

## Episode 9: Into the Future

### IX-1: Jewish Settlement/Revival of Hebrew (Palestine) - Timeline 1897

This presentation begins with an opening panel that describes the waves of Jewish immigration to Ottoman Palestine in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Then, a button takes users to an audio presentation with three choices of the most delightful form of Hebrew vernacular in 1959 Israel: the playing and chants of Israeli children. An accompanying panel gives some information about the revival of Hebrew. Then, three historical documents include memoirs of the early pioneers in Palestine, including a wonderful one about the founding of Tel Aviv.

### IX-2: Independence and War/Shaping the Future of Israel - Timeline 1948

The opening panel of this presentation gives the basic picture of newly-declared Israel being invaded by a coalition of Arab armies. Then, a button take users to a rich video depicting the critical early decisions that defined much of the future of Israel, including the birth of the Palestinian refugee problem, Ben Gurion's consolidation of government power, the legacy of messy democracy, and compromises over issues at the border-line between religion and state. Four historical documents include the Proclamation of Israel, a battlefield memoir by Rabin, a classic war poem by Nathan Alterman, and a memoir by a Palestinian refugee.

### IX-3: Waves of Immigration/Operation Magic Carpet/A Polyglot Nation - Timeline 1949

Here, an opening panel describes the flood of 684,000 new immigrants in Israel's first three years. Then, two buttons take users to audio presentations, including one that describes the exodus of Jews from Yemen in Operation Magic Carpet, and one that, through a multilingual train-station recording, shows the variety of tongues of the early immigrants to Israel. Two historical documents include David Ben Gurion and Levi Eshkol's thoughts on the Law of Return and the immigration challenges it created.

### IX-4: Hope and Despair/Soviet Jewry - Timeline 1917

The opening panel of this presentation depicts the situation of Jews, many of whom were early advocates and supporters of the Soviet revolution. Successive repressions by Stalin and his successors culturally and physically killed much of Soviet Jewry, culminating in the "refusenik" movement, which flourished from the late 1960s until the demise of the Soviet Union. Two large buttons take users to five topical panels on each of the periods 1917-1941 and the 1940s-80s. In the prewar period, the panels provide information on Civil War in Eastern Europe (1918-21), Suppression of Political Activity, Campaign Against Religion, Jewish Colonization in Ukraine and Birobidzhan, and Soviet Yiddish Culture. The other button takes users to panels about Soviet Jews in World War II, Initial Soviet Support for Israel, Persecution and Terror (1948-53), the Jews Under Khrushchev, and the Defiance of Refuseniks. Finally, four historical documents present notes on Jewish support for the Revolution, Soviet Jewry's welcome of Golda Meir as the first Israeli ambassador to the

USSR, the murder of Jewish writers, and an Elie Wiesel piece on the plight of the Refuseniks in the mid-1960s.

### **IX-5: At Home in America/The Fight Against Prejudice/Jews in the Civil Rights Movement - Timeline 1945**

This presentation begins with a panel describing America's emergence as the largest demographic center of world Jewry after the devastation of the Shoah. Then, two buttons take users to two interesting presentations: the Fight Against Prejudice includes a portion of a 1944 newsreel, entitled "Americans All," which made the case against bigotry; Jews in the Civil Rights Movement includes an audio of Rabbi Joachim Prinz' inspiring speech at the March on Washington in 1963. Six historical documents provide insight into the fight against discrimination in America, including a 1954 Chicago survey of anti-Jewish employment practices, reflections on being fully Jewish and fully American, the impact of Israel on American Jewish identity, reflections of the first woman rabbi, and Rabbi Schulweis' thoughts on chavurot (fellowships).

### **IX-6: Arab-Israeli Conflict/Felafel is the Same in Any Language - Timeline 1998**

The opening panel of this presentation summarizes the last few decades of Arab/Israeli strife, as well as the peace initiatives of that period. A button takes users to a delightful excerpt from the joint Palestinian/Israeli version of Sesame Street, in which Muppets, at least, seem to find a loving common ground. Four historical documents include the producer of the Middle Eastern Sesame Street show reflecting on its challenges, as well as speeches by Sadat, Rabin, Arafat, and Netanyahu.

### **IX-7: Israeli Society/Israeli Political Scene - Timeline 1996**

The opening panel describes the various political tensions besetting Israel in the 1990s, including Russian absorption, the Oslo process, and secular/religious issues. Then, a brief narrated segment takes users to an explorable graphic of Israeli campaign paraphernalia which "translate" into English as users roll over the graphic. Five historical documents include Rabin's last speech, Amos Oz' thoughts on argumentative Israelis, and the problems of minority populations in Israel.

### **IX-8: Into the Future/Meaning of the Past - Timeline 1998**

This presentation begins with a panel noting the challenge of drawing from tradition to shape a vital Judaism of the future. Then, a button takes users to four button-panel segments presenting the views of four experts on the Meaning of the Past. These include Rabbi Joy Levitt, a Reconstructionist Rabbi and member of Americans for Peace Now; Rabbi Irwin Kula, the director of CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership; Yale Professor Paula Hyman; and Rabbi David Hartman, director of Israel's Shalom Hartman Institute. They reflect on issues in Jewish heritage that include bondage and freedom; joy and loss; covenantal commitment; engagement with the world; and the conviction that dreams of a better future can be realized.

*Note: On the timeline, many of historical documents included in the various multimedia presentations are separately indicated. Remember also to search the index to find out more on any topic from the Concise Encyclopedia Judaica, the maps, and Abba Eban, guide to the video series.*