



**For Immediate Release
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SEPHARDIC COOKING IN AMERICA WITH JOAN NATHAN: THE OLD AND THE NEW

James Beard Award Winner to Speak at the Center for Jewish History

On Tuesday October 28, 2003, at 7:00 PM, celebrated cookbook author Joan Nathan will speak about the history and roots of Sephardic cooking in America and delight you with anecdotes and stories about this little-known specialty. This lecture is part of the series of cultural events hosted by the American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House at the Center for Jewish History in New York. Do you know who brought the tomato to America or that the first chocolate maker in America was a Sephardic Jew? Ms. Nathan will relay these precious bits of information and more.

“Sephardic Food was the first Jewish food to come to America,” explains Joan Nathan. “Now, 350 years later it is more in than ever and seems amazingly modern.” In her talk, Ms. Nathan will bring you to understand her “modus operandi” as a cookbook writer as she connects the early history of Jewish cooking in America with the arrival of the first Jewish families. She will show how Sephardic cooking, through the integration and assimilation of Jews from many countries including Greece, Turkey, Israel, Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, has become an integral part of American cuisine.

Joan Nathan is the author of *Jewish Cooking in America*, *The Jewish Holiday Kitchen*, *Foods of Israel Today*, *The Jewish Holiday Baker*, *The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen*, *The International Pasta Cookbook*, *American Folklife Cookbook*, and co-author of *The Flavor of Jerusalem*. She is the winner of the 1994 James Beard Award for Best Cookbook of the Year as well as the 1994 James Beard Award for Food of the Americas and a frequent contributor to the New York Times dining section. Ms. Nathan holds an honorary doctorate from the Spertus Institute of Jewish Culture in Chicago and can be found in the *Who's Who of American Food and Wine*.

The lecture will be held in the beautiful Forchheimer Auditorium at the Center for Jewish History located at 15 West 16th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors and members of the American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House, a not for profit organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening the heritage of the Sephardic Jews in America.

For further information about this and other American Sephardi Federation events, please contact Esme Berg at 212-294-8350 or by e-mail at eberg@asf.cjh.org.