

Come curious.  Leave wiser.
JCCPGH ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT SERIES

**Making Headlines, Breaking Barriers:
The JCC’s Israel Engagement Programs
Create Space for Connection, Dialogue
and Learning**

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Pittsburgh, PA – The next event in the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Greater Pittsburgh’s **Come Curious, Leave Wiser** Israel Engagement Series will take place Monday, May 18, at 7 pm, in JCC Squirrel Hill Katz Theater, 5738 Darlington Road.



Tal Shalev



Dr. Nasreen Haddad-Haj Yahya



Nadav Asher Eyal

The event, “Understanding Israeli Politics,” is a unique opportunity to gain insight into the complexities of Israel’s political landscape. This timely conversation will feature leading journalist Tal Shalev, Vice President of the New Israel Fund Dr.

Nasreen Haddad-Haj Yahya, and noted journalist and commentator Nadav Eyal. From coalition dynamics and government leadership to Arab affairs and global influences, this panel will unpack the forces shaping Israeli politics today.

To reserve tickets for the May 18 event click [HERE](#)

The Come Curious event on Monday follows a powerful opening session March 25 that featured a first-time dialogue between New York Times columnist Bret Stephens and J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami discussing U.S.–Israel relations. The program set the tone for the six-part series, which aims to create space for learning, connection and meaningful community conversation.



The Come Curious, Leave Wiser series invites participants to engage with diverse perspectives while deepening their understanding of Israel and its complexities. Yisrael Klitsner, series moderator, is a fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) with deep connections to our community. For more information about the series, click [HERE](#)

The third Come Curious Hill event will be “Israel’s Geopolitical Outlook - A Bird’s Eye View of Israel’s Rapidly Evolving Geostrategic Concerns” with Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel, a former Director of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office (2007–2012), and Dr. Shira Efron, distinguished chair for Israel Policy at RAND, on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 pm. Participants will gain valuable insights into the strategic dilemmas that Israeli decision-makers encounter, as well as the prospects for regional normalization and renewed peace efforts, alongside the challenges they face in achieving these goals. **For tickets to the June 16 event, click [HERE](#)**

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Adeena Sussman



Michael Solomonov



Bill Fuller (VIP Reception)

Also coming up in Israel Engagement: An Evening of Flavor and Story , Monday, June 8, with 3 acclaimed cooking experts - acclaimed cookbook author Adeena Sussman joined by special guest Michael Solomonov, James Beard Award–winning

chef and restaurateur, returning to his hometown of Pittsburgh, and Bill Fuller (VIP Reception) President of big Burrito Restaurant Group for this one-of-a-kind conversation and launch of Sussman’s latest cookbook, Zariz. Together, they’ll explore the vibrant world of Israeli-inspired cuisine, sharing stories of life, culture and cooking in Israel, and how food can bring comfort, connection, and joy even in challenging times. For details and tickets, click [HERE](#)

Interviews prior to each event are welcome. To schedule, please contact Taylor Huddleston, thuddleston@jccpgh.org.

Photos and videos during the event are not allowed.

For more information:

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