



## On the *Chocolate Trail*

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# Stories Connecting People and Chocolate Around the World

Many organizations have invited Rabbi Prinz to be a speaker or scholar-in-residence for special occasions or food related events or book clubs. The next time you pick up a piece of chocolate, consider that you are partaking in an aspect of global history. Use [\*On the Chocolate Trail\*](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Jewish Lights, 2017) creatively with adults and young people. Quantity discounts are available. Also, chocolate accompaniments and author book signings are very popular.

***Learning Topics:*** Possible topics for exploring the stories of chocolate and religion include:

1. *What Did Alexander Hamilton Drink? Colonial Chocolate Trade:* In colonial North America, chocolate interests could be uncovered in the holds of ships, in shops and in homes of our founders. Merchants dipped deeply into the chocolate culture of their time. (uses slides)
2. *What is the Best Chocolate? Values Mix into our Chocolate Eating:* Faced with a mélange of options when selecting our chocolate, chocolate lovers might be informed by contemporary food values. The interactive session explores the complexities that surface when measuring these food values against our chocolate choices and consumption. (uses slides and handout)
3. *Women on the Chocolate Trail:* Since Pre-Columbian times women have mixed into chocolate: preparation, consumption, and business. This talk features famous



women and their chocolate addictions. (uses slides)

4. *Faith Diffuses Chocolate Around the World*: This talk explores chocolate's religious narratives and rituals. It unwraps tantalizing information about how faith groups spread chocolate around the world. It combines age-old passions for chocolate and religion while exploring delightful new themes. (uses slides)

5. *Chocolate Revives World War II Soldiers & Refugees*: Chocolate provided succor and support for immigrants and refugees. It contributed to survival and renewal in strong contrast to the deprivations of that time. (uses slides)

6. *December Holiday Chocolate Coins Melt Together*: This presentation demonstrates how Chanukah and Christmas chocolate melt together by unraveling some celebratory themes of these December holidays. (uses slides)

7. *Chocolate Smooths Transitions*: An opportunity to learn how chocolate encouraged resilience through the centuries. How chocolate diminishes stress. (uses slides)

### ***Giftng:***

CEO's, educators and non-profit leaders have been gifting *On the Chocolate Trail* to employees, teachers, boards, committees, donors and others. It makes a great gift for holidays, for graduates and others. People often bundle the book with chocolate.

### ***Resources:***

\*Library collections include the book as research material for school projects, for chocolate travel, for an ethics review of chocolate companies around the world and for study.

\*Teachers refer to the book as source material for lectures and classes.



## ***Chocolate Accompaniments:***

Everyone loves to taste chocolate in connection with *On the Chocolate Trail*. Organizations have offered fun, interactive events such as these:

- \*Tastings of *On the Chocolate Trail*'s contemporary and historical recipes
- \*Chocolate tasting
- \*Bake-off
- \*Multi-course chocolate dinner
- \*Chocolate reception
- \*Mini-chocolate festival
- \*Chocolate making
- \*Chocolate and wine pairing

## ***Seasonal Opportunities:***

- \*Make chocolate coins for the celebration of December holidays
- \*Couple *Chocolate Trail* events with Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and other special occasions.

