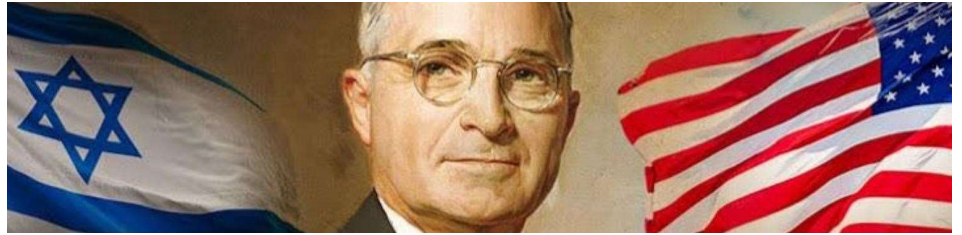


Actors Ensemble of Berkeley  
at Temple Beth Hillel  
Richmond, California  
April 19, 2026



A Staged Reading

## Truman vs. Israel Or The Truman Myth



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley



TEMPLE BETH HILLEL  
TORAH • LIFE • COMMUNITY  
מרבֿה תורה • מרבֿה חיים

Father of Israel or Architect of Its Near Destruction?

A Complex Portrait of Power, Prejudice, and Presidential Legacy

A Full-Length Play by William Spatz

Directed by Gabriel A. Ross

### Cast

Don Muller – David Ghilardi

Painter – Maya Rath

Bella Abzug – Dalia Vidor

Harry Truman – Keith Jefferds

Eddie Jacobson – Robin Schild

### About the Play

In the aftermath of World War II, as the horrors of the Holocaust came into full view, the question of a Jewish homeland moved from aspiration to urgent global debate. Truman vs. Israel explores the pivotal and often contested role of President Harry S. Truman in the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. Was Truman a moral champion who defied political pressure to recognize Israel, or a conflicted leader whose decisions nearly derailed its formation?

### About the Production

This staged reading is presented by Actors Ensemble of Berkeley as part of its commitment to developing new works that engage with history, ethics, and contemporary dialogue. Performed without full staging, the reading emphasizes language, performance, and the power of ideas in motion.

### Acknowledgments

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley thanks Temple Beth Hillel for their generous support and partnership in hosting this reading.

### Talkback

A brief talkback with playwright William Spatz will follow the performance via Zoom. Audience members are invited to stay and participate in the discussion.