

Singing God's Words: The Performance of Biblical Chant in Contemporary Judaism

Rabbi Jeffrey A. Summit, Ph.D, Tufts University



TUESDAY
February 20th

6:30 pm Reception

7:00 pm Lecture

The Magnes Collection
of Jewish Art and Life

2121 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP

This lecture draws from the research for Professor Summit's new book *Singing God's Words: The Performance of Biblical Chant in Contemporary Judaism* (Oxford University Press, 2016), the first study of the meaning and experience of chanting Torah among contemporary American Jews. He explores why and how a growing number of American Jews see the public chanting of Biblical texts as one of the most authentic expressions of their religious identity and how this ritual is shaped by digital technology, feminism, and contemporary views of spiritual experience.

Jeffrey A. Summit, Ph.D. holds the appointment of Research Professor in the Department of Music and in the Judaic Studies program at Tufts University, where he also serves as rabbi and Neubauer Executive Director of Tufts Hillel. He is the author of *Singing God's Words: The Performance of Biblical Chant in Contemporary Judaism* (Oxford University Press) and *The Lord's Song in a Strange Land: Music and Identity in Contemporary Jewish Worship* (Oxford University Press). His CD *Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda* (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings) was nominated for a GRAMMY award. His CD with video *Delicious Peace: Coffee, Music and Interfaith Harmony in Uganda* (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings) was awarded Best World Music CD by the Independent Music Awards. His research focuses on music and identity, music and spiritual experience, music and advocacy, and the impact of technology on the transmission of tradition.

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