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# Stanford | Taube Center for Jewish Studies

## Recent Event



On April 24, The Taube Center for Jewish Studies hosted *Cosmic Diaspora*, an experimental poetry and music project featuring **Jake Marmer**, **John Schott** and **Josh Horowitz**. There was an impressive synergy between the members of the group who took the listeners on a ride through a diverse landscape of references to the Zohar, Jewish mysticism, and everyday life. Marmer's frequent flirtation with abstraction brought unexpected clarity to the music, and the music continuously alerted listeners to the narrative energy, inevitable with

any spoken-word dramatization of personal history. The improvisational style of the group maintained a flexible combination of dissonance and harmony between words and music, which, in return, captured the rather iffy contact between meaning and experience. Many pieces were about the tensions surrounding an individual's relation to a group, tradition or collective. A selective relationship to both personal and social history was a continuous thread. The frame any backward glance imposes on the past was captured by Marmer's evocative metaphors such as "the rearview mirror of time." Yet, even if our relationship to the past is rife with uncertainty, there are moments when "to walk backwards into something resembling light" places us on the verge of a discovery, moments when we feel a deeper sense of connection to tradition, to whatever we mean by it and however we may fit into it.

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## Event TODAY



**Monday, April 30 | 6:00pm**  
**Humanities Center, Levinthal Hall**

***The Aaron Roland Endowed Lecture:***  
**["Denial," History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving](#) with**  
**Deborah Lipstadt (Emory College)**

Co-sponsored by the Department of  
History and the Humanities Center

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## Events Next Week

**Tuesday, May 8 | 5:00pm**