Interfaith Panel 8:45-10:15 p.m. “How God’s Voice Sings Through Your Tradition” (Ballroom)

Andrea Hodos is the Director of Moving Torah, and the Program Co-Director of NewGround: a Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change. She is a strong believer in the power of both ancient and personal stories to help us understand ourselves and one another better, and brings her beliefs and passions together in a performance project called Sinai & Sunna: Women Covering, Uncovering & Recovering.

Atilla Kahveci is currently the Vice President of Pacifica Institute, that is dedicated to interfaith dialog, and improving social cohesion among different segments of the society. Pacifica Institute has been organizing interfaith conversations, lectures series, luncheon forums and panels of Muslim Voices Against Extremism and Combating Cancer of Extremism. Mr Kahveci is sitting on the board of various Interfaith Organizations like Christian Muslim Consultative Group, Interreligious Council of Southern California and Southern California Muslim Jewish Forum. In the summer of 2016, Mayor Eric Garcetti awarded along at City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission Interfaith Dinner Pacifica Institute’s efforts to organize panels of Muslim Voices Against Extremism and Combating Cancer of Extremism.

Reverend Dr. Najuma Smith-Pollard is program manager for the USC Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement. The Rev. Najuma Smith-Pollard combines her experience as a pastor and expertise as a community leader to run programs that train pastors to take on civic engagement work. Rev Najuma is the founding Pastor of Word of Encouragement Community Church, in Los Angeles-Smith-Pollard also is a inspirational speaker and trainer, author, radio personality and community activist. Her areas of expertise Preaching, Women Clergy, Sexual Violence, Faith Leadership, Black Church and Civic Engagement.

Randolph Dobbs was born in Oakland, California, and raised in Salinas near Monterey where he attended Hartnell College. Mr. Dobbs is a member of the Regional Bahá’í Council of the State of California. He was elected to the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Los Angeles in the mid-90’s and serves as its secretary. He is a past president of the Inter-Religious Council of Southern California and serves on its Executive Committee as well as the Advisory Board of the Guibord Center – Religion Inside Out. He also serves as a Religious Director in the Office of Religious Life at USC, as a member of the Board of Directors of the University Religious Conference at UCLA and is part of the Interfaith Collective in the Mayor’s Office for the City of Los Angeles. His articles on religious matters appear on various websites including Examiner.com, Beliefnet.com and Iranian.com.

Marium F. Mohiuddin from the local mosque to national organizations, Marium F. Mohiuddin has dedicated her life to working toward helping and advocating for the American Muslim community. Professionally, she has worked in communications and publishing for the past 15 years. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, she joined the staff of the Austin American-Statesman as an editor in the Features department. In 2013, Marium launched her communications firm merging her two passions - nonprofit work and communications - and in 2016, she took that passion one step further when she went back to school to get her MBA in nonprofit management.

10:30 p.m. - 11:20 p.m.
Exploring Torah through Theater with Reboot’s Unscrolled

Becca Grumet Reboot LA Program Coordinator (Kopelow Hall)
Watch, listen, learn, and discuss as actors take on a dramatic reading of Voyeur, as interpreted by TV writer Damon Lindelof (Lost, The Leftovers) in Reboot’s Unscrolled: 5 Writers and Artists Wrestle with the Torah.

Nazi's in Montana - Lessons From a Jewish Community Under Attack

Rabbi Cantor Hillary Chorny, Cantor at Temple Beth Am (Ballroom)
A group of rabbis from across North America traveled to a small rural town in Montana this spring. They came with the intention of comforting the Jewish community and left with a deeper understanding of the beauty of tight-knit communities, the strength of the leadership, and the distressing power in the hands of virulent anti-semites. Cantor Chorny will share Torah, stories, and opportunities that have arisen in the wake of the troubling events.

Kabbalistic Q&A: How Compassionate is God? A. VERY!

Rabbi Joel Rembaum, Visiting Professor of Nahalakha, Zacharias Frankel College, University of Potsdam, Germany; Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth Am, Los Angeles (Dorff Nelson Chapel)
According to Kabbalistic teaching, why are there two Biblical expressions of God’s 13 Attributes of Compassion? What do they tell us about God and about humankind? In light of this Kabbalistic Doctrine, how are we humans supposed to act?

Genetics and the microbiome: living with the other inside ourselves

Jonathan Braun Professor, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine (Hersch Hall)
Genomics is revealing that we each don’t have a single genetic identity, but are in fact a unique mosaic of many identities, many unfamiliar from our family history. And, we also harbor a massive bacterial microbiome, adding yet more complexity to our physical traits, behavioral styles, and susceptibility to different diseases. What is the social and moral significance of this internal complexity? How does this affect our beliefs and concerns about otherness?

Creating Transgender Inclusive Jewish Spaces

Dr. Patrick Rock, Director of Education at the Youth and Gender Media Project (Chersmisqul Hall)
This interactive workshop will discuss the ways in which Jewish spaces can be both inclusive, and alienating, to transgender individuals. We will discuss best practices around transgender inclusion and concrete ways for you to make your own community more affirming.

Music as a Ladder for the Soul

Randolph Dobbs, Secretary of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’ís of LA (Lainer Library)
Guidance from the Baha’i Sacred Writings regarding music and prayer with examples of chanted prayers in Persian and Western styles.

Newness in Routine … of Yoga and Judaism!

Dr. Zach Lasker Executive Director & Resident Yagi at Pico Union Project (Adelson Hall)
Jewish practice can be inspiring, meaningful, eye opening … and incredibly redundant! How and why do we maintain our commitment to show up and engage? Join a multi-level yoga practice as a model for how to stay engaged in the repetitive rhythm of Jewish life.

Why Tikkun Olam and Doing Tikkun Olam

Kathy Rosenblatt (Cooking for PATH and Snack) Temple Beth Am Refugee Task Force (Lower Level Kitchen – limited space available)
Come for a discussion on Jewish sources that we are responsible for Tikkun Olam, and come to cook food for homeless families and veterans living at PATH. Please bring orange or green vegetables for the soup and fruit for a fruit salad.

11:30 p.m. - 12:20 a.m.

Children or Death

Gabrielle Kaufman LPC, clinical advisor of Hasidah (Lainer Library)
Stories of infertility are part of Judaism’s founding narratives, yet the voices and experiences of infertility, from Torah to today, are still marginalized. This session will look at the pain of infertility as illustrated in the story of Rachel. Her powerful pleas and struggle can offer us insight into helping those who are on this journey today.

A Jewish Response to the Refugee Crisis

Mark Helfield President & CEO, HIAS (Hersch Hall)
Join Mark Helfield, President and CEO of HIAS, for a Tikkun L’eyl Shavuot session about the global refugee crisis. Participants will explore how Jewish text, values and history call on us to respond – both here in the U.S., and internationally.
The Others
Igael Gurin Malous Talmud Teacher at Temple Israel of Hollywood (Chermsqui Hall)

How the invisible, the ugly, the marginalized and the weak become strong, beautiful, sexy, important and respected. A journey of self exploration through the Talmudic texts or how this boy became a man.

The Space Between
Reverend Kirsten Unfurd Senior Minister at Westwood Hills Congregational Church (Kopelove Hall)

Often, God is found most presently and most powerfully in the spaces between – between human beings, between us and God, between the sound and the silence, between the lines, and even between spiritual traditions. For me, the connection to Jesus is one of in-between and has been greatly informed and deepened by Jewish voices and experiences. I would love to share my stories with you, to hear your own, and to offer up the labyrinth as a way of in-between prayer that is meaningful to my community.

Building a Stronger and More Inclusive LGBTQ+ Community: One Unique Voice at a Time (Panel Discussion)
Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or Director, JQ International Helpline Services and Members of the JQ Mt. Speakers Bureau (Dorf Nelson Chapel)
The LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Ally) community of Sephardic Jews speaks with one voice about the ever-present danger to all of us. But we each have a unique voice, which adds increased nuance and texture to the whole community. Those of us on the panel will share our process of finding our own voices and how each one blends into and, at the same time, changes the community as a whole.

11:30 p.m.-12:50 a.m.
Self Discovery – From the Yoga Mat to Jewish Practice
Dr. Zach Lasker Executive Director & Resident Yagi at Pico Union Project (Adelson Hall)

So much of Jewish life is orientated to how we build community and help others, but living a life of mitzvot can also be a pathway to self discovery. Join a multi-level yoga practice to cultivate strategies for turning your gaze inward, breathing, and self reflecting through the challenges of a ritual practice.

12:30 a.m.-1:20 a.m.
Holy Frijoles Midnight Snack (Schneider Lobby)- Chilaquiles: Dried chilies, Chili rojo, Chilaquiles, Pico de gallo, Guacamole

Keter Malchut and Keter Torah: A Radical Jewish Take
Rabbi Dr. Aryeh Cohen and Dr. David Myers
Keter Malchut and Keter Torah: A Radical Jewish Take at the 2015 International Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles. See the full presentation here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmzg1c7i2t8

Statehood, Power and Responsibility
Rabbi Ephraim Pelcovits, New Israel Fund (Dorf Nelson Chapel)

Building upon Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik’s seminal drash in support of the Civil Rights Movement, “Civil Rights and the Dignity of Man,” we’ll explore what further responsibilities the Torah may expect of Jewish leaders in control of the powers of a modern state, and when governing non-Jewish minority groups.

Beyond the “Buddy” Program
Lee Chernotsky, Founder & Chief Empowerment Officer of Rosies (Lainer Library)

Offering a candid discussion about inclusion and exploring practical approaches to cultivating fully community.

Rabbi Dr. Michael Berenbaum – Topic To Be Announced (Chermsqui Hall)

What Did We Receive at Sinai?
Aaron Asher (Hersch Hall)

What if I told you that every picture of the luchot you’ve ever seen were wrong according to Jewish sources and historical evidence? Come and learn about the luchot we received at Mount Sinai with source sheets and archaeological photos and props.

1:30 a.m.-2:20 a.m.
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1:30 a.m.-2:30 a.m.
Wrestling with the Humblebrag
Mira Berenbaum, Noah Klifgeld, Noah Lee TBA Teens (Hersch Hall)

The lessons we can learn from Sinai about how to be proud without being prideful.

2:30 a.m.-3:45 a.m.
Utilizing Yoga kriya and meditation from the kundalini yoga practice to access the mystical energies of the Hebrew calendar, Joshua and Brock, have been guiding us on a journey from Passover to this pinnacle moment of Shavuot. Join in the Hebrew chanting and pranayama (breathwork) to truly embody the counting of the Omer, and arrive through this exodus journey a holy vessel ready to receive your personal Torah of revelation.

2:30 a.m.-3:45 a.m.
Joshua Reitzenstein and Brock Pollock (Adelson Hall)

In this session, we will conduct a literary and historical analysis of the Book of Ruth to better understand the book’s attitude toward foreigners and how this attitude compares to other biblical material. We will discuss how the book’s message about boundaries and treatment of the foreigner can help us navigate “otherness” in our communities today.

3:30 a.m.-4:30 a.m.
Wrestling with the Humblebrag
Mira Berenbaum, Noah Klifgeld, Noah Lee TBA Teens (Hersch Hall)

The lessons we can learn from Sinai about how to be proud without being prideful.

3:30 a.m.-4:30 a.m.
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More Fun with the Big Small Letters of the Torah
Bend the Arc (Hersch Hall)

How does Torah change when we add more voices to the conversation? Together we will study how the Rabbis opened doors in the history of the Jewish people and where our communities are today.

4:50 a.m. Sunrise Shachrat - Pilch Rooftop of the Rena E Ganzberg (school) Building
www.tba.org

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This year we started our Torah with the 8th Hakofa Tisha and now we are celebrating the receiving of Torah with a Shavuot Tisch. Take some hot cocoa, coffee, tea or soda Chaim’s, join in some singing, hear some mini-drashot and culminate our learning together!

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