

[For Immediate Release](#) | [OFJCC Website](#) | [View this email in your browser](#)



NEWS RELEASE

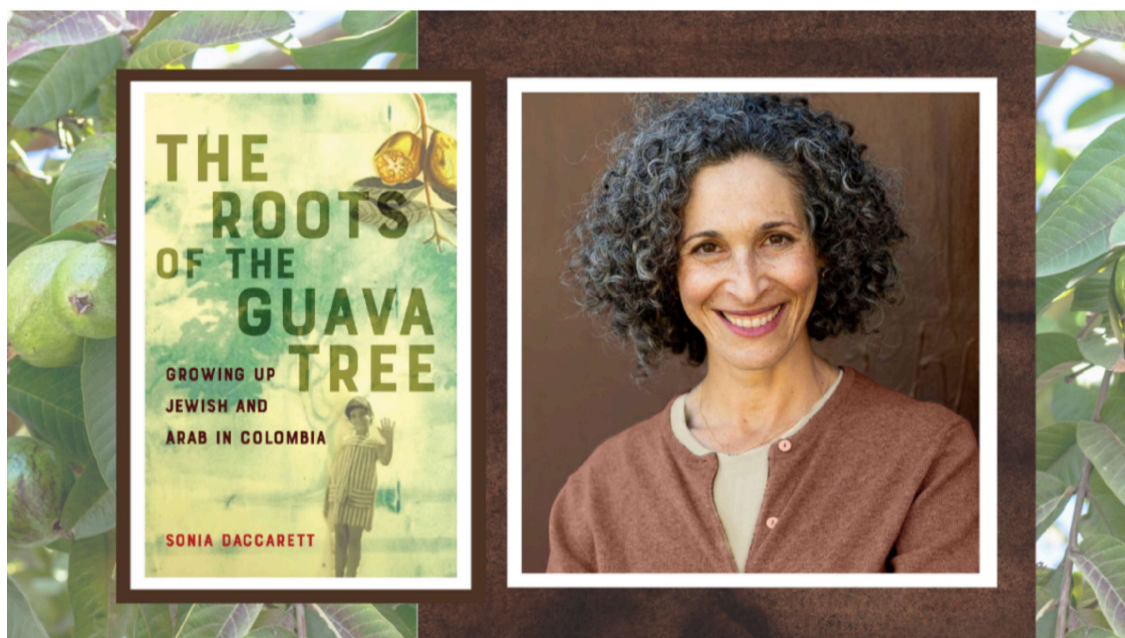
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2025

Media Contact: Michelle Shabtai

(650) 272-8761, mshabtai@paloaltojcc.org

Author Sonia Daccarett Explores Her Colombian-Jewish-Palestinian Heritage in New Memoir



Palo Alto, CA—August 14, 2025—Author Sonia Daccarett will host a special book talk to celebrate the launch of her debut memoir, *The Roots of the Guava Tree*. The event will take place at the **Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto on Thursday, August 21, at 7:00 PM in the Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall.**

In her powerful new memoir, Daccarett shares her personal story of growing up in 1980s Colombia as the daughter of a Christian Palestinian father and a Jewish mother. The book explores her journey to understand her identity, heritage and belonging amid a backdrop of family secrets and the rising violence of the drug war.

When inquiring about her past, Daccarett's parents offered evasive answers to her questions about their ethnic and religious backgrounds, leaving her to piece together her identity from Yiddish, Hebrew and Arabic spoken by family members who had fled places like the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Russia and the Ottoman Empire. At

trafficking and cartel activity.

The Roots of the Guava Tree is a moving and intimate account of a young woman's quest for truth, even as her country and family are on the brink of unraveling. The memoir explores universal themes of identity, displacement and the search for home.

About the Author

Sonia Daccarett is a writer and communications professional who was born in Colombia. She holds an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a master's degree in international and public affairs from Columbia University. Daccarett, who has more than two decades of experience in strategic communications, currently lives and writes in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family.

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: Oshman Family JCC will present *The Roots of the Guava Tree: A Conversation With Memoirist Sonia Daccarett*.

WHEN: Thursday, August 21, 2025, 7:00 PM

WHERE: The Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall at the Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

REGISTRATION: Registration takes place at paloaltojcc.org/guava.

About the Oshman Family JCC

The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center (OFJCC) on the Taube Koret Campus for Jewish Life serves the South Peninsula through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs. The OFJCC is a multi-generational Jewish neighborhood where all are welcome and which fosters new personal and community connections through rich and rewarding experiences. The OFJCC provides a common ground for Jewish institutions, other local groups, organizations and individuals to work, learn and play together for the betterment of the whole community. The OFJCC's registered trademark is Live Fully®. For more information, visit www.paloaltojcc.org or call (650) 223-8700.

Tickets + More Information:

For tickets and more details, visit paloaltojcc.org/guava

Sonia Daccarett will be available for phone and video interviews for the next few weeks leading up to the event. For press inquiries, please contact: Michelle Shabtai,

THE KOUM FAMILY
FOUNDATION

KORET
FOUNDATION

TAUBE
PHILANTHROPIES

SUPPORTED
BY
JCF
JEWISH COMMUNITY
FEDERATION
& ENDOWMENT FUND

THE LAUDER
FAMILY

THE LESLIE
FAMILY

THE OSHMAN
FAMILY

THE SAAL
FAMILY

Copyright © 2025 Oshman Family JCC, All rights reserved.

The Oshman Family JCC is a community-supported nonprofit organization. To learn more about what the generosity of donors like you makes possible, [click here](#).

[Give to the OFJCC](#)