

October 14, 2021

Rabbi Peltz – *Lekh Lekha*

We are so very excited to welcome Yossi Klein Halevi to TBS this Sunday night at 7pm for a conversation entitled: “Sharing Our Stories: The Relationships between Israeli and Diaspora Jews.” Yossi is the author of [Like Dreamers](#) and [Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor](#) and a true thought-leader in the Jewish world. [You read more about him by clicking here.](#) We are grateful to our supporters, and our partnership with the JCRC, for making this visit possible. We live a world where our commitments to Judaism and Israel are often challenged by antisemitism, politics, and even by friends and colleagues. We invited Yossi to come from Jerusalem to speak with us because in our fast-paced, social media-infused world, it is important to pause and make space to listen and to learn. This helps us better understand our values, and how we can live them, proudly and confidently, in the world. It is appropriate that Yossi’s visit coincides with *parashat Lekh Lekha*.

This Shabbat we will read God’s call to Abraham and Sarah to set out on a journey to establish the Jewish people. What is so interesting about God’s call is that God doesn’t tell them where they are going. “...*Ashar areka*” – “...to a land that I will show you” – says the Torah. We know that this land will be the land of Israel, thus beginning our 4,000 year old connection with it. But why isn’t God more explicit and tell them exactly where they are going? Perhaps this is because even something that we think of as completely static, like land, is still always changing. Its climate, its topography, its people can shift over time. As they journey, Abraham and Sarah learn that they need to reconcile their values and expectations with the realities they see in this land God shows them.

We too face similar challenges, and strive to learn, grow and better understand how we can stay true to our values and to grow to keep our commitments strong. I am looking forward to doing this together this Sunday night, in-person in our sanctuary or through our livestream. [You can click here to access all of the program information.](#) May we continue to walk in Abraham and Sarah’s footsteps.