The new face of anti-Semitism to be discussed

*Henry Green will discuss “Jews of Arab Lands: Charlie Hebdo and the New Face of Anti-Semitism.”*

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Temple Israel of Greater Miami to feature Dr. Henry Green, attorney Khurrum Wahid

The rising tide of anti-Semitism in France has driven thousands of Jews, including the Sephardi community, to leave the country for Israel and elsewhere.

An interfaith dialogue regarding this plight takes place during the brunch program, "Jews of Arab Lands: Charlie Hebdo and the New Face of Anti-Semitism," on May 3 in Kaplan Hall at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th St. It is sponsored by the synagogue and its JSBoomers group. The dialogue gets underway at 11 a.m. and features Henry Green, a professor of religious studies at the University of Miami and international director of the audiovisual history project "Sephardi Voices," who will discuss issues Sephardi Jews face in France and elsewhere with response from Coral Gables lawyer and civil rights advocate Khurrum Wahid.

Not many people know of the little-known story of the nearly one million Sephardi Jews of North African, Middle Eastern and Iranian decent who were expelled or forced to flee their homes in the 1940's and managed to relocate and integrate in new societies around the world, including France. This boost in the 1940s-1960s of North African Jewish émigrés has resulted in more than 80 percent of French Jewry being Sephardic. Sadly, anti-Semitism in France has risen in recent years, well before the *Charlie Hebdo* and kosher market tragedies that took place early this year.

"If you look at the kosher market, the people who were killed were from Tunisian heritage so what you have is a continuity of these Jews who went to a safe place from the Arab world and are now leaving because of anti-Semitism which is really mostly Muslim anti-Semitism against the Jews in France," noted Green.

Since 2009, Green's "Sephardi Voices" project has archived subjects' stories of displacement, fractured identities, material losses, relocation and integration in new societies where they eventually settled. More than 250 testimonies have been collected by research teams in Miami, New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris and Jerusalem, with a goal to collect 5,000 over the next four years.
During the brunch, Green will discuss that over the past 10 years there has been an increase in anti-Semitism in France for a variety reasons and that Jews were leaving before Charlie Hebdo, leaving with the tragedy, and are now considering leaving. His short film on Iraqi Jews, "What We Left Behind," will also be shown.

"I hope this leads to other opportunities to further dialogue among Muslims and Jews in our community," Green said regarding the upcoming discussion. "My approach is to create context because people don't really know what's happening, deal with the current situation and invite them to be part of the 'Sephardi Voices' project."

Wahid, a Muslim, said this opportunity to join Green is a good thing.

"I've been at mosques where they invited rabbis and members of the Jewish congregations and I've been at churches where they invited Jewish and Muslim community members so I applaud all these outreach efforts to create a better understanding of different communities and different cultures," he said.

Diane King, founder of the JSBoomers group and organizer for the program, said "One of our goals for the JSBoomers group is to not only present social and culturally relevant programming but also political issues that are of concern to the Jewish community."