

SESSION I SUMMER PROGRAM

July 3-20

8:45am-11:15am

Introductory Mishna

Laws of the Lost and the Found - a Foundation for Society - Mike Feuer

The Mishna is the source code of Judaism, and offers wisdom on every topic. This class will build basic skills in learning while unpacking the laws of lost and found, a topic with broad implications. We will study the Mishna in its spiritual, historical and intellectual context while asking about its relevance to life as Jews live it today.

Introductory Talmud

A World of Blessing - Shani Gross

Together we will explore sections of Tractate Berachot to introduce the structure, logic, and style of Gemara, and think about the issues the Sages of the Talmud chose to focus on in their interpretation and expansion of the Mishna.

Intermediate Talmud

Succah - Are we Dwelling in God's Wings or is He Joining Our Gourmet Dinner? - Avichai Berkovitz

Together we will learn the depth of Masechet Succah, we will learn songs, argue, and contemplate. Is holiness attainable in this world or is the gap between physical and spiritual eternal?

Upper Intermediate Talmud

Don't Shoot the Messenger...Or Should We? Agency in Jewish Law (Kiddushin) - Rachel Weber Leshaw

Have you ever taken a friend's dog for a walk? Or bought eggs for a neighbor at the supermarket? In Jewish law, this is called shlichut, or agency, and through our study of the second chapter of Kiddushin, we're going to explore how this concept manifests in different areas of Jewish life. We'll touch on topics like marriage and divorce, ritual sacrifice, and even arson. As we become better acquainted with the intricacies of the Talmudic discussion, we'll reflect on big issues such as personal autonomy, communal responsibility, and whether we can "outsource" our religious practices.

Advanced Talmud

What a Woman Acquires, Her Husband Acquires - Shana Strauch Schick

In this class we will examine the Bavli sugyot which deal with women's property ownership as being taken over by their husband. We will examine the development of this Bavli principle, how it is at odds with much tannaitic law, and how the medieval commentators dealt with that conflict. Through our examination of these sugyot, we will also gain skills in reading and analyzing Talmudic texts and its commentators.

11:45am -1:15pm (Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Striving for the Divine - Mike Feuer

Whether one looks without or within, seeking the absolute is an act of *avodah* (Divine work). This class takes the first three chapters of Genesis as its field of exploration for what that work might be. A close reading of text and a deep engagement of self will be twin tools toward our goal of learning a language that can make such work relevant to our lives and our communities.

Anger Management in the Bible - Howard Markose

How have characters in the Hebrew Bible handled moments in which they have felt anger or frustration? The A/author of the Tanach has not refrained from reporting on the expressions of ire as they unfold in the text. Moses, for example, allowed his anger get the best of him in numerous situations with at times unexpected consequences. We will look at some of those episodes in hopes of understanding what might have been going through his head that caused his outbursts. Even the Divine had occasions of anger reported in the text. What can we make of those incidents? This course will explore the many times that anger was managed (or, in some cases mismanaged) by a plethora of Biblical personalities.

Anatomy of a Shiur - Aviva Lauer, Sefi Kraut, Rachel Friedrichs

A deep dive into the pedagogy of teaching an interactive, text-centered class!

Note: This class is capped at 25 participants. Priority will be given to those people participating in the various summer educator cohorts (SELF, Jewish Educators Summer Workshop).

Study the art of crafting and facilitating an interactive text study for adult learners. Learn practical skills, such as: designing your *shiur* with a narrative arc, hooking your participants' interest, and formulating 'layered' questions. This class includes sample text studies from a variety of genres (Torah, Talmud, Midrash) and will provide you with the opportunity to practice and workshop your new skills. You will walk away from this course more prepared and confident to craft and facilitate your own *shiur* in the future!

Bonus Optional Opportunity: If you would like to devote extra time outside of class to prepare your own *shiur* while you are on the Pardes summer program, we will designate some class time for you to teach your newly crafted *shiur* to your classmates and receive constructive feedback.

Foundations of Tefillah - Maya Zinkow

In this class open to all levels, we will investigate the texts, practices, and tools that make up the foundations of Tefillah. Through studying the origins, fundamentals, and structures of Jewish prayer, we will gain an understanding of how our sages built a framework for finding daily meaning in our lives. As we look at the development of Jewish prayer over time, you'll also gain fundamental building blocks and tools to develop your own prayer practice.

Breaking Binaries: Codes, Cases, and Queer Theory - Yitz Muroff

Much of Rabbinic Literature could be divided into two genres. On the one hand codes like Maimonides' 12th century *Mishna Torah* synthesize centuries of Talmudic debate into more accessible summaries of Jewish approaches to all areas of life. On the other hand, collections of responsa like R. Moshe Feinstein's 20th century *Igrot Moshe* record one rabbi's analysis of a specific decision in a particular case. In this course we will explore this tension between generalization and specificity through close reading of the Mishna as well as texts by contemporary gender theorists.

What do the specific cases of the Mishna teach us that general principles could not capture? In what ways does the way we talk about gender capture our experiences and help us to relate to each other, and in what ways does it gloss over our lived realities and keep us apart?

2:30pm-5:00pm (Sun/Wed)

Literary Gems of the Bible (For Advanced Students) - Howard Markose

When the Divine promised to bring the Children of Israel to the Promised Land 'on eagle's wings' (Ex. 19:4), was that promise to be taken literally? We believe that the text was using a metaphor, a literary phenomenon found throughout the Biblical text. We are warned in Genesis 9:6, "The Spiller of Blood of Humankind, by Humankind his Blood shall be Spilled. This is an example of chiasm structure. Why is this word layout chosen to present this warning to human beings? 'The earth was unformed and void,' (Gen. 1:2) 'Unformed and void' is one way of describing the Hebrew words 'tohu vavohu' - תהו ובהו. Some Bible enthusiasts call these two words 'chaos', an example of Hendiadys. What do the following words found in the Bible have in common? שחט - to squeeze; הלעיטני - feed me!; גבינה - cheese; לועז - speak in a foreign language. Answer: Each of these words is a hapax legomenon, meaning they are found only one time in the entire Tanakh.

Our tradition teaches us that 'The Torah speaks in the Language of Human Beings.' The literary presentation of the Bible includes many interesting 'gems', some of which are highlighted above. Our class is an advanced course for those with a solid grasp of the Biblical text, and will focus on the occurrences of a number of different aspects of language and form found throughout the Tanach.

Determining Death: Halakhic Tradition and the Modern Controversy - Daniel Reifman

In 1968, a committee at Harvard University sparked an intense bioethical debate when it redefined medical standards of death to allow for vital organs to be taken from brain-dead patients. Halakhic authorities have weighed in on both sides of the issue, and it remains one of the most emotionally charged topics in contemporary halakhic discourse. Through a close reading of the central halakhic texts, we will clarify the issues and positions involved in this debate, and discuss the role that science and ethics play in the halakhic process.

Global Jewry: Celebrating the Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the Jewish People - Eliyahu Freedman

In this course, we delve into the rich tapestry of Jewish communities across the globe from the Biblical through the medieval and modern periods. Discover the diverse cultural, historical, and religious experiences that shape Jewish identities, from Sephardic and Ashkenazi traditions to lesser-known groups such as Beta Israel and Bene Israel. As we explore the interconnectedness and unique contributions of these vibrant communities, we celebrate the resilience and unity of the Jewish people worldwide.

Ethical Mindfulness: Seeds of Mussar Practice - Cathy Schechter

Beyond social justice and *gemilut chasidim*, what can we do to embody our highest ethical visions in our personal relationships with our closest others? Come and sample the basics of Mussar practice as taught by the Center for Contemporary Mussar. Madricha Cathy Schechter will introduce texts and various methods of training our bodies and souls to work together in harmony as we strive to become our best selves as partners, parents, daughters and sons, friends, and peacemakers. (Opportunities to continue learning through CCM will be offered after the Pardes Summer Program)

My Name is My Bond - Exodus & Identity(s) - Marc Rosenberg

The Book of Exodus - in Hebrew, Sefer Shmot means the "Book of Names". While the Exodus from Egypt is one of the most famous stories ever told, this class will be studying the principled scenes up close and personal, focusing in on multiple levels of meaning around the thematic idea of names and identity. Moshe desperately grapples with his agency throughout the book – as a baby floating on the Nile to the 80-year-old leader at the foot of Mt. Sinai); we will begin to explore the text to see how identities are formed, tested and subverted as relationships progress. There will be hevruta time (with partners) and discussions as we work with translations, dabble with a few select biblical commentators, and personal reflections to better understand the text and its relevance as moderns.

2:30pm-5:00pm (Mon/Thurs)

Farm to Table: What's for Dinner - Devorah Levine Katz

The Torah begins in a garden and ends overlooking the Land of Israel. Together, we will explore the Bible's relationship towards land and our responsibility towards it. We'll meet the original sourdough bread in Egypt, peek into some of the Bible's simplest meals along with some of its most lavish ones, and meet the farmers, shepherds, and bakers who first embarked on Judaism's journey and love affair with food.

Cultivating Jewish Spiritual Practice - Yiscah Smith

This class will explore teachings from Rabbi Kalonymus Kalmash Shapira, the Piaseczner Rebbe, that view Jewish living and tradition as a spiritual practice.

The class will focus on experiencing Talmud Torah as a spiritual practice. The body of the Torah, the external dimension, conveys sacred laws and narratives, which inspire us and guide us how to behave. However, the soul of the Torah, the internal dimension, invites us to enter a different realm. Less the realm of knowledge and doing, and more the realm of being and experience.

Learning the Torah as a spiritual practice helps the student sense unity within oneself and beyond in the world at large — which for many is in fact the religious experience that many yearn for.

War in the Jewish Imagination - Alieza Salzberg Yizhar

For the Rabbis of the Mishnah and Talmud, waging war was a distant memory, for they lived under Imperial Rome in Israel and Sassanian rule in "Bavel." However, the military prowess of David, the destruction of the Temple in 70, and the crushing defeat of Bar Kokhba continued to occupy their thoughts and imagination. Through discussions of the theoretical laws of war and stories of past military events the Rabbis thought through their own nightmares of past defeats and fantasies of power, thereby negotiating a Jewish identity in a world without Jewish sovereignty. In this class we will explore the thematization of war in multiple kinds of Jewish texts throughout the ages.

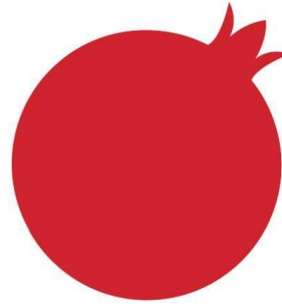
Tales from the Script: Rabbinic Aggadot in the Torah and Talmud (For Advanced Students) - Avi Spodek

This class delves into the rabbinic tradition of storytelling through the study and analysis of midrashic and talmudic aggadot . It aims to reveal how the context and placement of these stories enabled the rabbis to connect and express values for Jewish life in a way that appealed to the audience of their time.

Makhloket Matters - Sefi Kraut

SELF class (only open to SELF program participants)

PARDES SUMMER PROGRAM



Session I – July 3–20, 2023

Session II – July 23–August 3, 2023

Teacher Biographies



Mike Feuer: Mike has taught Striving for the Divine, Rav Kook and Jewish History at Pardes. He has learned Torah in a number of Jerusalem area institutions, including [Yeshivat HaMivtar](#), the [Mir Yeshiva](#) and [Sulam Yaakov](#), where he studied for smikha (rabbinic ordination) and served as Educational Director. Mike's teaching is a mix of rigorous analysis and a passionate love of the poetry found in Torah. Today, as a consultant, spiritual counselor and creator of the Jewish Story podcast, Mike is driven by the power of story to shape our world.



Shani Gross: Rabba Shani Gross is the Director of Education at Pardes North America. Shani most recently served as PNA's Director of Programs and as the Assistant Director of Education. Shani earned rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Maharat, is a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar (Class '29), and a fellow of Va'tichtov: a fellowship aimed at elevating Jewish women's scholarship. Before joining Pardes, Shani was the Director of the Silicon Valley Beit Midrash. When not teaching Shani can often be found chasing after her three sons with her husband Chaim in Berkeley, California.



Avichai Berkovitz: Avichai Berkovitz was born in Jerusalem into a family of chazanim and Rabbis from England, from childhood, Avichai imbibed Jewish music, the love of Torah, and Manchester United. He studied in Yeshivot in Carmel and Shilo, has a B.A. in Education from Herzog College, and served as a tank gunner in the IDF. After leading Australian Counterpoint and IST seminars, Avichai and his wife Tifferet, went to serve as the Rosh Kollel Torah Mi'Tzion and as Jewish educators at Moriah College in Sydney. Now back in Jerusalem, Avichai and Tifferet continue to learn and teach Torah, while chasing their two children Tuv and Miriam Hallel.



Rachel Weber Leshaw: Rachel Weber Leshaw teaches Talmud at Ohr Torah Stone's Midreshet Lindenbaum and has been faculty at Pardes' Community Education Program. She is a graduate of Nishmat's Keren Ariel Yoetzet Halacha program, as well as Yeshiva University's Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies. She lives in Efrat with her husband and three children.



Shana Strauch Schick: Dr. Shana Strauch Schick is a lecturer in Rabbinic Literature in the Multidisciplinary Department of Jewish Studies at Bar Ilan University and teaches Talmud and Jewish Law at Drisha Institute, NY. She has a PhD in Talmud from Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University and studied in Stern College's GPATS, from 2002-2007. She's the author of *Intention in Talmudic Law: Between Thought and Deed* (Brill, 2021).



Howard Markose: Howard teaches Bible and Biblical Hebrew at Pardes. Howard received his rabbinical ordination in 1984 from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He received his PhD in Bible at Bar Ilan University in January 2016. Howard conducts specialized Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies for families from North America who are visiting Israel.



Aviva Lauer: Aviva is the Director of the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators. Aviva is a Jewish educator with over twenty years of experience in curriculum development, classroom teaching, school administration and educational consulting. Working at the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators since 2009, Aviva has been a teaching coach, director of recruitment, director of the Summer Curriculum Workshop, and Assistant Director of PCJE before taking on her current role in 2017.



Rachel Friedrichs: Rachel (PCJE '07) has taught Talmud at Gann Academy in Boston, Tanakh at Yeshivat Hadar in New York, English in Gujarat, India through the American Jewish World Service Volunteer Corps, and at various gap-year programs based in Jerusalem. She is originally from New Rochelle, NY and currently lives in Modi'in with her family.



Sefi Kraut: Upon moving to Israel in 2013, Sefi taught in several gap year programs before joining the faculty of the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators where she is thrilled to be involved in training the next generation of Jewish educators. Additionally, Sefi is the Director of Education for the Pardes Mahloket Matters Schools project. In that capacity, she has co-created a new curriculum for high school students called, "Mahloket Matters: Navigating Inner Challenges and Societal Discord through Jewish Text and Social-Emotional Learning." Sefi also teaches Mahloket Matters fellowships geared to Day School educators, Rabbis, Hillel professionals, and lay leaders.



Maya Zinkow: Rabbi Maya Zinkow is the Senior Jewish Educator at Berkeley Hillel. She received rabbinic ordination and a Masters in Jewish Women and Gender Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. While studying at JTS, Maya served as a rabbinic intern at the Columbia/Barnard Hillel and at Kehilat Romemu on the Upper West Side. Before starting her rabbinic studies, Maya graduated from Barnard College with a degree in English literature and creative writing and followed her love of text to the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, where she learned Torah for two years. She is thrilled to return to her favorite Beit Midrash!



Yitz Muroff: Yitz brings a queer approach to Torah learning. This manifests not only through engagement with content that deals with gender and sexuality, but also through seeing each text on its own terms. Yitz aspires to expose texts that masquerade as detached and technical as sites of deep meaning that offer spiritual teachings and life advice. Yitz brings experience to their teaching from learning Torah at Yeshivat Maale Gilboa, Hadar, Drisha, and Pardes; studying English Literature at Cornell University; and coordinating educational programming at Kivunim, Ramah Israel, and Pardes.



Daniel Reifman: Daniel teaches Talmud in the Pardes Kollel and the Intensive Talmud Skills course. His education attests to his wide-ranging intellectual interests: he holds a B.A. in biology from Columbia University, rabbinic ordination and an M.A. in Tanakh from Yeshiva University, and a Ph.D in hermeneutics from Bar-Ilan University. He has published and lectured widely on topics in the philosophy of halakhah and Jewish medical ethics. Currently, he also teaches at the Institute for Advanced Torah Studies at Bar-Ilan and is the director of the Drisha Summer Kollel.



Eliyahu Freedman: Eliyahu Freedman is a Pardes alum and former PhD student at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he studied Judeo-Arabic and is currently a correspondent for Al Jazeera English. Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, he has lived in Jaffa, Israel for four years since making Aliyah. While not working on research or writing research, Eliyahu is an avid practitioner of mindfulness meditation and enjoys playing guitar and watching sunset at the beach.



Cathy Schechter: Cathy and her staff at Orchard Communications produced dozens of creative and award-winning educational campaigns for adults geared to behavior change in the interest of public health, better education and overall well-being. She subsequently earned a MAJS from Hebrew College in 2016, and has since been "ordained" a Maggidah by Reclaiming Judaism, certified as a Mussar Madrichah by the Center for Contemporary Mussar, and attended rabbinical school at the Academy of Jewish Religion (NY). In addition to her extraordinary teachers at Pardes, she has had the great good fortune to learn with the storytellers Peninnah Schram and Cherie Schwartz; R. Ira Stone, founder of the Center for Contemporary Mussar, and others; and Rabbi Dr. Nehemiah Polen at Hebrew College, who guided her deep exploration of the alternate story of Elisha ben Abuya (Acher) found in Talmud Yerushalmi .



Marc Rosenberg: Marc Rosenberg is the VP of Diaspora Partnerships at Nefesh B'Nefesh – a non-profit organization that is revitalizing Aliyah from North America and the UK. He is an experienced educator and collaborates with several educational institutions in Israel and around the world. Originally from Cherry Hill, NJ, Marc lives in Jerusalem with his awesome wife and 5 children.



Devorah Levine Katz: Devorah Levine Katz is a Jewish educator and entrepreneur. She began her career as assistant director of Young Judea's Year Course and then moved into the world of classroom teaching, informal education and curriculum development. Devorah has written curriculum for the Lookstein Center, Camp Moshava, the iCenter and served as an educational consultant and editor for the Global Day of Jewish Learning. In 2015, together with husband, David, Devorah opened Pat Bamelach, an artisan sourdough bakery which focused on both breads and culinary workshops. Currently, Devorah and David are working on their next project, Meshek 48, a space for Israel-centric culinary workshops with a focus on sustainability and farming.



Yiscah Smith: Yiscah teaches Jewish contemplative practice and spiritual texts at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and at Applied Jewish Spirituality. She has also founded and directs Conscious Community Nachlaot, an organization in Jerusalem that hosts Shabbat in-person spiritual gatherings, virtual guided meditation sittings and spiritual text classes. In addition, Yiscah works with individuals in her private spiritual mentoring practice. Yiscah has earned a reputation as a sought-after inspiring international public speaker.



Alieza Salzberg Yizhar: Alieza Salzberg Yizhar is writing a Phd, in the Jewish Literature Department at Bar Ilan, exploring the intersection of gender and war in Rabbinic Literature. She teaches Midrash and Talmud at various institutions in Jerusalem and is studying for ordination at Yeshivat Maharat.



Avi Spodek: Avi Spodek is a master Jewish educator and a graduate of the Pardes Educators' Program (Cohort 11) who received rabbinic ordination from Rav Zalman Nechemiah Goldberg zt"l and Rav Daniel Landes shlit"a. Avi lives in Baltimore, MD with his wife, Tikki, and their three children, Jack, Ariella and Noah.