

A Selection of University Synagogue Speakers Over The Years

- ▶ Rabbi Capers Funnye on “The Black Jewish History Of America”
- ▶ Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, Former Federal Prosecutor Jonathan Shapiro and Justice William Bedsworth on “The People vs. Joseph’s Brothers: A Trial” moderated by Gady Levy with Rabbi Rachlis, Rabbi Brad Artson, Reverend Paul Tellstrom and others.
- ▶ Dr. Anthony Campolo on “A Citizen’s Guide to Faith and Politics”
- ▶ Reverend Jim Wallis on his book “Rediscovering Values On Wall Street, Main Street and Your Street: A Moral Compass For The New Economy”
- ▶ Genocide Scholar Naama Haviv on “The Holocaust to Darfur and Congo.... Never Again?”
- ▶ Professor Raphael Sonenshein on "President Obama, Congress and the Jewish Agenda”
- ▶ Historian David Epstein on “Jews of the West”
- ▶ Rabbi Arik Ascherman, Executive Director of the Israeli organization Rabbis For Human Rights
- ▶ Jane Ziegelman on her book "97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families In One New York Tenement"
- ▶ Dr. Daniel Siegel, psychiatrist and professor at UCLA, on “Mindsight and the Biology of Morality”
- ▶ Rabbi Joseph Telushkin on “The Sky Is Not Falling: God, Love And Money In Times of Crisis”
- ▶ Dr. Rick Hodes on “Saving Lives In Ethiopia One Person At A Time.”
- ▶ Dr. Jerry D. Campbell, President of Claremont University on “Creating The World’s First Jewish/Christian/Muslim Seminary”
- ▶ Israeli Educator Lauren Joseph on “Ensuring Equality For Both Jews And Arabs In Israel”
- ▶ Professor Rachel Elior on “Demystifying Jewish Mysticism” A Conversation with Dan Cedarbaum and Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat "Act Kosher, Think Treyf - Where Is the Reconstructionist Movement Heading?"
- ▶ CBS Political Analyst and Congress expert, Dr. Norm Ornstein on “American Politics in the Age of Obama”
- ▶ Adam Abakar, Darfurian activist, co-sponsored with Jewish World Watch
- ▶ Brandeis Institute Professor Leonard Saxe on “Intermarriage: Becoming the Most Inclusive Community That We Can Be”
- ▶ Sharon Rennert, granddaughter of Tuvia Bielski, (profiled in film “Defiance”)
- ▶ Leibel Fein on “Now That We Can Be Who We Said We Would Be If Only We Could Be: Are We?”
- ▶ Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg on “The Triumph of Life: Judaism’s Vision”

- ▶ Yaakov Kirschen, Jerusalem Post Editorial Cartoonist on “The Latest News and Other Jokes: A Stand-Up Analysis Of Israel, Iran and Anti-Semitism”
- ▶ Rabbi Marvin Tokayer on “The Exotic Jews of China, Japan and India”
- ▶ Ambassador Bradley Gordon, Dir. of Policy and Government Affairs at AIPAC, on “Ancient Affinities: The Historic Jewish Connection to the Land of Israel.”
- ▶ Ambassador Phil Wilcox on “Israel and Palestine: Perpetual Conflict Or Can Obama Make Peace?”
- ▶ Political Analyst Frank Luntz on “What Americans Really Want... Really.”
- UCI Professor of English and Religious Studies, Dr. Jack Miles, on his book “The Biography Of God”
- ▶ Ron Young, Executive Director of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, on “Bringing Peace To The Middle East”
- ▶ Former U.S. Senator Gary Hart on “Are There Any Truly Just People Today?”
- ▶ The Piven Family - Jeremy, Shira and Joyce - “An Evening Of Jewish Stories” in memory of Byrne Piven
- ▶ Military Religious Freedom founder Mikey Weinstein on “The Dangers Of Christian Religious Fundamentalism”
- ▶ Dr. Eric Handler on “The Invisible Problem: Orange County Homeless”
- ▶ Political Analyst Cliff May on “Terrorism, Totalitarianism And The War Of Ideas”
- ▶ Author John Gray on his book “Why Mars and Venus Collide”
- ▶ Tibor Rubin, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient
- ▶ Sports Agent Leigh Steinberg on “Winning with Integrity”
- ▶ Former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin on her book “Pearls, Politics and Power: How Women Can Win and Lead”
- ▶ Naomi Chazan, New Israel Fund Chair and former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
- ▶ Rabbi Sidney Schwarz on “Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World”
- ▶ Hebrew Union College's Professor Rabbi Reuven Firestone, on "What Does Islam Really Say about Judaism and Christianity?"
- ▶ Professor Steven Katz, Director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University, on “The Messianic Idea in Judaism”
- ▶ Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), Chair of the Armed Services Committee, on “America’s Role in the World”
- ▶ UCSD Professor Laurence Baron on “Christianities of Compassion and Complicity: Religious Reasons for Persecuting and Protecting Jews During the Holocaust”
- ▶ “A Visit with Viktor Frankl” with actor Arnold Weiss

- ▶ Dr. Zachary Karabell on his new book “Peace Be Upon You: The Story Of Muslim, Christian and Jewish Co-existence”
- ▶ Representative Keith Ellison, the only Muslim in Congress
- ▶ Progressive journalist Ezra Klein on “America: Thanksgiving and Change”
- ▶ Gal Luft and Anne Korin - two of America’s leading energy security advocates
- ▶ Brandeis University Professor Reuven Kimelman on “The Sabbath, Sexuality and Salvation”
- ▶ Holocaust legal experts Professor Michael Bazylar of Whittier Law School and California Court of Appeals Justice Richard Fybel on “From Legal Barbarism to Nuremberg”
- ▶ Dr. Stephen Morse, Director of Bio-Terrorism for the U.S. Center for Disease Control, on “Bio-Terrorism: Myth and Reality”
- ▶ Schindler’s List survivor Laura Hillman on “I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree”
- ▶ Los Angeles Times humor columnist Joel Stein on “Writing Jewish: Why I Feel More Jewish As A Columnist Than In Real Life”
- ▶ UCSD Professor Thomas E. Levy on “Archaeology Illuminates The Bible”
- ▶ Israeli Gavriel Mairone, founder of the Global Justice Group on “Global Justice, Following Terrorist Dollars”
- ▶ Dennis Fritz, author of “Journey Toward Justice,” about being found innocent after 10 years in prison by the Innocence Project
- ▶ UCLA Professor Dr. Shai Cherry on “Jesus, Judaism and Christianity: History and Myth”
- ▶ Atheist Sam Harris on his book “The End of Faith: Religion, Terror And The Future Of Reason”
- ▶ Ethiopian Jewish Singer Alula Tzaddik
- ▶ Professor Wade Clark Roof, an expert on contemporary religion and religious pluralism
- ▶ Reverend Jim Wallis, author of the bestseller, “God’s Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn’t Get It”
- ▶ Israeli Interfaith Delegation - Rabbi Ariel Picard, an orthodox rabbi; Father George Khoury, Chairman of the Israel Interfaith Assoc. (Haifa) and Pres. of the Ecclesiastical Court in Haifa and Galilee; and Imam Ghassen Manasra, Founder and Dir. of Ansar Al-Sunnah and, Co-Dir. of the Arab-Jewish Co-existence Program, on “Abrahamic Voices of Peace from the Holy Land”
- ▶ “Concert Under The Stars” with Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary
- ▶ Rabbi Steve Greenberg, the first “out of the closet” gay Orthodox rabbi in history on “Gayness and God”
- ▶ Doug Suisman, Rand Corporation architect of a future Palestinian state
- ▶ Ari Fleischer, President Bush’s former Press Secretary
- ▶ Vassar College Professor Deborah Dash Moore on “GI Jews”

- ▶ Michael Shermer, Scientific American columnist, host of the television series, “Exploring the Unknown” and author of “The Science of Good and Evil”
- ▶ Gidi Grinstein, a member of Prime Minister Barak’s Peace Negotiating Team and Executive Director of Project Re’ut, a Tel Aviv Think Tank, on “Making Peace Between Israel and Its Neighbors”
- ▶ African Rabbi Gershom Sizomu on “Abayudaya: The Black Jews of Uganda”
- ▶ Professor Isaiah Gafni, Professor of Jewish History at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, on “Is Judaism Really a Religion?”
- ▶ David Shneyer, spirituality teacher and composer, on his innovative folk, country and bluegrass Jewish melodies and spiritual teachings.
- ▶ Diocese of Orange Bishop, Tod Brown and Dr. Michael Birenbaum, on “The Passion: The Death of Jesus and The Jews”
- ▶ Rabbi Michael Strassfeld on his book “Embracing Judaism as a Spiritual Practice”
- ▶ Professor Norman Cohen on “Hineini: Making the Bible Come Alive As We Confront Our Own Relationships”
- ▶ L.A. Times movie critic, Kenneth Turan, on “The World of Yiddish Film and Culture”
- ▶ The Hon. Nabil Fahmy, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States, on “The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Prospects For Peace in the Middle East”
- ▶ May 7 Israeli Reform Rabbi Michael Klein-Katz on “Jerusalem: Holy City to Three Faiths”
- ▶ Author Jonathan Kirsch on “God Against the Gods: The History of War Between Monotheism and Polytheism”
- ▶ Professor Elizabeth Loftus, Distinguished Professor of Social Ecology at UCI and a recently elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, on “Holocaust Memories: Pain and Truth”
- ▶ Jewish Journal Editor Rob Eshman on “Jews Gone Mild” about the challenges and opportunities facing American Jews today.
- ▶ Dr. Martin Luther King Shabbat with Rev. Mark Whitlock, minister and economic development officer for the First African Methodist Episcopal (FAME) Church in L.A. and Pastor of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church in Irvine.
- ▶ Hebrew University Professor of Bible, Dr. Shalom Paul, on “The Garden of Eden: Myth and Reality”
- ▶ The Honorable Stuart Eizenstat on “Imperfect Justice” on Jewish assets looted by the Swiss and others during the Holocaust.
- ▶ Anne Brener, author of “Mourning And Mitzvah”
- ▶ Atheist Dr. Michael Newdow on “Challenging “Under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance”
- ▶ Rabbi Sandy Sasso on “Nurturing the Religious Imagination of Children and Adults”

- ▶ An Evening With Actor Martin Landau, star of “Mission Impossible,” “Crimes and Misdemeanors,” “Ed Wood” on his career.
- ▶ Dr. Judea Pearl, father of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, on his son’s life and work and his vision for a more peaceful and tolerant world.
- ▶ Rabbi Rami Shapiro on “Shiviti: Living In The Presence of God”
- ▶ Rabbi and Jungian therapist Tirzah Firestone, on her new book, “The Receiving: Reclaiming Jewish Women's Wisdom”
- ▶ Dr. Aviva Zornberg, author of “Genesis: The Beginning of Desire”
- ▶ New Mexico State Historian, Dr. Stanley Hordes on “Secret Jews of the American Southwest”
- ▶ Dr. Sadullah Khan on “Islam In America and The World”
- ▶ Jonathan Safran Foer on his book “Everything Is Illuminated”
- ▶ Leon Leyson, youngest survivor on Schindler’s List
- ▶ UCI Professor Dr. Kristen Monroe on “Altruism and Righteous Rescuers”
- ▶ Diane Elliott (Registered Movement Therapist) on blending dance and liturgy
- ▶ Irene Opdyke, a Righteous, Holocaust Rescuer
- ▶ The Honorable Thomas Borer, Swiss Ambassador to the United States, on “The Swiss Role In the Hiding of Jewish Property”
- ▶ Trudy Alexy on her book “The Mezuzah In the Madonna’s Foot”
- ▶ Dr. Marcia Falk on her book “The Book of Blessings: Spirituality, Equality and Contemporary Prayer”
- ▶ Gerda Klein on her book “All But My Life” on the Holocaust, along with her husband, Kurt Klein, the American GI who liberated her.
- ▶ Dr. Michael Lerner, Editor of *Tikkun Magazine* on “Jewish Renewal”
- ▶ Thomas Keneally, author of “Schindler’s List”
- ▶ Ambassador Sven Alkalaj from Bosnia on Judaism in his life and work
- ▶ David Jacobsen – Lebanon Hostage
- ▶ Samuel Oliner on “Acts of Courage: The Rescue of Jews During Nazi Occupied Europe” by Righteous Rescuers