It will focus in particular on cases about ethnic studies in California and in graduate school psychology training across campuses. It will use the recent rise in antisemitism as a case study of the rise of hatred in general.

Many of these issues are part of our proposed panel session. A number of recent incidents, including one widely reported at the University of California, Berkeley, following a number of Berkeley Law School student groups prohibiting Zionist, pro-Zionist and Jewish speakers (including Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky), have raised major questions regarding academic freedom, bigotry and hate speech. Other groups are tracking the

mushrooming rates of antisemitism and their impact on students' sense of safety and identity. Representatives from student representatives on University campuses and activist groups confronting hatred will be on the panel. These issues, and the way they are reported in the media can have major effects on students attending these colleges, as well as their parents, faculty and staff.



In this panel, we will learn more about the complex issues facing the education of students and psychologists and hear about strategies used to confront these issues.

## 10) Imagining A New Developmental Science of Antisemitism

**Date:** Friday, August 9

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 800 Pike, Skagit 3

**Division 7:** Developmental Psychology

**Chair:** Sarah Friedman

### Presenters

- Carol Sigelman--*Past Research on The Development of Antisemitism in Time and Place*
- Sarah Friedman-- *The Developmental Science of Antisemitism*

**Discussant:** Ron Avi Astor

### Description

The session will describe (a) what is already known about the developmental psychology of antisemitism; (b) barriers to the vitality of this research area; (c) what remains to be learned and (d) how to create a programmatic approach for building the scientific evidence for eradicating antisemitism.

### Abstract

The overall goal of this symposium is to (a) Familiarize the audience with developmental perspectives on the study of antisemitism and interventions for children and youth aimed at eradicating antisemitism; (b) Describe an agenda for jump starting an inquiry into the developmental psychology of antisemitism.

The first presentation will provide an analysis of quantitative and qualitative studies of antisemitism and its development in childhood and adolescence. The analysis is based primarily on coding of key features of over 40

studies starting with the period following World War II. Features include focus, guiding theory, research design, and cultural context. The analysis reveals that research on antisemitism in childhood and adolescence is most notable for its scarcity and limitations.

The second paper will describe an initiative by a small group of developmental psychologists to imagine a future sub-discipline of developmental psychology that is aimed at understanding (a) the psychological and environmental processes by which children grow to be antisemitic and the conditions that maintain antisemitic attitudes, (b) the effects of antisemitism on Jewish children and youth who grow up in different familial and social contexts and (c) the efficacy of different interventions at the family, school and broader social context. The second paper will also



address the need to develop: (a) public awareness, (b) legislator and funder awareness and (c) streams of funding to support research psychologists who embark on research in an area that currently lacks highly developed and differentiated conceptualizations and validated psychological assessments specific to the topic of antisemitism. This is important because the first generation of researchers pursuing the developmental psychology of antisemitism would be competing for scarce funding with psychologists doing work in well conceptualized areas with validated measures.

### Abstract

The concept of hatred has been studied for centuries by philosophers and theologians, and only more recently in the social sciences. Although there is no consensus on a scientific or comprehensive theory, definition, or model of hatred, it is clear that hatred is a multidimensional construct that can be expressed both internally and externally. In this presentation, we describe the development and psychometric qualities of a holistic, public health model of hatred. The model and its measurement tool were developed to capture six constructs of hatred: 1) Physical/Somatic Symptoms, 2) Mistrust, 3) Intolerance, 4) Ingroup Superiority, 5) Activism, and 6) Retribution. Based on the research results, we believe the model and measuring tool could provide clinical utility and be used for prevention as well as part of a remediation program for people consumed with excessive hatred of others.

## 11) Fighting Antisemitism: Approaches And Experiences in The US And Canada Since October 7

**Date:** Saturday, August 10

**Time:** 1:00 PM -1:50 PM

**Place:** Seattle Convention Center, Arch at 705 Pike, Level 3, Rm. 303

**Division 31:** State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs

**Chair:** Steve Stein

### Presenters

- Rich Robertson, B'nai Brith Canada: *Documenting and Fighting Antisemitism in Canada since October 7*
- Miri Cypers, ADL: *Responding to Antisemitism in the US since October 7*
- Sabrina Sofer, University Task Force: *View From the Trenches: Fighting Antisemitism at the University Level since October 7*
- Elena Eisman, Community Advocate: *Antisemitism Advocacy at the SPTA level; Community Activism and the challenges since October 7*

**Discussant:** Tara Liberman



## Description

This session examines the role that organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in the US, B'nai Brith in Canada, a university-based task force, and a community organizer are experiencing in documenting and combating antisemitism since October 7. It covers approaches that include documenting, educating, prosecuting, lobbying, media exposure, and the relative successes and failures of various approaches. It also explores how psychology can help provide solutions to the world's oldest hatred.

## Abstract

Antisemitism (Jew-Hatred) is the oldest recorded hatred, dating back to Roman times. While it has been with us for hundreds of years there have been ebbs and flows of the numbers of incidents and their intensity throughout history. In recent years there has been a significant increase in Jew-hatred throughout North America, more than any other religion, race, or culture. This has been especially the case since October 7. Organizations have existed in both the United States and Canada to both track and ameliorate the modern-day version of this scourge. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in the US and B'nai Brith in Canada have been working in this space for many years. Some universities have set up task forces to deal with antisemitism with varying degrees of success. As well experienced community organizers have been involved. In this session, we will look at each of the approaches these organizations and individuals take in trying to reduce Jew-hatred. We will also discuss ways in which psychologists can play a role in dealing with this disease.

## 12) The Trauma of Indigenous People: Jimena: Jews From The Middle East And North Africa

**Date:** Saturday, August 10

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

**Place:** Hyatt Regency, 808 Howell Street, 509 Tolt Room, Level 5, Division 32 Hospitality Suite

**Chair:** Ilene Serlin

### Presenters

- Gina Waldman-- *My Story: Expelled as a Jew from Libya*

**Discussant:** Dorothy Cantor

### Abstract

Jewish people have lived in the Middle East and North Africa for thousands of years and have faced forced evictions and persecution from the Romans, Persian and Ottoman Empires and Arab host countries. This educational seminar will present the narrative of a Jewish woman who fled Libya and founded JIMENA.



## Description

In the early 1900's, one million Jews were forced out of nine Arab countries and Iran where they had lived for over 3000 years and were indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa. Despite being officially declared refugees in the UN Resolution 242, however, these Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews were marginalized by mainstream Jewish life, ignored by the media, and their situations unknown by most Americans. Because of this, most Americans view Jews as Woody Allen or Albert Einstein. They buy the narrative that Jews are white oppressors who are colonizing a land that is not their own homeland. The rich diversity of skin color, language and religious practices of Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews is lost. Their narrative and suffering are unknown.

This panel will feature the narrative of a Jewish woman who was expelled from her home in Libya in 1967 and is today a prominent human rights activist. She was born in Tripoli to a family that had lived in Libya for centuries, persecuted, nearly murdered and brutally expelled from her homeland in 1967 for being Jewish. After immigrating to the United States, she has dedicated herself for the past 35 years to the cause of freedom and the defence of human rights. Together with Joseph Abdel Wahed, Waldman founded JIMENA (Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa) in 2002 to bear witness to the suffering of other Jewish refugees from Arab lands. The second panelist is the Executive Director of JIMENA, who has testified in the White House about the plight of Jewish refugees from Arab lands. The discussant is a former president of the APA. The stories and traumas of these refugees have been unaddressed. It is time to hear them.

**For further information, please contact Dr. Ilene Serlin at [iserlin@ileneserlin.com](mailto:iserlin@ileneserlin.com)**