

## **Spicy Torah: Faith Under Fire – Jewish Resilience Across the Continents**

Wednesday, December 17, 7:30 PM – Fourth Night of Chanukah

As antisemitism rises and polarization deepens, Jewish identity feels more visible, vulnerable, and vital than ever. This special Spicy Torah evening will explore what it means to live as part of one global Jewish people — across continents, cultures, and generations — and how the light of faith and connection continues to shine in dark times.

We'll begin with two pre-sessions offering distinct perspectives on Jewish identity and Israel today:

Alex Kassman: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – Supporting Israel in the Face of “Free Palestine”

The *Shinshinim*: A Conversation with Israeli Teens Growing Up in Israel

Then, we'll welcome our featured speaker, Juan Caldés, a European political Jewish educator and storyteller from Madrid. Raised in a Catholic family in Mallorca, Juan discovered his Jewish roots later in life — a revelation that transformed his identity and led him to return to Judaism. Now serving as European Advocacy Coordinator at the European Jewish Association (EJA), Juan bridges Jewish life in Europe, Israel, and the Diaspora.

His keynote address, “Faith Under Fire: Jewish Resilience Across the Continents”, will weave together personal narrative, political insight, and spiritual reflection, exploring how Jews around the world are rediscovering courage, unity, and purpose in a time of challenge.

The evening will conclude with a community conversation led by Rabbi David Baum, inviting participants to reflect honestly and openly on Jewish solidarity, identity, and faith in 2025.

Join us for an evening of light, learning, and connection — because Jewish resilience knows no borders.