



**American Sephardi Federation
with Sephardic House**

at the Center for Jewish History

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**JUDEO-SPANISH-LADINO MUSIC WITH A
CONTEMPORARY FLAIR**

**Sarah Aroeste and her Band in Concert at the Center for Jewish
History**

Tuesday, June 2, 2004 at 7:00 pm

Sarah Aroeste, best known for her funky fusion of Spanish, Mediterranean and American musical styles, and her band, will perform their original blend of traditional Ladino music mixed with modern jazz and rock at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, NYC on June 2nd, 2004 at 7:00 PM. *An Evening of Ladino Music*, co-sponsored by the American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House and Congregation Shearith Israel, will showcase younger musical talent of Sephardic heritage. Judeo-Spanish or Ladino music is sung in the 500 year-old language, once spoken by a substantial population of the world's Sephardic Jews.

American born, Aroeste decided to revive this rich body of music by combining it with more contemporary musical influences. Inspired by her family's cultural heritage, rooted in Spain, and hailing from Salonika, Greece, Ms. Aroeste has created a musical style that combines traditional Mediterranean music with modern American rock and blues. Aroeste wanted to broaden the audience for Ladino music, and drew on her extensive music background to update and reinterpret this musical tradition by fusing it with more contemporary sensibilities. Sarah states, that she owes her interest in developing Ladino music to her family heritage; "My grandparents spoke Ladino and my references to Ladino culture were

through food and music. We have been working to give Ladino music a more popular, contemporary sound.” Aroeste will be joined by a band of four musicians: Yoel Ben-Simhon, musical director playing oud, piano and guitar; Alan Cohen performing on the electric guitar; Emmanuel Mann on brass and Liron Peled on the drums and percussion.

The Sarah Aroeste performance is the second concert in the *Jack Calderon Memorial Fund for the Sephardic Arts Series*, established to honor the memory of the long-time vice president of Sephardic House and a man who greatly valued Sephardic culture and heritage. Contributions to the *Jack Calderon Memorial Fund for the Sephardic Arts* can be sent to the American Sephardi Federation, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011.

About the American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House

The American Sephardi Federation, with its programming and publishing division, Sephardic House, is a national Jewish organization dedicated to strengthening and unifying the American Sephardic community and promoting its history, heritage and social traditions. Congregation Shearith Israel, founded in 1654 was the first Jewish congregation to be established in North America.

For more information or reservations, please call the box office at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York City, at (917) 606-8200. Admission is \$15 at the door; \$12 for ASF and Shearith Israel members, seniors, students and those who buy tickets in advance, and complimentary for patrons of the *Jack Calderon Memorial Fund for the Sephardic Arts*.

For additional information, please contact Ilana Sperling at 212-294-8350 or at isperling@asf.cjh.org.