

## **High Five: The Great Latke Hamantash Debate marks fifth year in KC this December**

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Hearty over heavenly? Sizzle over sweetness? It's the kind of quarrel that Kansas City is hungry for: latkes versus hamantashen.

On Sunday, December 10, the entire community will have a chance to confront this contentious issue, and enjoy plenty of laughs and delicious food along the way, at the Fifth Annual Ruth Fredman Cernea Great Latke Hamantash Debate, sponsored by Congregation Ohev Sholom. The milestone edition of this delightful, delectable event takes place at the White Theatre at the Jewish Community Campus, at 3:30 p.m.

In an afternoon of light-hearted Jewish comedy modeled on the latke-hamantash debates that have raged at the University of Chicago since 1946, three debaters per side will argue the merits of each Jewish staple, calling upon their professional expertise, comedic skills, technology, and even ridiculous props. The audience will have a chance to question the debaters before their vote—and the deliberations of a Beit Din of rabbis from area congregations—will settle the issue once and for all. Or at least until next year.

A diverse and impressive slate of debaters stands ready to lighten the mood and enlighten the audience: Jill Maidhof, Director of Jewish Experiences at The J; Marissa Wolf, Director of New Works at Kansas City Repertory Theatre; Cantor Ben Matis, Fellow of the Kansas Jewish History Project; nuclear engineer Neil Herman; ancient historian Debbie Trachtman; and a sixth debater to be named soon. The distinguished and very funny Professor Chris Kelts will return as emcee.

“In our fifth year, the Great Debate has become a tradition in Kansas City, known for delightful Jewish comedy and community camaraderie—as proven by the enthusiastic, diverse attendance,” says Melanie Allmayer, a member of Ohev Sholom, who brought this event to Kansas City to honor the memory of her aunt, Dr. Ruth Fredman Cernea—a cultural anthropologist and editor of *The Great Latke Hamantash Debate* (University of Chicago Press, 2006).

There is a modest cover charge of \$10 per person ages 13 and older, and all attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to the JFS Food Pantry. More information about the event and a link to the video of other Great Debates are available at [greatdebatekc.org](http://greatdebatekc.org).