

8:45-11:15 am Morning Intensives

Talmud Class Levels:

Mishna/Talmud Intro – If you cannot read Hebrew and/or if you have no substantial 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.

Mishna/Talmud Intro

Dena Freundlich

The Scope of Talmudic Texts: Prayer, Marriage, Violence

This class is designed to provide an introductory overview of how the Mishna and Gemara work and think - what types of issues they address, their general style of argumentation and analysis, and their relationship to the Biblical text, to each other, and to the later commentators. Each week, we will explore a different Order (there are 6 Orders of Mishna and Gemara altogether) so as to appreciate the scope of these classic texts. The first week, we will learn selections from Tractate Brachot (Blessings) that deal with the Rabbinic approach to prayer, in particular the tension between prayer as a personal cry to God vs. a religious ritual with

specific obligations and parameters. The second week, we will delve into passages from Tractate Kiddushin (Marriage) that deal with questions of agency – Can you send an agent to perform a mitzvah for you? To marry someone for you? Who will be held responsible if you hire a hit man to carry out a murder? In the final week, we will study sections from Bava Kama that deal with our responsibility when we injure someone else, including such questions as: How does one put a price tag on an arm or on humiliation?

Talmud Intro

Joshua Weisberg

Jews and Gentiles: Navigating Identity, Power and Culture (Tractate Avoda Zara)

Like all tractates in the Talmud, Avodah Zarah, which means “foreign worship” in Hebrew, asks both philosophical and practical questions: Are differences between Jews and gentiles essential? Are they religious? Ethnic? Historical? Are Jews different by design? By accident? Why sustain those differences? What is at risk if we integrate? What is at risk if we don’t? What are Jews’ responsibilities to non-Jews? What lies at the heart of humanity’s relationship with God, and what role does law play in that relationship?

The Talmud is an ancient Hebrew and Aramaic text, composed of conversations, stories and laws. Its discussions adhere to complex rules of legal reasoning. Talmudic arguments flow along a brisk stream of consciousness and the Rabbis’ narrative style can confuse the most assiduous student. To exacerbate matters, as thoughtful and creative as the ancient rabbis were, they taught from within an ancient cultural context. Their teachings don’t fit easily into our intellectual and moral categories. Talmud study requires patience, persistence, and a

willingness to suspend judgment.

Rahel Berkovits

Darkhei Shalom- Ways of Peace: Talmud Tractate Gittin

This class is designed to get you reading Talmud! The course will focus on basic skills—understanding the structure of the Talmudic page and passage, and how to follow its complex arguments, acquiring key terms and basic vocabulary, and gaining a sense of how to think about a page of Talmud. Students will also encounter the literary power of the Talmud and will have the opportunity to examine and discuss a number of existential and halakhic questions that preoccupied the Sages from 0-600 CE and yet are still relevant to today. Such as How important is it to compromise the letter of the law for the sake of peace among people?

Whom do the Rabbis consider to be part of an average Jew's concentric community? Which areas in life do the Rabbis feel cause the most fighting and unrest in communities? (Don't be surprised when the Synagogue tops the list!) How was the Torah given? In-depth attention will be paid- through critical analysis of language and structure- to the overarching meta-halakhic concepts and theological and philosophical messages the Sages are trying to convey in their discussions.

Intermediate Talmud

Leah Rosenthal

Neighbours- a Talmudic Perspective on Building Community: Tractate Bava Batra

In this class we will study a selection of Talmudic passages from the first and second chapters of tractate Bava Batra. As we focus on developing and advancing our Talmudic reading skills and our appreciation of the nature and inner structures of the Talmudic text, we will also be following the Talmud's discussion of issues that are still of great relevance today. Outlining the parameters of the reciprocal obligations between the individual and the community, we will follow ancient discussions regarding matters such as privacy, security, charity and public education, which concern us no less in our contemporary societies than they did in the world of the Rabbis of the Mishna and Talmud.

Advanced Talmud

Zvi Hirschfeld

What We Say and How We Say it

We will be learning the 7th chapter of Tractate Sota which addresses a range of Speech related Mitzvot and whether they must be performed in Hebrew.

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.

11:45am – 1:15pm Mid-morning Classes

Sexuality and Sanctity: Towards a Jewish Sexual Ethic

Rahel Berkovits

What does Judaism have to say about issues surrounding sexuality? What values and challenges can the rabbinic texts impart for us living with the modern sexual norms of the twenty first century? In this class we will examine, analyze and openly discuss rabbinic texts from the Torah and Talmud through to the modern responsa and different Jewish denominational responses on topics connected to sexual conduct such as pleasure, consent, marital sex, gay sex, premarital/non-marital sex, and masturbation. The classroom aims to be a safe space for students of diverse backgrounds, practices, genders and orientations.

Prophecy and the roots of Jewish Spirituality

Mike Feuer

Before there were rabbis there were prophets, and even once the age of prophecy ended their path of Divine service did not disappear. This class will be an exploration of the prophetic tradition in Jewish texts ranging from the Bible to the 20th century. Our goal will be to better understand what prophecy was and to trace its impact on Jewish practice today, and perhaps to answer the question - where have all the prophets gone?

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

Nechama Goldman Barash

This course will look at a wide variety of topics involving women as individuals, in family units and in community with the traditional Jewish space. We will use primary source material to understand how the

binary structure distinguishing between the sexes emerged and how it continues to have influence today in public spaces like synagogue and private spaces like divorce ceremonies. We will talk about the different denominations' responses to feminism including prayer services and ordination. Finally, we will discuss issues around dress and sexuality, both with regard to heterosexual and same sex relationships. While it will be source based, it is a course that will look at a lot of relevant contemporary issues and will encourage open discussion.

Introduction and Survey of the Laws of Shabbat

Zvi Hirschfield

We will be learning about some of the basic positive and negative commandments of Shabbat, tracing their development from the Talmud through contemporary Halakhic decision makers. Sources will be available in English and Hebrew. No prior background is required for this class.

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Analyzing the Strategic Placement of Animals in the Bible

Howard Markose

Animals are found in the Hebrew Bible, of that there is no doubt. Whether as symbols describing the Israelites or their enemies, as metaphors, or as actual animals which appear in the narrative, there are animals mentioned in our Tanakh. What might have been behind the Author's decision to bring members of the animal kingdom into the Tanakh? Whether they be talking snakes or jennies, attacking bears or lions, or animals that fly (birds or locusts), our Tanakh text makes very deliberate use of animals. We hope to explore this vast menagerie during our time together.

2:30-5pm. Afternoon Classes

Sun-Wed

A Contemporary Israel Workshop

Alex Israel and Jamie Salter

This workshop will study the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a biblical, historical and contemporary lens. It will review some of the regional history (wars, peace agreements, terror). It will present the Jewish historical and biblical background to Israel. It will attempt to offer both right-wing and left-wing narratives and grapple with them. We will visit the City of David and meet its Jewish residents. We will tour Silwan and meet its Palestinian residents. Through this course we will seek to become more knowledgeable about the nuances and complexities of the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Please note: This course will be a course taught primarily from a Jewish-Zionist perspective, albeit a critical one and one which presents multiple narratives. Guest speakers representing different perspectives will be invited but full objectivity on this topic is unreachable.

This class is limited to 20 participants

It includes walking tours

Jewish Wisdom and Eternal Human Dilemmas

William Friedman

Session 1: "Do Not Stand Idly By": Is the Obligation to Save Others Unlimited?

Session 2: Lifeboat Ethics: When Do I Have to Sacrifice My Life for Another?

Session 3: Self-Sacrifice and Self-Endangerment: The Case of Organ Donation

Session 3: Hard Choices: Do the Lives of the Many Outweigh the Life of the One?

Session 4: Your Life or My Laundry: Priorities in Social Justice

Session 5: Values in Tension: Abortion as a Test Case

Session 6: Jewish Law as a Source of Wisdom: Some Guiding Principles

All texts are given in the original and in translation, and students are exposed to a wide variety of (mostly legal) texts, with a focus on key ideas in Jewish ethical discourse.

Morally Troubling Biblical Texts

Marty Lockshin

What do traditional Jews do when the stories or laws of the Bible offend their moral sensibilities? In this course we will study six morally troubling biblical texts and see how the great commentators of our tradition dealt with the issues that they raise.

The Big Six: Major Questions in Jewish Philosophy

Elliott Malamet

This course will examine some of the central issues of Judaism through the lens of medieval and modern Jewish thought. Questions to be examined include: Did God create the world? What happened at Sinai? Is chosenness racist? Is Israel a holy Land? Are human beings really free? Why do bad things happen? A variety of views and textual sources will be presented.

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

Yiscah Smith

This class will explore Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira's, the Piaseczna Rebbe's, *Conscious Community: A Guide to Inner Work*, translated by Andrea Cohen-Keiner from the original Hebrew, *Bnei Machshava Tova*. In her words, "Within this volume, the Piaseczna teaches the art of self-observation. The Piaseczna has provided a timeless guide to Jewish

spirituality that will be an invaluable resource for today's seekers.”
This guide to Jewish spiritual practice class is designed to provide the necessary tools to enable students to encounter the Divine Presence within and to hear the soul's unique 'still small voice.' The goal is to cultivate an expanded Godly consciousness, sensing the Divine in an imminent, visceral and authentic way.

Mon-Thurs Afternoons. 2:30-5pm

Rav Kook - Song of the Soul

Mike Feuer

Rav 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 learning Torah 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.

Introduction to Midrash: Listening closely to the Text

Nechama Goldman Barash

We will spend six classes learning to understand and appreciate the fascinating world of Midrash. It is a complex and deeply insightful genre of textual interpretation that is either dismissed for being too fanciful and simplistic or, often taken too literally as if it reflects great historical truth when it fills in narrative gaps. In fact it is one of the earliest forms of textual interpretation and the rabbis of the midrashic period - 400-1200 CE - show deep love and connection to the Torah but were not afraid to layer discussions, interpretations, question and humor to try and expose a greater truth behind the words. There is no limit to the questions of theology, philosophy and psychology that they ask as they illuminate to us both their inner world and the infinite possibilities to be found in the text.

Awaken from Thy Liturgy!

An Upbeat Approach to Understanding the Siddur (Prayer Book)

Howard Markose

In this six session course, we hope to learn about the historical development, the structure and content, as well as the meaning of key

elements of the siddur. Participants will also be encouraged to explore their own personal relationship with formal and informal Jewish prayer.

Insiders and Outsiders: A rigorous and reflective reading of the Book of Ruth

Tovah Leah Nachmani

Naomi and her entire family leave their community in the Land of Israel during a life threatening drought. Naomi's precarious return, as a widow and bereaved mother, together with Ruth, her non Israelite daughter-in-law arouses the resentment of her community and reveals the alienation of those who had once been her kindred spirits.

- How does Jewish tradition navigate the tension between community responsibility and individual choice and desire?
- To what extent are individuals obligated to community norms? When must a community allow for individual deviation?

A rigorous reading of the Book of Ruth will expose the nuanced choices and consequences of the daring women and men in the Book of Ruth and invite us to consider how we engage with the tensions between individuality and community.

Food & Judaism

Daniel Shibley

Food and Judaism go hand in hand. Regional traditions and customs are reflected in the food traditions of Jews throughout the world and Israel. Eating is both an inherently holy act, and one governed by legal statutes; indeed the table is likened to the sacrificial altar in the Temple. In this course we will examine six themes that are connected to Jewish eating, gaining a better sense of the Jewish approach to food and eating as a whole. The thematic case studies will include: Fasting, Gluttony, Bread, Wine, Blessings, and Forbidden vs. Permitted foods.

Faculty Biographies

Rabbi Rahel Berkovits teaches Mishnah, Talmud and Halakha at Pardes. She has spent many years studying Talmud and Jewish texts in both traditional and academic frameworks at Midreshet Lindenbaum, the Shalom Hartman Institute, and Hebrew University in both the Talmud and Jewish Education departments.

In 2015, Rahel completed her studies at Beit Midrash Har'el and received ordination from Rabbi Herzl Hefter and Rabbi Daniel Sperber.

She lectures widely in both Israel and abroad on topics concerning women and Jewish law, and has published entries in the CD Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia. Rahel is the editor in chief and halakhic editor of Ta Shma JOFA's Halakhic Source Guide Series. She recently published the book A Daughter's Recitation of Mourner's Kaddish.

Rabbi Berkovits is a founding member of Congregation Shirah Hadasha, a progressive halakhic minyan, which is enriched by both male and female participation in synagogue ritual.

Rahel hails from Boston and has lived in Jerusalem for the past twenty years with her 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/>

Dena Freundlich teaches Talmud at Midreshet Lindenbaum. She made Aliyah in the summer of 2010 from Teaneck, NJ, where she served as Talmud

Department Chair at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls. She holds a BA in Biology and Jewish Studies from Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, an MA in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School, and was a member of the first graduating class of Yeshiva University's Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS).

Rabbi William Friedman is a doctoral candidate in Ancient Judaism at Harvard University, where he is writing a dissertation on Legal Reasons in Mishnah and Tosefta. He is also a graduate student fellow in the David Hartman Center of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and has semikhah (rabbinic ordination) from Rabbi Daniel Landes. The Pardes beit midrash is his home, where he spent three wonderful years learning in the Pardes Kollel; he has, in addition, learned and taught at many Jewish institutions and conferences in the US and Israel.

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 Zvi Hirschfield teaches Talmud, Halakha and Jewish Thought at Pardes. In addition, Zvi is a faculty member of the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators and has been training and mentoring Jewish Educators for over ten years in Tefilah in educational settings, critical issues in modern Jewish thought, and Israel education. Zvi holds a B.A. in History from Columbia University and did graduate work at Harvard University in Medieval and Modern Jewish Thought. He studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel and has rabbinic ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. He was the director of Judaica at the JCC of Cleveland and an instructor at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies for many years. He also serves as a curriculum writer and is involved in staff training for the Nesiya Institute. His

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wife, Dina, is a faculty member of the Hebrew University School of Public Health, and they have four children.

Rabbi Alex Israel has taught at Pardes for the past eight years and is Director of the Summer program, as well as Pardes' Community Education Program and the Elmad online learning platform. Alex grew up in London and holds degrees from LSE, the Institute of Education London, and Bar-Ilan University. Alex studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and was awarded semikhah from the Israeli Rabbinate. Alex volunteers for Tzohar – a rabbinic group that works to bridge gaps between religious and secular communities in Israel.

He lives with his wife and four children in Gush Etzion. He authored "I Kings – Torn in Two" (Maggid, 2013) and "II Kings – In a Whirlwind" (Maggid, 2019). Read his Torah at www.alexisrael.org.

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 two years ago and has taught since at Pardes and other Israeli institutions.

Dr. Elliott Malamet received his doctorate in English Literature from the University of Toronto, and he taught English Literature and Jewish Studies for twenty-five years at Canadian universities. He was also the Department Head of Jewish Thought at The Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. Dr. Malamet co-founded Torah in Motion in 2001 in Toronto. He and his family made aliyah in the summer of 2013 and currently live in Jerusalem. Dr. Malamet now teaches Jewish Philosophy at Yeshivat Machanaim in Efrat and is consulted internationally about Jewish education. His book, "Are you a Good Person? - The Ethics of Teenagers and the Future of Morality", is currently being reviewed for publication.

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.

Tovah Leah Nachmani teaches Bible, Liturgy and Prayer and Relationships at Pardes. She holds a B.A. in Near Eastern Language and Literature and Religious Studies from Indiana University and a Teaching Certificate in Tanach and Jewish Thought from the Michlelet Herzog Seminary in Gush Etzion and recently has qualified as a certified Reflexologist.

She has written and guided experiential learning programs for mothers and their daughters of Bat Mitzva age at the Women's Beit Midrash in Efrat, where she previously 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. She believes in learning which connects the mind to the heart.

Leah Rosenthal holds a BA in Talmud and Jewish Philosophy and an MA in Jewish Education, both from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She has been teaching Talmud at Pardes for over twenty years. She combines her teaching at

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Pardes with teaching at the nearby Pelech High School for Girls and raising, with her husband, their five children.

Jamie Salter is an alumna of the Pardes Year Program ('99) and the Pardes Educators Program ('04-'06). He is a Jewish Educator and licensed Israel tour guide, and directs Pardes' acclaimed Israel Studies educational program.

Jamie earned his BA in Modern History from Oxford University and his MA in Jewish Education from Hebrew University. He works in many different Jewish educational arenas. In recent years he has taught in a Jewish school in America, guided British Members of Parliament on their trip to Israel and lectured in England on the most recent archaeological discoveries in the City of David. Before joining Pardes Jamie was the educational director for the Ministry of Tourism's tour guide course at the Yad Ben Zvi Institute. He is a regular guide and educator in Israel for Pardes, the Nachshon Project, JCCA professionals, and others. Jamie and his family live in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Daniel Shibley teaches Biblical Hebrew and directs Night Seder at during the Year Program Pardes.

Daniel holds a B.A. in Sociology from Clark University and an M.A in Security and Diplomacy Studies from Tel Aviv University. Daniel has been involved in Jewish learning and teaching since 2009; he studied at Yeshivat Hadar, Pardes, and Yeshivat Har Etzion en route

to receiving rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Daniel Landes. His interests include the development of halacha, as well as creating environments in which students have the opportunity to partake in authentic Jewish experiences and incorporate them into their own practice. Outside of the beit midrash, Daniel studies international relations, counterterrorism, and security policy. Daniel made aliyah in 2012, served proudly in Tzahal, and lives in Jerusalem.

Yiscah Smith is a Jewish educator, spiritual activist and published author who addresses the spiritual dimension of Torah and authentic living.

Yiscah employs her own story of the joys and struggles with her own spirituality, gender identity and commitment to authentic living. As one who transitioned from a Chabad man to an observant woman, she presents topics in an accessible and vivid style, from both a personal and a text-based perspective. Yiscah recently published her memoir, *Forty Years in the Wilderness: My Journey to Authentic Living*. She lives in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Nachlaot

Rabbi Joshua Weisberg teaches Talmud at Nishmat, a women's seminary in Jerusalem. He was born in Canada, attended Wesleyan University in Middletown Connecticut and has an MA in Jewish history. Josh is a part time specialty chef at Tmol Shilshom in Jerusalem and lives in Jerusalem with his wife and eight children. Recently, he has devoted his free time to writing a book: part memoir and part commentary to tractate Avoda Zara.