

Weekly Schedule. Pardes Summer Program – July 10-28, 2022

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
8:45 - 11:15 am	<p><i>The Music of Mishna – Mishna/ Talmud Introductory - David Debow</i></p> <p><i>What to Wear to a Meeting with God – (Tractate Berachot) – Introductory Talmud - Avichai Berkovitz</i></p> <p><i>Sounds of Memory and Sovereignty – Preparing for the High Holydays (Tractate Rosh Hashanna) – Introductory Talmud - Sara Tova Brody</i></p> <p><i>Don't Shoot the Messenger...Or Should We? Agency in Jewish Law (Tractate Kiddushin) – Introductory Talmud – Rachel Weber-Leshaw</i></p> <p><i>Creating Commitment - Selected Sugyot from Tractate Kiddushin – Intermediate Talmud - Leah Rosenthal</i></p> <p><i>"But that's not how we do it at home!" Tractate Pesachim – Advanced Talmud – Matthew Nitzanim</i></p>					
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	<p><i>Rav Kook: Song of the Soul – Mike Feuer</i></p> <p><i>Permitted Yet Prohibited: Gender in Ritual and Practice - Nechama Goldman Barash</i></p> <p><i>Jacob and Esau: Wrestling with the Text – Shmuel Klitsner</i></p> <p><i>The Five Megillot and Their Relevance to Us Today - Howard Markose</i></p> <p>SELF Cohort #2 Mahloket Matters – Reuven Margrett</p> <p>Mahloket Matters Hillel Fellowship - Sefi Kraut</p>			<p>GUEST SPEAKERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rav Kook</i> • <i>Gender</i> • <i>Jacob and Esau</i> • <i>Five Megillot</i> • <i>SELF #2 Cohort Class</i> • <i>Mahloket Matters Hillel Fellowship</i> 	
1:15 - 1:30 pm	Optional Mehitza Mincha/Egalitarian Mincha/ Learners Mincha					
1:15 - 2:30 pm	LUNCH		TUESDAY TOURS 2:30-6:00PM	LUNCH		
Afternoon Classes	2:30 - 5 pm Sunday / Wednesday			2:30 - 5 pm Monday / Thursday		
2:30 – 5:00 pm	<p><i>Anatomy of a Shiur</i> Rachel Friedrichs, Sefi Kraut, Aviva Lauer</p> <p><i>Why Bad things Happen to Good People</i> Sam Lebens</p> <p><i>Rashi's ABC's: Getting to Know the Simple and Complex Approach of Rashi's Commentary to the Torah (int-adv)</i> Howard Markose</p> <p><i>Conscious Community: A Guide to Inner Spiritual Work</i> Yiscah Smith</p> <p><i>Stories We Wish Weren't There: Wrestling with Nasty Biblical Narratives</i> Ora Weinbach</p>			<p><i>A Taste of Shabbat: The What, How and Why of the Day of Rest</i> Mike Feuer</p> <p><i>Jewish Social Justice. Informing Our Religious and Communal Spaces</i> Nechama Goldman Barash</p> <p><i>Writings of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks</i> Alex Israel</p> <p><i>Mishpatim: The First Law Code of the Torah (int-adv)</i> Marty Lockshin</p> <p><i>Relationships Intimacy - Friends and Lovers</i> Tova Leah Nachmani</p> <p>SELF Cohort #1 Looking Back and Moving Ahead</p>		
Evening Extras	* 5:15-6:45 – <i>Scribal Arts</i> . Dov Laimon Sun/Wed * <i>Trope</i> – Howard Markose Sun/Wed					

8:45-11:15 am Morning Intensives

Talmud Class Levels:

Mishna/Talmud Intro – If you cannot read Hebrew and/or if you have no experience with Rabbinic texts, this is the class for you. It will provide a broad and robust introduction to the world of the Oral Law and will study texts from Mishna, and introduce you to Talmudic thinking.

Talmud Intro This class assumes that you can read Hebrew script, that you know at least 20 words in Hebrew but have never really studied Talmud. This class will provide an opportunity to begin reading the Talmud in the original Aramaic.

Talmud Intermediate – This class assumes that you have taken Talmud classes but cannot independently read a Talmudic text fluently.

Talmud Advanced – This class assumes at least one year of experience with Talmud and the ability to read Rashi script. We will also study relevant medieval commentaries as needed.

The Music of Mishnah (Introductory)

David Debow

Over the course of our 14 meetings we will explore both the media and the message of Mishnah. This ancient text compiled by Rebbe Yehuda HaNasi in the beginning of third century represents the backbone of the entire corpus of the Oral Law.

We will sample Mishnayot from each of the six “Orders” of the Mishnah touching on the full range of the Oral Law, from agriculture to liturgy and ritual, from marriage to tortes, from the intuitive economic laws to the strange world of purity and sacrifices.

Our goal will be two-fold, We aim to understand the meaning each Mishna conveys and to gain an appreciation for the method it uses to convey those meanings. We will be working with the Hebrew and English texts of the Mishna. Hebrew facility is certainly useful but not required.

Talmud Intro

What to Wear to a Meeting with God?

Avichai Berkovitz

In this course we’ll walk hand in hand with the Sages of the Talmud and the Mishnah, as we study together the fifth chapter of Tractate Brachot. Almost the entire chapter deals with prayer – how we stand, our dress, our speech, and especially our spiritual readiness for an encounter with the Infinite One.

We’ll delve into stories about the biblical Adam, Hannah, King David and examine the relationship between Halachic “Chumras” (stringencies) and Jewish humor.

But most of all, together we will enter into the wonderful world of Talmud, living and breathing the fascinating discourse that takes place in the fifth chapter of Tractate Brachot.

Sounds of Memory and Sovereignty: Preparing Ourselves for the High Holy Days

Sara Tova Brody

As the summer peaks, we are approaching the High Holy Days, Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur. This time of year is regarded by many as a

highlight in the Jewish liturgical year, but how much do we really understand of the special prayers and rituals of this day? This class will delve into the final chapter of Tractate Rosh Hashannah, a chapter devoted to the central mitzvah of this day – the blowing of the shofar – and to the special prayers we say on this day. As we better acquaint ourselves with the structure and content of Talmudic sugyot, we will reflect on the meaning we seek to imbue this special time of year with and better acquaint ourselves with the tools provided for us by our sages to this end.

Don't Shoot the Messenger...Or Should We? Agency in Jewish Law (Tractate 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.

Intermediate Talmud

"Creating Commitment" Selected Sugyot from Massechet Kiddushin

Leah Rosenthal

Tractate Kiddushin discusses the initial stage of creating a legal bond of marriage between a couple. We will study selections from the second and third chapter of this tractate, which discuss complications that may

arise from lack of clarity, in intent and in speech. As we follow the discussions and debates of the Talmud, we will gain insight into some of the perspectives that the Rabbis of the Talmud bring to this topic, as well as appreciate and acknowledge some of the complex history of the Talmudic text itself.

Talmud Advanced

"But that's not how we do it at home!" - The Authority of "Minhag Hamakom"

Matthew Nitzanim

Is it important to observe local customs? What happens when they stand at odds with the practices of one's own family or hometown, or one's personal views? How beholden are we to the views of our parents and teachers? And if a Sfardi and Ashkenazi marry, how many hours do they wait between milk and meat?

The fourth chapter of Pesachim (*Makom Shenahagu*) is devoted to the authority of local norms (*Minhag Hamakom*), delineating their scope and significance.

The questions raised regarding our notions of law, tradition, memory, and home have real bearing on our own religious practice, as we consider what it means for norms to be bound to particular places or communities, especially as our world (including the Jewish world) becomes more and more interconnected.

Along the way, we'll explore the particular examples discussed in the Perek, including observing the second day of Yom Tov, lighting candles for Yom Kippur, fasting on minor fast days, and more

11:45am – 1:15pm Mid-morning Classes

Rav Kook : Song of the Soul

Mike Feuer

Rav Abraham Isaac Hakohen Kook is called one of the spiritual giants of the 20th century. In this class we will explore his approach to Divine service and his thoughts on fundamental questions which arise from living Judaism in a post-modern world. Our focus will be on unpacking these texts in their intellectual and cultural context, but we will also engage them as examples of a life lived in intimacy with the Divine.

Permitted and Prohibited: Does Gender Still Matter in Halakhic Judaism?

Nechama Goldman Barash

Does the gender binary still exist in Judaism? To answer that question, we will explore the rabbinic and Jewish legal approach to women dating back 2000 years. This allows us to understand the exemptions and exclusions imposed on women within the system of Jewish law, affecting their role in society. While many things may be technically permitted, society and community play a tremendous role in deciding which laws are accepted and which are rejected.

We will look at contemporary examples including women and rabbinic ordination through different denominational responses to topics that have restructured some of the denominations and how Orthodoxy is struggling to respond to the possibility of a more egalitarian structure.

We will also address questions of nakedness and sexuality, specifically how women's physical presence is perceived through topics of hair covering, women singing in public, and the question of religious dress

codes followed by a look at laws of sexual intimacy involving the ritual bath known as Mikvah.

Jacob and Esau: Wrestling with the Text

A psychological literary close reading of Bereishit 22–32

Shmuel Klitsner

Genesis ch.22-32 describe the epic struggle between Jacob and Esau, as well as Jacob's personal wrestling with his own angels and demons, his struggle to build a ladder between his own internal heaven and earth.

We will examine Jacob's dreams and also the deceptions of ourselves and of others that threaten the fragile development of our identities.

With close attention to biblical language and commentary, this class will offer an intellectually exhilarating exploration of dreams, Freudian slips, resistances and transference, as Jacob, mirroring everyman, wrestles with men and God and struggles to be blessed.

The Five Megillot and Their Relevance to Us Today

Howard Markose

While the Five Books of Moses enjoy a continuity that takes their readers from the creation of the world to the moment just before the Children of Israel enter the Promised Land, the Five Megillot are as far from continuous literature as can be.

This course is designed to explore the importance of these Biblical books – Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther – in their liturgical role in Judaism, as well as their relevance to modern Jews and their sensibilities.

No Hebrew background is required for this course.

Sun-Wed Afternoons. 2:30-5:00 pm

Anatomy of a Shiur: A deep dive into the pedagogy of teaching an interactive, text-centered class

Rachel Friedrichs, Seji Kraut, Aviva Lauer

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, Mahloket Matters Hillel group).

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.

This immersive Summer Program course in Jerusalem is a joint project of Pardes North America and The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators.

Why Bad Things Happen to Good People? An examination of classical and contemporary Jewish responses to the problem of evil.

Sam Lebens

Classical Jewish theology is committed to the existence of a God loving enough to eradicate evil, and powerful and knowledgeable to do so too.

These commitments make it something of a puzzle that gratuitous evil exists in our world. If God didn't want the righteous to suffer, surely they wouldn't, but they do! If God didn't want the wicked to prosper, surely they wouldn't, but they do!

In this class we'll examine a broad history of responses to this problem, from the Bible, through the Rabbis, and up until today.

Rashi's ABC's: Getting to Know the Simple and Complex Approach of Rashi's Commentary to the Torah

Howard Markose

Traditional Jewish speeches very often begin with an introduction to Rashi's commentary on the Torah. One might begin with an analysis of a verse by asking, "What does Rashi say?" And indeed, Rashi is examined as to his take on a given word or phrase of the Torah text.

This course will explore the many prisms through which this great Medieval commentator shared his insights with his audience – an audience that has studied his interpretations for centuries.

Participants will benefit from a rudimentary knowledge of Biblical Hebrew as well as an openness to creative Torah interpretation.

Bnei Machshava Tova - Conscious Community: A Guide to Inner Spiritual Practice

Yiscah Smith

This class will explore Rabbi Kalonymus Kalmash Shapira's, the Piaseczner Rebbe's, *Bnei Machshava Tova*, his masterpiece on cultivating an expanded and higher consciousness. This type of awareness senses the Divine Presence in an immanent, visceral and connecting way. The class is designed to provide the necessary tools that

will enable the student to discover the inner self and to hear the soul's unique "still small voice." In this way, the text becomes a guide to Jewish spiritual practice and community. Cultivating the spiritual practice of self-observation, many consider this book to be a timeless guide to Jewish spirituality that serves as an invaluable resource for today's seekers.

Stories We Wish Weren't There: Wrestling with Nasty Biblical Narratives

Ora Weinbach

The prophetic books of Tanakh are full of beauty and inspiration... as well as some extremely disturbing material. This course will openly discuss and critically analyze some of these infrequently taught texts, focusing on those which include female characters. We will consider the text itself, its history of reception, and our modern perspectives. Please note that these classes will discuss mature themes, including sexual and physical violence directed towards women.

Classes would cover some of these stories: Yiftach's daughter, Gomer (Hoshea's wife), Michal (Shaul's daughter), Yishaya's Daughter Zion, Tamar (David's Daughter), Orpa (Ruth's sister), Pilegish B'Givah, Ezekiel's Isha Sotah.

Mon-Thurs Afternoons. 2:30-5:00 pm

A Taste of Shabbat. The What, How and Why of the Day of Rest

Mike Feuer

Shabbat introduces the idea of holiness into the text of the Torah, and into our daily lives as well. In this class we will explore some of the legal aspects of the seventh day and touch the depths of meaning available in its experience. Our goal is to acquire knowledge and wisdom which can make the practice of Shabbat meaningful and enriching.

Jewish Social Justice. Informing Our Religious and Communal Spaces

Nechama Goldman Barash

In this short six part series we will take six different topics involving Social Justice and explore them through the lens of Jewish text that will allow us to segue into conversations surrounding contemporary topics that deeply affect us today. The topics will include:

- Tikkun Olam (fixing the world) as a Jewish value and how far that can be extended,
- Poverty Relief,
- Vegetarianism,
- Inclusivity of Other which will address three sub-topics of Disabilities, Gay Rights and attitudes towards non-Jews in the Jewish tradition.

The series is meant to inspire conversations that will hopefully continue beyond the summer program and help infuse religious and communal spaces with a greater commitment to Social Justice.

The Writings of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z”l

Alex Israel

Rabbi Sacks was the world's leading Jewish public intellectual and ambassador. But what were his core messages?

This course will survey his books and their groundbreaking ideas.

Each class will follow a particular book authored by Rabbi Sacks, its central arguments and concepts:

Introduction: Rabbi Sacks. His Life and Works.

1. Why be Jewish? (Letter in a Scroll)
2. Religious Violence. Universalism and Particularism (The Dignity of Difference)
3. How Modern Society is Broken, and How to Fix It. (Politics of Hope, Morality)
4. The State of Israel. Miracle and Challenge (Future Tense)
5. How did Rabbi Sacks read the Creation Chapter? - Religion and Science (The Great Partnership)
6. Thoughts on Continuity, Torah and Prayer (The Sacks-Koren Siddur, Will we Have Jewish Grandchildren?, Covenant & Conversation.)

Mishpatim. The First Law Code of the Torah (Int-Adv)

Marty Lockshin

Immediately after the Ten Commandments, the Torah presents (in Exodus 21-23) a detailed law code, often known as the Covenant Code. The laws in this code mostly deal with torts and other forms of misbehavior toward other human beings, but also contain a small number of “religious” laws. In our course we will read these texts carefully and will attempt to figure out what is so important about these specific laws that they are given such a prominent place in the Torah. Additionally, we will examine this code both in comparison with

other law codes from the ancient world, and through the eyes of the traditional Jewish Bible commentators, who both explain the text and also, at times, attempt to update the laws. Texts will be read in Hebrew; English translations will be available.

Relationships Intimacy - Friends and Lovers

Tovah Leah Nachmani

We all experience glitches of discord and controversy - not only with difficult people in our midst, but also with those we love - with ourselves, our family, friends and lovers.

A wide range of classic to modern Jewish texts, in Hebrew alongside translations, combined with innovative reflection exercises and practical paths of application makes this course not just a learning experience, but a journey of transformation.

Required: An inquiring mind and an open heart.

Faculty Biographies

Avichai Berkovitz 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.

Sara Tova Brody holds an M.A. in Medieval Jewish History and Gender Studies from Bar Ilan University and a B.A. in Jewish History from Hebrew University. She has studied at many institutions for Torah-learning, including the Stella K. Abrahams Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz and Mechon Hadar in New York. Sara Tova has been teaching Talmud in different institutions for the past 10 years, including the Jewish Theological Seminary, Drisha and the Conservative Yeshiva. Sara Tova lives in Mazkeret Batya with her husband, a Masorti rabbi, and their two small children.

Rabbi David Debow is the founding director of Midreshet Emunah v'Omanut, a unique Seminary in Jerusalem specializing in Torah education and the Arts. He and his family spent time in Cleveland at the Mizrahi School, while he served in various capacities including High School Principal. He holds an MA in Educational Administration from Ursuline College and a BA in Physics from Yeshiva University. He learned at Yeshivat Har Etzion and served in the IDF. He currently resides in Alon Shevut with his wife, a noted author Dr. Yocheved Debow and their lovely family.

Rabbi Mike Feuer is a Pardes faculty member. He has learned Torah in a number of Jerusalem area institutions, including Yeshivat HaMivtar, the Mir Yeshiva and Sulam Yaakov Bet Midrash. He received his semikhah from Sulam Yaakov, where he now spends all his time when not engaged with his wonderful wife and five children. His vision of Torah aspires to rigorous analysis and a passionate love of poetry and approaches learning as a process of mutual self-development. His particular loves in Torah are the Early Prophets, the Maharal and the Bet Yosef. See his website <http://jewishstory.co/>

Rabbanit Nechama Goldman-Barash is a graduate of Stern College and the Advanced Talmud Institute at Matan, a three-year intensive program for Talmud study. She holds a MA in Talmud from Bar-Ilan University, teaches at Pardes, Midreshet Lindenbaum and Matan. Nechama is a Yoetzet Halakha – a certified expert on Jewish Law related to Nidda and sexuality.

Rabbi Alex Israel has taught at Pardes for over a decade, and serves Director of the Summer program, as well as Pardes' Community Education.

Alex grew up in London and holds degrees from LSE, the Institute of Education London and from Bar-Ilan University. Alex studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and was awarded semikhah from the Israeli Rabbinat. He volunteers for Tzohar – a rabbinic group that works to bridge gaps between religious and secular communities in Israel.

He lives with his wife and family in Gush Etzion. See his "I Kings – Torn in Two" (Maggid, 2013) and "II Kings – In a Whirlwind" (Maggid, 2019) or read his Torah at www.alexisrael.org.

Rabbi Shmuel Klitsner has taught Bible and Talmud for many years at Jerusalem's Midreshet Lindenbaum. He is the chairman of Midreshet Lindenbaum's groundbreaking Women's Institute of Halakic Leadership. Klitsner was involved in the award winning Hanukah animation Lights, and

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served as Rabbi of Emunah's School for Torah and Arts. Klitsner is the author of Wrestling Jacob: Deception, Identity, and Freudian Slips in Genesis and co-author of the educational novel, The Lost Children of Tarshish.

Sefi Kraut 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."

She has been teaching Judaic Studies since 2004. She began her professional career teaching Tanakh to middle school students at a Jewish day school in Paramus, NJ. 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 training the next generation of Jewish educators.

Rabbi Dr. Samuel Lebens is Associate Professor of philosophy at the University of Haifa. His academic interests are wide ranging spanning the philosophy of literature, the philosophy of time, the work of Bertrand Russell, and the philosophy of religion. Recent books of his include The Principles of Judaism (Oxford University Press) and A Guide for the Jewish Undecided: A Philosopher Makes the Case for Orthodox Judaism (Maggid Books and Yeshiva University Press). Sam is also an ordained Orthodox Rabbi having studied in numerous Israeli Yeshivot. He was born and raised in England, and now lives in Netanya with his wife and three children. In addition to his permanent position at the University of Haifa, Sam is also adjunct faculty at Pardes and Drisha.

Rabbi Prof. Martin Lockshin taught Jewish Studies for 38 years at York University in Toronto where he has the title of University Professor Emeritus. He is the author of six books and dozens of articles on the Bible and Bible

commentaries. He retired and moved to Israel and has taught since at Pardes and other Israeli institutions.

Rabbi Reuven Margrett

Reuven Margrett is the Director of Digital Content at the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators.

A former graduate of the Pardes Day School Educators' Programme ('05-'07), with an MA in Jewish Education and ordination from Rabbi Zalman Nehemiah Goldberg of Jerusalem, he taught Rabbinic texts and was an administrator for over ten years in London and Detroit. Currently, he is working on his doctorate in Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education at Michigan State University.

Passionate about Jewish education he loves talking about pedagogy, Jewish texts, and how to best prepare and support diverse Jewish educators to create a strong and vibrant Jewish future. He encourages all Jewish educators to join the PCJE Network Facebook group.

Rabbi Dr. Howard Markose teaches Bible and Biblical Hebrew at Pardes. He was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Howard received his rabbinical ordination in 1984 from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Howard lived in Toronto for ten years from 1984-1994 at which time he served as assistant rabbi at Adath Israel Congregation and rabbi at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. He and his family made Aliyah in 1994 and after seven years as rabbi of Kehilat Moreshet Avraham in Jerusalem, he became the Director of Education for the Young Judea Year Course. 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. He lives in Jerusalem and is married and has four children.

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Tovah Leah Nachmani believes in learning which connects the mind to the heart. She teaches Bible, Liturgy and Prayer and Relationships at Pardes.

Tovah Leah holds a B.A. in Near Eastern Language and Literature and Religious Studies from Indiana University, a Teaching Certificate in Tanach and Jewish Thought from Herzog College, and she recently qualified as a certified Reflexologist.

Tovah Leah has written and guided experiential learning programs for mothers and their Bat Mitzva age daughters at the Women's Beit Midrash in Efrat, where she taught Prayer and Jewish Thought. Tovah Leah was a Jewish educator and program director for many years, together with her husband Gabi, for Livnot U'Lehibanot ("To Build and Be Built") in Tzfat and Jerusalem. They co-authored the widely-used song book "Zemirot from Livnot." She also served as Assistant Educational Director for Ayeka – an international organization training Jewish lay and professional leaders to facilitate spiritual education seminars for Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations.

Matthew Nitzanim (he/him) is studying for Semicha (rabbinic ordination) at Yeshivat Machanayim (OTS). Raised in Silver Spring, MD, and a graduate of Princeton University, Matthew is currently pursuing a masters in bioethics at Bar-Ilan University. He teaches Talmud and Contemporary Jewish Thought at Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi. Matthew lives in Jerusalem with his spouse and child.

Leah Rosenthal has been teaching Talmud at Pardes for over thirty years. She holds a BA in Talmud and Jewish Thought and an MA in Jewish Education, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She also teaches Talmud at the Pelech High School for Girls and has taught at various educational institutions in Jerusalem over the years. She lives in Jerusalem with her family

Yiscah Smith is a Jewish educator, spiritual activist and published author who addresses the spiritual practice of encountering the Divine spark within, the

foundation of authentic living. She employs her personal story of the joys and struggles with her spirituality, Jewish tradition and commitment to authentic living.

As a spiritual trailblazer, she exemplifies what it means to carve one's own path: understanding one's inner being and cultivating the integrity to remaining faithful to that understanding, unapologetically. Yiscah encourages, ennobles and empowers others to do the same.

Yiscah is adjunct faculty and teaches Jewish meditative practice and spiritual texts at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and in her home in Jerusalem. She provides as well spiritual mentoring to individuals seeking an awareness of the Divine spark within. Yiscah is also a public speaker, both in Israel and abroad.

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.

Ora Weinbach just received her Masters in Divinity from Yale Divinity School, graduating with the John A. Wade prize in preaching. In addition to pastoral training, her studies focused on Hebrew Bible, Theology, and Jewish Feminism. Ora serves as Young Israel of Brookline's Community Educator, participates in Ohr Torah Stone's International Halakha Scholars Program, and is a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Before beginning her graduate studies, she taught Limmudei Qodesh for seven years at the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School, where she was also the 9th Grade Dean, and served as Community Educator at The Jewish Center (Manhattan) and the Young Israel of Scarsdale. Ora holds a BA in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University and is a certified Sexuality Educator. She teaches human sexuality both to teens and parents and consults with Jewish day schools on sexuality education

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curriculum development and execution. Ora lives in Brookline, MA with her husband, and will be teaching Tanakh at Maimonides High School in the Fall. She loves yoga, hiking, cooking, and epic fantasy novels.