



IGNITE SHABBAT 2021

SEPHARDIC SHABBATON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Deluxe Sefardi Shabbat Dinner with Dessert to Go!

Pick up Shabbat Dinner from 4:00-5:30 PM On campus!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Havdalah Streaming with Maestro Yaniv Attar

7:00 PM



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Fideo Cooking Demonstration with chef and scholar Hélène Jawhara Piñer

4:00 PM



Hillel
The Edward and Rose Berman
Hillel Jewish University Center
of Pittsburgh

Sephardic Jews on Campus



I am an Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jew, but I have always felt especially connected to my Sephardic heritage being Sephardic was a huge part of my grandfather's identity. I am looking forward to sharing a part of my heritage on campus and feel grateful to be a Sephardi House Fellow with the American Sephardi Federation. My hope as a Sephardi House Fellow and Sephardic Jew is to inspire others to look at more than one subgroup of Judaism because the diversity within the Jewish community is what makes Judaism so special.

ARIELLA LEVY

Ignite Intern and Sephardi House Fellow

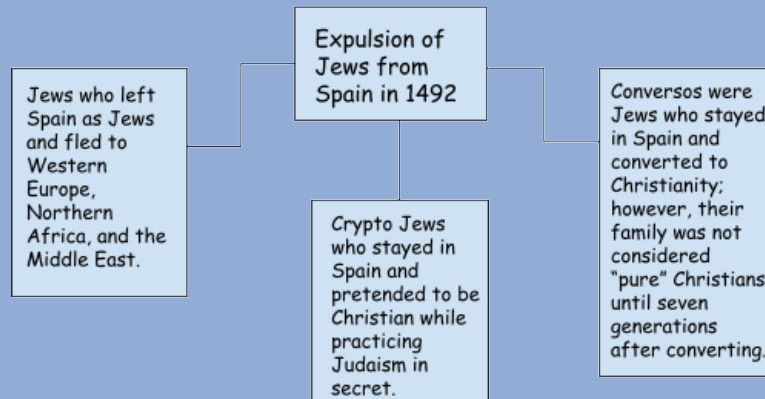


The Greater Sephardic World

Sephardic Jews are Jews whose lineage traces to the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal).

Sepharad is Hebrew for Spain

The Journey of Jews Who Faced Expulsion in Spain



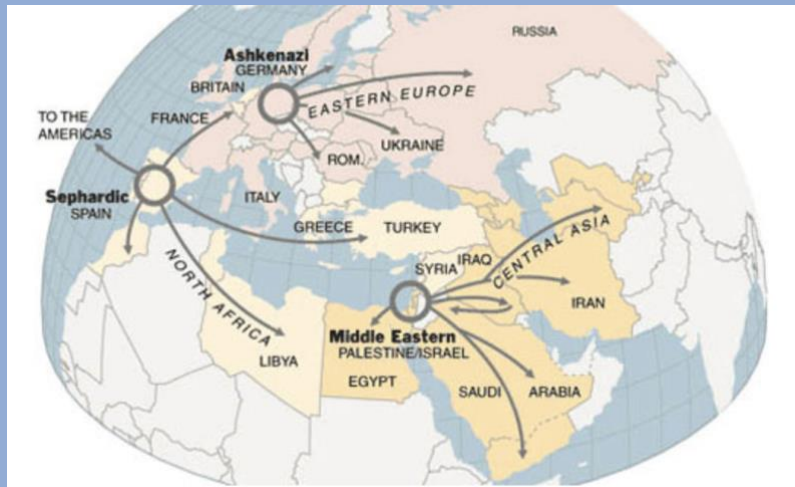
It is important to note that many Jews whose lineages do not trace back to the Iberian Peninsula may consider themselves Sephardic because of the influence Sephardic Judaism had on their region as there was intellectual communication from Spain all the way to Iraq.

Many people use the terms Mizrahi and Sephardic synonymously because they are more culturally similar than they are to Askenazi Jews, but **Mizrahi Jews** is an umbrella term for Jews of Middle Eastern origin. However, many Mizrahi Jews prefer to describe their identity as the country they are from instead.

Mizrahi is Hebrew for East

Where are different subgroups of Jews from and where did they go?

Map taken from
langaugesoftheworld.info



*Some Sephardic Jews also fled to countries in the Middle East after their expulsion from Spain or later on.

Did you know that...

The first Jews who came to America were Sephardic Jews, they settled in New York in 1654.

Sephardic Jews are named after the living.

The famous Jewish Scholar Maimonides was Sephardic. He was born in Spain but fled to Egypt during the Almohad reign.

Sephardic last names date back hundreds of years and are typically older than Ashkenazi surnames.

New York, Los Angeles, and Seattle have the largest Sephardic Jewish communities in the United States.

Sephardim in Israel

The largest community of Sephardim live in Israel, there are roughly 1.4 million. Around 50% of Israel's current population are of Sephardi or Mizrahi origin. There are two chief rabbis, an Askenazi and Sephardi, who serve 10-year terms.

Sephardim in Pre-State Israel

- Some Sephardic Jews went to Jerusalem shortly after the expulsion of Jews from Spain.
- From the 19th century up until the 1930s Sephardic Jews were moving from the Balkans and present-day Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey to Jerusalem
- The population of Jerusalem was mostly Sephardic Jews for centuries.
- There was a Sephardic aristocracy in pre-state Israel who spoke Ladino, but eventually many aristocrats left Eretz Israel due to the economic difficulties in the Ottoman Empire to find economic opportunities in Europe.
- Following the Holocaust Sephardi Jews immigrated to pre-state Israel, but settled in Tel Aviv and Jaffa unlike the Sephardim of the 19th and 20th century who settled in Jerusalem.

More information about Sephardi aristocrats and pre-state Sephardim is on the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs website

Book Recommendation

The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem by Sarit Yishai-Levi. "Set against the Golden Age of Hollywood, the dark days of World War II, and the swinging '70s, *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* follows generations of unforgettable women as they forge their own paths through times of dramatic change. With great humor and heart, Sarit Yishai-Levi has given us a powerful story of love and forgiveness—and the unexpected and enchanting places we find each."

Cultural Differences between Sephardi/Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Jews

Holidays:

Sephardi Jews do not avoid beans, rice, corn, and peanuts during Passover whereas traditionally Ashkenazi Jews do.

Language:

In prayer, many Hebrew words have different Sephardic and Ashkenazi pronunciations. Sometimes the letter נ is pronounced "s" in Ashkenazi dialect, but it is always "t" in Sephardic Dialect.

Cuisine:

Sephardi cuisine is similar to other cuisines from the Middle East, sometimes with influences from Spain. In addition, Sephardi Jews observant of Kashrut laws don't mix fish and milk while Ashkenazi Jews who observe Kashrut mix them.

Religious Denominations:

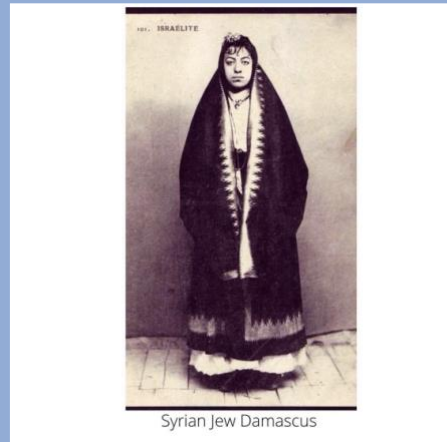
Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews don't have different "denominations" of Judaism like many Ashkenazi Jews do (particularly in the U.S.) like Reform, Conservative, etc.

Henna in Sephardic and Mizrahi Culture

Henna (Chinah in Hebrew) is common among Middle Eastern Jews. It is a plant based dye that stains the palms of the bride to be and other women celebrating the marriage. These henna ceremonies are pre-wedding parties. For Jews, henna is considered to ward off the evil eye and is a symbol of fertility. These ceremonies are very big with beautiful embroidered clothing and plenty of middle eastern dishes.



Pictures of Sephardic/Mizrahi Jews In History:



Ariella Levy's fifth Great Grandfather,
Rabbi Chilebi Nissim Codron, one of the Rabbis of
Rhodes, Greece up until the late 1800s.



Turkish Jews originally from Spain

Sources:

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/chief-rabbis-of-israel>

<https://www.jta.org/2013/02/14/lifestyle/in-hollywood-looking-to-persian-jews-for-purim-costume-inspiration>

<https://www.pealim.com/articles/pronunciations-of-hebrew/>

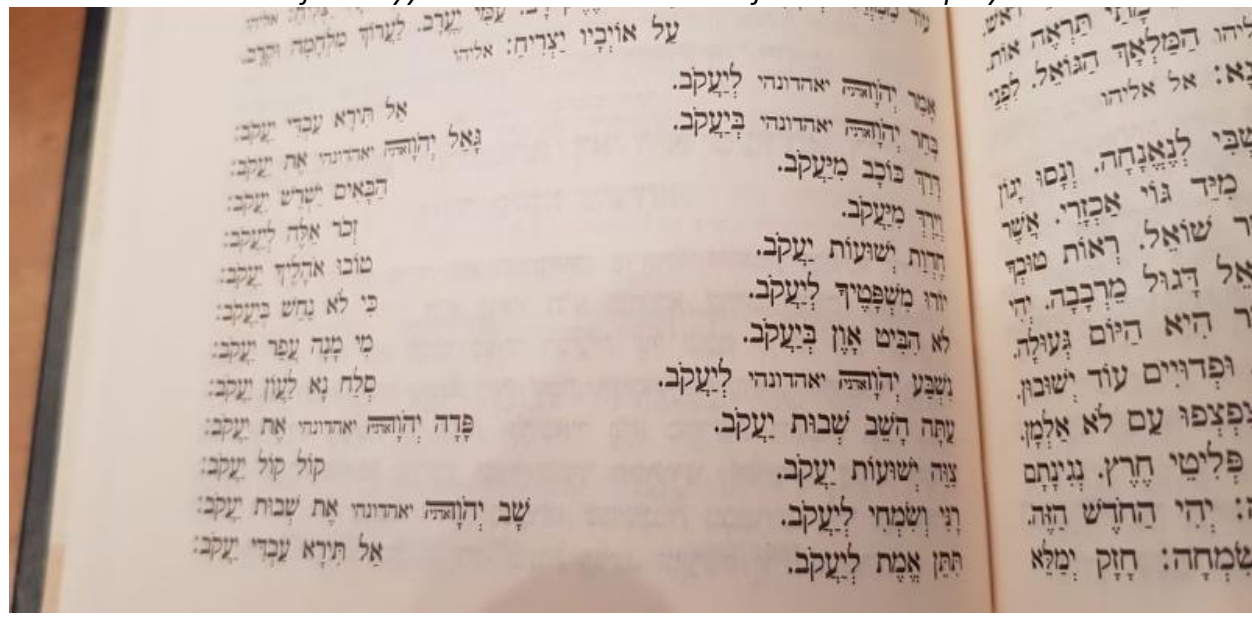
<https://www.rhodesjewishmuseum.org/history/the-rabbis-of-rhodes/>

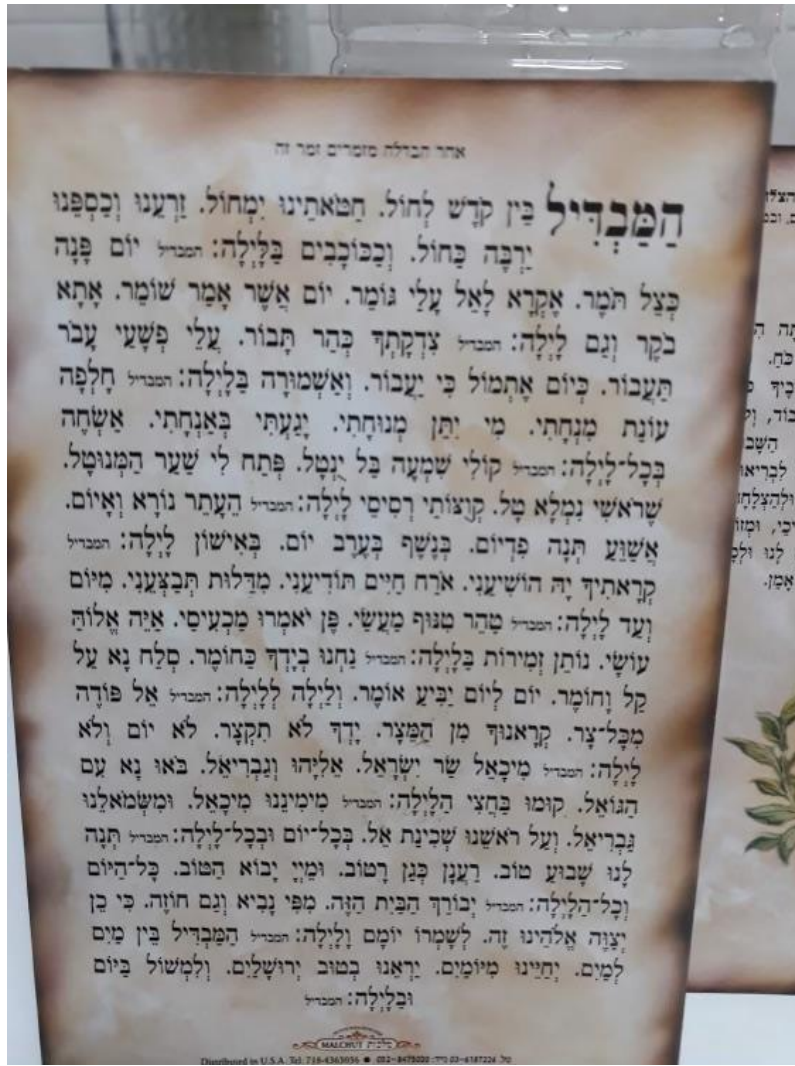
<https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFA-Archive/1998/Pages/The%20Sephardi%20Aristocracy%20in%20Jerusalem%20-%20500%20Years.aspx>

<https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFA-Archive/1998/Pages/The%20Sephardi%20Aristocracy%20in%20Jerusalem%20-%20500%20Years.aspx>



Text of the Piyyut Maestro Attar leads before Havdalah prayers





Ladino

You might have heard about Ladino from the popular Chanukah song, but do you know what it is?

Ladino, otherwise known as Judeo-Spanish, is one of the languages of the Sephardic Jews that was mostly spoken in the Ottoman Empire after the Jews were expelled from Spain.

Ladino is a mix of Spanish and Hebrew and over the years it has been influenced by Arabic, Turkish, Greek, French, and Italian.

Ladino is a phonetic language, so every word is written as it is pronounced. Although it is similar to Spanish, Ladino does not use accents and uses the letter "k" instead of "c" or "qu" that would be used in Spanish.

What?:	Spanish= que	Ladino= ke
House:	Spanish= casa	Ladino= kaza
Year:	Spanish= año	Ladino= anyo

Hello= Ola

Goodbye= Adiyó

What's Your Name?= Komo te yamas?

Massalah/Mashalah

Hebrew= Ivrit

Thank you= Mersi mucho

Shabbat Shalom= Buen Shabbat

Haberes buenos= Good news!

G-d willing =

How are you= Ke tal? Komo estash?

Sephardic= Sefaradi

Kaminos de leche i miel= May you follow paths of milk and honey, a blessing for a journey

Bivas, kreskas, engrandeskas, komo un peshiko en aguas freskas! Amen!= Bless you

Ladino is not spoken much today, but Sephardic Jews are trying to revive the language. There have been many virtual Ladino classes held during the pandemic, and people all over the world are interested in learning.

Learn more here:



@ladino_hoy



@SephardicBrothe
@SarahAroeste



uTalk App

Sources:

<https://www.heyalma.com/14-ladino-phrases-every-jew-should-know/>

Virtual Ladino classes taken on the Sephardic Digital Academy

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-11-best-ladino-expressions-and-phrases-to-know/>

More Resources on the Greater Sephardic World

Prayers and Services:

- Lekha Dodi was composed by a Sephardic man
 - Turkish tune: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1jSBsXIC_c
 - Moroccan tune: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LkCYloa_fU

General Information:

- **The American Sephardi Federation** <https://americansephardi.org>
- The Sephardic Brotherhood of America
<https://www.sephardicbrotherhood.com>
- JIMENA (Jews in the Middle East and North Africa)
<https://www.jimena.org>
- University of Washington Stroum Center for Jewish Studies- Sephardic Studies <https://jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardic-studies/>

Music:

- The American Sephardi Federation's Spotify Playlists- a variety of genres of music from the Greater Sephardic World!

<https://open.spotify.com/user/abdv3fdea88bpghtqdwau7zv5?si=S7JAiqM1TI2Fp1JhC539zw>

- Ocho Kandelikas is a Chanukah song by Flory Jagoda, a Sephardic Jew from Saravejo, who has recently passed. Ke su alma repoze en Gan Eden (May her soul rest in peace). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfHPK6CEN1k>

Documentaries and Videos:

- Ashkenazic vs. Sephardic Satire
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iJak7n_v1s
- "The Forgotten Refugees" is a free documentary on youtube that tells the story of the Mizrahi refugee. More than 850,000 Jews fled or were forced out of Arab countries in 1948 although many left before then due to rising anti-semitism. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHuo0Bw3tgQ>
- "The Women's Balcony" is an eccentric portrait of an already devout community suddenly under pressure from a super Orthodox rabbi to observe their faith in a more rigid way (Roger Ebert).

Sephardic Cooking Demonstration
Sunday, 21 February 2021

FIDEOS

Serves 4-5

Time: **30 minutes**

1/2 cup (100 g) olive oil

5 garlic cloves, chopped

3 tomatoes

1 onion, sliced

3 green peppers, sliced

3 tsp salt

3 cup (400 g) short vermicelli noodles

2 saffron strands (or 1/8 tsp food coloring)

1/2 cup (280g) tuna (fresh or canned)

1 handful of mint, chopped

-6 cups (1,5 l) water

Recipe by Dr.
Jawhara-Piñer

