



# HAZAK VE'EMATZ: CULTIVATING COURAGE AND RESILIENCE A PARDES WINTER LEARNING INTENSIVE FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS January 3-7, 2021

## SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Click on the blue link in each program time slot to jump down to the relevant course descriptions in this program guide.

NOTE: Colored dots reflect a suggested schedule for participants from the corresponding time zones and their adjacent regions. Those registered and paid for the full program are welcome to join classes at times outside of these suggested options, and will receive session links for ALL classes.

Australia	Israel	UK (GMT)	Eastern NA	Pacific NA	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS
7:30 - 9:15 PM	10:30 AM - 12:15 PM	8:30-10:15 AM			<a href="#">Text Intensives I</a> ●●●				
9:15 - 10:00 PM	12:15 - 1:00 PM	10:15 - 11:00 AM			<a href="#">BREAK / includes 15-20 min. mind / body options</a> ●●●				
10:00 - 10:40 PM	1:00 - 1:40 PM	11:00 - 11:40 AM			<a href="#">Student Taught Sessions / Open Havruta Time</a> ●●●				
	3:00 - 4:00 PM	1:00 - 2:00 PM	8:00 - 9:00 AM		<a href="#">KEYNOTE</a> ●●●	<a href="#">Electives I</a> ●●●			
	4:30 - 6:00 PM	2:30 - 4:00 PM	9:30 - 11:00 AM		<a href="#">Text Intensives II</a> ●●				
	6:00-6:45 PM	4:00 - 4:45 PM	11:00 - 11:45 AM	8:00 - 8:45 AM	<a href="#">BREAK / includes 15-20 min. mind / body options</a> ●●				
	6:45 PM - 8:00 PM	4:45 - 6:00 PM	11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	8:45 - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">Contemporary Issues</a> ●●●●				<a href="#">CLOSING SESSION</a> ●●●●
	8:30 - 9:15 PM	6:30 - 7:15 PM	1:30 - 2:15 PM	10:30 - 11:15 AM	<a href="#">Creative Sessions</a> ●●●●			<a href="#">OPEN MIC / GALLERY TOUR</a> ●●●●	
			2:30 - 3:30 PM	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<a href="#">Electives II</a> ●●				

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

For faculty bios, visit [www.pardes.org.il/faculty/](http://www.pardes.org.il/faculty/). Alumni guest educator bios are included below.  
All sessions will take place online via Zoom.

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## TEXT INTENSIVES I

**SUNDAY-THURSDAY** 19:30-21:15 Australia / 10:30-12:15 Israel / 8:30-10:15 GMT

Please choose ONE Text Intensive track for all five days.

### **Mishna/Talmud (all levels): Rebuilding After Destruction: Rabbinic Courage to Repair and Adapt**

*Rahel Berkovits*

Students will encounter the literary power of early rabbinic texts as we examine the story, as told by Tractate Gittin, of what led to the destruction of the Temple and the loss of Jerusalem as the political and cultural center. We will meet Rabban Yohanan b. Zakai, who asks Vespasian for Yavneh, as a refuge for the Sages, and examine a number of the decrees, takanot (literally “fixes”), that he made post destruction to rebuild the nation and set Judaism on a new path.

### **Inter/Adv Talmud: Rising to the Needs of the Hour: The Prozbol Pivot**

*Meesh Hammer-Kossoy*

The radical Torah commandment of the Shmita year in general and loan forgiveness in particular is designed to provide equity as well as equality and to halt the downward spiral of vulnerable individuals into poverty. But it wasn't working. Hillel and the rabbis that followed him made the equally radical decision to pivot (and ask God to step aside) in order to achieve their moral mission as leaders in the face of real world obstacles. We will use Bavli Gittin as our based text, but move far beyond, exploring Torah, Bavli, Yerushalmi, and Rishonim. Facility with the original Hebrew/Aramaic text is required.

### **Tanakh (all levels): The Spirit to Succeed: Overcoming the Past to Embrace the Future - A Text Study of the Book of Joshua 1 - 5**

*Michael Hattin*

In this course, we will go "back to the source" and study the first five chapters of *Sefer Yehoshua*. The material contains a number of excellent expressions of courage; Joshua, Rahav the harlot, and the people of Israel themselves all must show their own special resolve in the face of overwhelming challenges. We will explore what is necessary for cultivating courage, as we watch each protagonist in turn overcome trauma in developing resilience.

### **Inter/Adv Tanakh: Explorations of Courage and Resilience**

*Tovah Leah Nachmani (S/Tu/Th) and Judy Klitsner (M/W)*

This course will explore multiple Biblical stories in the Exodus narrative that we begin reading this coming Shabbat, including:

### **SUN / TUES / THURS (Tovah Leah): In the Aftermath of Trauma**

Following the elation of leaving Egypt came cascading moments of life threatening danger, as the Reed Sea parted and the people witnessed the incredible demise of their pursuers.

What can we learn, from this and other tribulations of the Jewish people on their journey to the Promised Land, about the challenges of resilience in the aftermath of trauma?

Three Biblical episodes from the book of *Shemot/Exodus* will evoke Medieval to modern discussions about what it takes to choose life in the wake of upheaval.

### **MON / WED (Judy): Conscientious Objection at the Banks of the Nile: Shifra, Puah and Other "Daughters" of Redemption**

The courageous, conscience-driven "daughters" of Egypt help to repair the fractured connection with the divine and help catalyze the redemption process. They are followed by another set of daughters, who stand up to all leadership symbols and figures, and who bring about unexpected changes in law and in attitudes toward outsiders. In a close examination of their stories, themes of resilience and heroism abound.

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## **MIND / BODY WORKOUTS I**

**SUNDAY-THURSDAY 21:30-21:50 Australia / 12:30-12:50 Israel / 10:30-10:50 GMT**

No pre-registration necessary. Short tastes of meditation, yoga, strength exercises and more to help us engage all of our senses and re-focus our attention. Links will be sent daily.

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## **STUDENT-TAUGHT SESSIONS / OPEN HAVRUTA TIME**

**13:00-13:40 Israel / 11:00-11:40 GMT**

Choose from sessions offered by current Pardes students OR dedicate this time to havruta (paired) learning on the topic of your choice; contact us in advance if you'd like to be set up.

### **SUNDAY**

#### **A Torah Scholar Who Has Forgotten His Torah: The Story of Abaye and Rav Yosef**

*Lexie Botzum*

R. Yosef's story--of falling ill, going blind, forgetting nearly all your Torah when you were once renowned for your expansive knowledge, and staying in the beit midrash, committing to relearn it all--is one of remarkable resilience under painful conditions. It speaks both to how we learn Torah in the face of adversity, and also the adversity that is the process of Torah-learning itself.

#### **Jewish Resistance and Resilience Throughout the Ages**

*Chana Borow*

Ever wondered why the Jewish people are the only ancient nation to survive? We will explore how the Jewish people have been able to adapt and survive through many crises, and recently been in the forefront of many social justice movements.

### **MONDAY**

#### **Is Death a Master from Germany? Understanding my Experience in Halle**

*Paige Harouse*

After surviving the attack in Halle an der Saale on Yom Kippur 2019, I was left with many questions, some with concrete answers and some that are unanswerable.

What does it mean to be a German-speaking Jew? Why did I, of all Jews in 1700 years of Jewish life in Germany, survive an attack on German soil? I'll be sharing my experience as a survivor of a antisemitic terror attack using both historical and contemporary sources as well as my written works.

## **Tractate Eruvin's Guide to Community**

*Hannah Greenberg*

More than just boundaries, Tractate Eruvin provides us with a guide to build a strong, resilient community. This session will look at excerpts from throughout Tractate Eruvin to showcase how the Rabbis teach us 5 key values to build a community.

## **TUESDAY**

### **Courage and Resilience in Action: Yes AND!**

*Claire Abramowitz*

Stories and storytelling have drawn people together, given courage, and bolstered resilience. But how does a group create a narrative, shape a story? In this workshop we'll be devising narrative together as a group using and sharing the written and spoken word! Part writing workshop/ part improv! Come create a story that we all might pass on!

### **Torah and Trauma Recovery: Nightmares**

*Sam Belmonte*

We will look at some of the challenges faced by Jacob and examine the relationship between his dreams and experiences. This study will weave together stories from Tanakh with current psychological theories and practices regarding post-traumatic stress.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Resiliency, Vengeance and Justice: A Case Study of Yosef ben Yaacov**

*Aviva Frank*

During these trying times how do we respond, versus react, to uncertainty and challenges? We will look towards the life of Yosef for insight and perspective.

### **Calling Out from the Straits: Religion and Resistance in the Camps**

*Paige Harouse*

The religious resistance of those individuals who continued to value Jewish practice, even in the camps, is a remarkable act of resilience and faith. Many who study the Shoah in school and university focus on other aspects of that time period. I hope to teach some specific rather than broad narratives that participants can examine and learn from, which will contribute to their understanding of how Jews reacted to events then, and continue to remember the Shoah now.

## **THURSDAY**

### **Holy Communities: Ashkenazic Answers to Marauding Crusaders**

*Adena Morgan*

Examine the actions taken by Ashkenazic communities during the Crusades that included mass self-martyrdom and other acts of halakhic controversy. How did rabbinic leaders react when faced with the dilemma of highly pious people committing acts against halakha for the sake of belief in Judaism? How did they comfort survivors of atrocities? And how is this remembered in our liturgy to give a specific conclusion and message about those times?

NOTE: Session will include descriptions and discussions of violence against oneself and violence of parents to children.

## **The Hebrew Midwives: Women's Courage in this week's Parashat haShavua**

*Elizabeth Dunoff*

By exploring the enigmatic figures of the *miyoladot halvriot*, the Hebrew midwives, in art and literature, we will see how the women in Egypt displayed the courage and resilience needed to preserve the people of Israel during their exile in Egypt.

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## **KEYNOTE**

**SUNDAY 15:00-16:00 Israel / 13:00-14:00 GMT / 8:00-9:00 AM Eastern N. America**

*This session will also be recorded and made available to all program participants.*

### **The Mitzvah of Resilience**

*Jeremy Borovitz in conversation with Meesh Hammer-Kossoy*

In the aftermath of the 2019 Yom Kippur terrorist attack in Halle, Germany, our community in Berlin had to come together and support each other in ways we never imagined. But we refused then, as we do now, to allow this attack to define who we are. The last year has been a year of resilience---which means not just moving on but moving forward, moving up, building something even stronger than that which we had before. In this session, we will explore Resilience as a Mitzvah, something deeply rooted in our tradition, the ancient Jewish response to tragedy which has become all too real for too many of us.

*Jeremy Borovitz is a Rabbi and the Director of Jewish Education for Base Berlin/Hillel Deutschland. He is an alumnus of both the Pardes Year Program as well as PEEP, and received his Semikha from Rabbi Daniel Landes. Jeremy is a former U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Boyarka, Ukraine and JDC Jewish Service Corps fellow in Kyiv, Ukraine. He has worked for Moishe House and was the co-founder of Brooklyn Beit Midrash, and is the proud husband of Rabbi Rebecca Blady, with whom he shares two children.*

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## **ELECTIVES I**

**15:00-16:00 Israel / 13:00-14:00 GMT / [8:00-9:00 AM Eastern]**

*Those in N. America are invited but not expected to register for this slot.  
Some sessions will be recorded and made available to all program participants.  
Additional Electives will be offered later in the day.*

## **MONDAY + TUESDAY**

Please choose ONE 2-part Elective:

### **Insidious Mother, Irresistible Murderess: The Righteous Temptress of the Bible**

*Gila Fine*

Why does the Bible always effect redemption through sexual transgression? Who are the women who seduce and save? And how do they tempt their prey? Exploring the stories of the six righteous temptresses through the Bible and Midrash, Bavli and Yerushalmi, Victor Turner and Simone de Beauvoir, Rabbi Soloveitchik and *Game of Thrones*.

## **Walking With Your Inner Spirit: Cultivating an Understanding Heart**

*Yiscah Smith*

For many, the term “understanding heart” conveys an impossible reality, a contradiction and even nonsense. How can a heart understand? Isn’t the domain of understanding found in the mind? Join us as Yiscah shares a teaching from Rabbi Kalonymous Kalman Shapira, known as the Piaseczner Rebbe (d.1943, Poland), on opening up to the spiritual life that is within all of us. The Rebbe’s inspiring ideas discuss our inherent spiritual nature, how we awaken to the Divine presence within us and how we can cultivate this awareness in our spiritual practice. In particular, the Piaseczner teaches that the integration of thought and feeling into partnership and harmony serves as an essential component of the higher consciousness experience — the dimension where one encounters the Divine spirit within. Her talks will be anchored, at the beginning and end, by short periods of contemplative silence.

## **The Power of One: Portraits in Courage and Resilience**

*David Bernstein*

### **Part I (Mon): Sarah Schnirer**

In Poland in 1917, there were no Jewish educational institutions for Haredi women. By 1939, there were 250 such schools with 40,000 students. This session will focus on "The Power of One:" a woman, a poor childless divorcee, who creates a revolution in her community.

### **Part II (Tues): Dr. Emmanuel Ringleblum**

While most people worried about their daily survival in the Warsaw Ghetto, one man had the vision to create the largest archive of documents from the Shoah in real time. Called Oyneg Shabbos, this diverse group created poetry contests for teens to record their experiences in the ghetto, did research projects on the role of women in ghetto life, and much much more. What drove this man to this project? How did this group operate, and what was the fate of the 60 men and women and their massive collection of documents?

## **WEDNESDAY + THURSDAY**

Please choose ONE 2-part Elective:

### **Dveikut: Holding Fast to God in Troubling Times**

*Mike Feuer*

Relationships are never easy, especially with the Divine. The model of dveikut - cleaving - can offer us insight into how to hold relationships together in these troubling times. This class will explore a range of texts on the topic, and aims to create a conversation in which students can cultivate their own voices and experience toward accessing this critical idea.

### **Celebrations of Courage: Pesach and Sukkot**

*Michael Hattin*

The pilgrim festivals of Pesach and Sukkot are excellent opportunities to study different kinds of determination and fortitude. The people of Israel prepare for the exodus by bravely offering the Paschal sacrifice and facing down Egyptian opposition; upon leaving Egypt behind, they must then wander through the inhospitable wilderness, courageously following God while traversing an uncertain landscape. We will treat both examples as relevant case studies for our own lives.

## **Relationships: The Courage to Commit**

*Tovah Leah Nachmani*

One of the most important life decisions we make is the decision to commit to a partner in marriage. The choice to commit can range from undesirable to terrifying when at least one out of every two marriages in our modern times will end in divorce. Founded and based in Jewish text study, we will discuss: when we are looking for love that will last, how do we know what to look for? And once we do find love, how do we increase our odds of staying together?

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## **TEXT INTENSIVES II**

**SUNDAY-THURSDAY [16:30-18:00 Israel] / 14:30-16:00 GMT / 9:30-11:00 AM Eastern**

Please choose ONE Text Intensive track for all five days:

### **Talmud (all levels): Rabbinic Portraits of Resilience**

*Leah Rosenthal*

In this series of classes, we will read and examine Talmudic narratives surrounding several central Rabbinic personalities, collected from various classic Talmudic texts. These individuals lived during times of dramatic change and upheaval and were instrumental in devising responses that not only enabled Jewish survival, but indeed facilitated Jewish cultural, religious and spiritual flourishing. We will focus on the ways the narratives surrounding these individuals reflect their values, ideas and dilemmas and highlight some of the complexities of each individual. These literary biographies demonstrate the strategies of courage, creativity and resilience adopted centuries ago, which still resonate with our own struggles today.

### **Inter/Advanced Talmud: Living with Idolatry in the Holy Land**

*Zvi Hirschfield*

Together we will study sections from Tractate Avoda Zara that surface the halakhic and theological tensions raised by living as a minority culture next to a pagan society. Together, we will ask: what might we learn from the struggle of the Sages to combine humanism, accommodation, particularism, and separation?

### **Tanakh (all levels): Five Illustrations of Courage and Resilience in the Hebrew Bible**

*Howard Markose*

In this week's learning, we will explore five episodes in the Hebrew Bible in which characters have shown remarkable courage or resilience. We will view these stories from our own perspectives, reflecting on how these biblical tales exercise influence on our own thinking or our behavior. The five topics to be explored are: **Job** - How did he handle his tragedies? Why do the righteous suffer and the evil prosper? **Rahav** - What was her greatest act of courage? Hiding the spies, lying to the authorities, asking to save her family (and employees)? **Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah** - Who of these four displayed the greatest resilience? The three barren women or the fertile, unloved wife? **Jacob** who wrestled with God and with humans and prevailed. Where is his resilience displayed in the narrative about him? An examination of **Abraham's** ten trials.

## **Inter/Adv Tanakh: From Joshua to Judges: The Courage to Lead**

*Aviva Lauer (S/M) and Mike Feuer (Tu/W/Th)*

### **SUN / MON (Aviva): The Original Chazak ve'Ematz: Rallying Cry or Pep Talk? - Book of Joshua Chapter 1**

Imagine: You've just gotten a new job. One you didn't even apply for. Now imagine that the new position means you'll be stepping into the shoes of the BEST person who ever lived. AND, they've left you to do their most difficult project – the one they weren't able to successfully complete. How does this make you feel? How will you cope? Will you cope?! Where do you even start?? Meet Joshua. He's got all this to contend with in the very first chapter of his book. And it's up to God to get him ready for the hardest onboarding ever.

### **TUES / WED / THURS (Mike): Leadership in the Book of Judges**

Leadership is a quality that can be hard to define, but we all know it when we see it. This class will examine the stories of Devorah, Gideon and Yiftach from the Book of Judges with an eye toward the qualities that made them leaders. We will explore how their strengths and weaknesses shaped their decisions, all the while asking - what gives us the courage to lead?

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## **MIND / BODY WORKOUTS II**

### **SUNDAY-THURSDAY**

**18:15-18:35 Israel / 16:15-16:35 GMT / 11:15-11:35 AM Eastern / 8:15-8:35 AM Pacific**

No pre-registration necessary. Short tastes of meditation, yoga, strength exercises and more to help us engage all of our senses and re-focus our attention. Links will be sent daily.

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## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

**18:45-20:00 Israel / 16:45-18:00 GMT / 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Eastern / 8:45-10:00 AM Pacific**

*Several courses have multiple parts. We recommend attending the series, though each class can also be taken on its own.*

### **SUNDAY**

#### **Nothing "Novel" Under the Sun? Insights on the Pandemic from the Book of Kohelet**

*Judy Klitsner*

The book of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) famously argues that there is "nothing new under the sun." In our exploration of the book's perplexing content and style, we will challenge this recurring trope, while seeking "novel" wisdom that can help during the current health crisis.

#### **Religion in a Time of Crisis: Innovation in Contemporary Jewish Life (1/2)**

*Zvi Hirschfield*

The current pandemic has turned on its head our ability to gather in person, paving the way for both innovation and pushback in the way we approach Jewish learning, prayer and practice. We will unpack some of the values-based conflicts that have been amplified during the past several months, including in Haredi (ultraorthodox) enclaves worldwide, and ask more broadly:

What is the role of religious leadership in shaping individual and communal responses to the most profound challenges of our time - including COVID-19, anti-semitism, and more?

### **"Have no fear... for the Lord your God is with you" (Deut. 20:1): Jewish Law in Warfare (1/4)**

*Daniel Reifman*

War often seems to be the antithesis of law: behavior that is criminal in other contexts is rationalized -- or simply excused -- in the context of armed conflict. Yet all legal systems have laws that govern warfare, and halakha (Jewish law) is no exception. The laws of warfare in the book of *Devarim* range from battlefield ethics to proper hygiene in the camp. Of little practical significance for hundreds of years, this area of law became newly relevant in the modern era when Jews were drafted into state armies and eventually with the founding of the IDF. We will study these laws to understand how halakha conceives of the role of soldiers and their responsibility to God, to their society, and to humanity as a whole.

#### *Part One: The Ethos of Warfare in Deuteronomy: Holy Wars and Holiness in War*

The book of Deuteronomy presents a series of detailed laws about military conduct, some of which have become the basis for modern military codes of ethics. What sort of military ethos do these laws reflect? How does this ethos compare to warfare elsewhere in the Bible and in the ancient Near East?

### **Rabbinic Responses to Past Pandemics: The Activism of Rabbi Akiva Eger (1/4)**

*Levi Cooper*

How did Jewish communities grapple with plagues in previous times? In this four-part series we will track back to the Second Cholera Pandemic and see how the chief rabbi of Posen dealt with an outbreak of disease. For every source there is a season, and COVID-19 has revealed the significance of these vignettes. Each chapter of this tale provides moments for reflecting on our current plight, and hopefully allows us to draw strength from our past.

*Part One: Who was Rabbi Akiva Eger, and what did he advise those who wanted to say kaddish during the pandemic? Why did the King of Prussia congratulate him on his leadership?*

### **Mild v. Wild: Jacob, Esau and Evolving Notions of Masculinity and Femininity**

*Leon Morris*

What is the connection between masculinity and strength? What does it even mean to be strong? The Torah's story of Jacob and Esau presents two competing notions of masculinity and two very different ideas about strength. Esau is the wild man. Jacob is the mild man. Esau engages the outside world and is endowed with physical strength. Jacob prefers to be indoors, and embodies intellect over physical prowess. Midrash and rabbinic commentaries respond to these caricatures of masculinity and bring greater complexity to bear on issues of masculinity, and of gender more broadly. In the aftermath of a US presidential election which was framed in part by contrasted images of male leadership, explore how we might develop a notion of strength that transcends gender altogether.

## **MONDAY**

### **Religion in a Time of Crisis: Innovation in Contemporary Jewish Life (2/2)**

*Zvi Hirschfield*

See description above.

## **How Do We Come Out of Our Caves? A Look at Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and What Real Growth Can Look Like**

*Nechama Goldman Barash*

We will use the classic story of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai to explore themes of self growth and discovery, and how we can turn turmoil into transcendence.

## **Rabbinic Responses to Past Pandemics: The Activism of Rabbi Akiva Eger (2/4)**

*Levi Cooper*

See full course description above.

*Part Two:* How did Rabbi Akiva Eger avoid overcrowding in synagogues during the 1831 High Holy Days? How do we know that women were encouraged to attend the service?

## **Jewish Law in Warfare (2/4)**

*Daniel Reifman*

See full course description above.

*Part Two: What does halakhah have to contribute to modern military ethics?*

The Zionist movement created the need for a modern Jewish code of military ethics. Alongside the secular Zionist debates about the proper uses of force, religious authorities debated the proper framework for addressing military ethics within halakhah. Does halakhah contain a distinct body of rules that govern military decisions, or should they be subject to the same laws that govern life-saving measures in other, non-military contexts? Or perhaps this is an area in which halakhah simply defers to *dina de-malkhuta* -- the prevailing secular legal norms?

## **Facing an Uncertain World**

*David Bernstein*

Certain classical Jewish texts, read superficially, would make us believe that life is predictable. However, we all know that life is full of surprises, for better and for worse. (Who could have imagined our reality a year ago today?) We will examine some traditional Jewish approaches to the many uncertainties that life has in store for us, which have helped us navigate our uncertain world for millenia.

## **TUESDAY**

### **Courage and Vulnerability: Judging Impact and Intention**

*Meesh Hammer-Kossoy*

Daring Greatly means that sometimes good intentions will have undesired impacts. How does our tradition demand responsibility for impact while also recognizing good intentions? A look at classic rabbinic texts will help us navigate our interpersonal relationships.

### **Brave Responses: National Religious Rabbis Speak Out on Challenges Facing Gay & Lesbian Halakhic Jews (1/2)**

*Rahel Berkovits*

In this two part session, we will examine the unique voices of three National Religious Rabbis in Israel, R. Benny Lau, R. Yaakov Meidan and R. Shlomo Riskin, who choose to speak out on some of the issues facing of queer Jews in their communities. Their works try to change entrenched communal attitudes and address such topics as partnership, love and sexual fulfillment.

## **Mahloket Matters: Punishment or Prevention: How Best To Deal With Crime**

*Sefi Kraut*

People tend to agree that leaders have a duty to protect their citizens. But to whom and how should that protection be extended? What is the appropriate leadership response when some citizens are a threat to the safety of others? We will explore the opposing ways that our texts relate to crime prevention and violence and how these positions are reflected in explosive contemporary debates.

## **Rabbinic Responses to Past Pandemics: The Activism of Rabbi Akiva Eger (3/4)**

*Levi Cooper*

See full course description above.

*Part Three:* Beyond tools of law and social activism, what mystical means did Rabbi Akiva Eger employ to ward off the plague?

## **Jewish Law in Warfare (3/4)**

*Daniel Reifman*

See full course description above.

*Part Three: Warfare on Shabbat: History and Halakhah*

Shabbat observance is one of the foremost halakhic challenges facing the Jewish soldier and the Jewish army. In addressing Shabbat-related questions, contemporary halakhic scholars have debated the relevance of historical precedents, such as the conquest of Jericho and the Maccabean Revolt, as well as more recent experiences, such as the recovery of fallen Israeli soldiers under fire during the Yom Kippur War.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Speaking Truth to Power: Social Protests**

*Meesh Hammer-Kossoy*

Using Torah and Midrash, we will explore the ancient and Holy Jewish tradition of protest.

### **Brave Responses: National Religious Rabbis Speak Out on Challenges Facing Gay & Lesbian Halakhic Jews (2/2)**

*Rahel Berkovits*

See description above.

### **Rabbinic Responses to Past Pandemics: The Activism of Rabbi Akiva Eger (4/4)**

*Levi Cooper*

See full course description above.

*Part Four:* A true leader also helps out colleagues. What advice did Rabbi Akiva Eger offer to other rabbis who were facing the outbreak? How successful were Rabbi Akiva Eger's efforts?

### **Jewish Law in Warfare (4/4)**

*Daniel Reifman*

See full course description above.

#### *Part Four: The Jewish Soldier: Crafting a Distinctive Identity*

Halakhah contains a number of special laws -- both stringencies and leniencies -- governing behavior in military encampments. We will discuss how these laws generate a distinctive sense of what it means to be a Jewish soldier.

#### **Anti-Semitism: A Stubborn, Two-Headed Virus**

*Judy Klitsner*

In an effort to understand the pathogen of anti-Semitism that is plaguing the world today, we will conduct a biblical examination of age-old, often paradoxical, disturbingly enduring, anti-Semitic rhetoric and behavior. In our explorations, we will uncover details that resonate both with current anti-Semitic outbreak and with potential responses to the challenges of anti-Semitism.

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## **CLOSING SESSION**

### **THURSDAY**

**18:45-20:00 Israel / 16:45-18:00 GMT / 11:45 AM-1:00 PM Eastern / 8:45-10:00 AM Pacific**

The culmination of our week, this session will bring together participants from around the globe for learning, reflection and practical takeaways.

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## **CREATIVE REFLECTION SESSIONS**

**20:30-21:15 Israel / 18:30-19:15 GMT / 1:30-2:15 PM Eastern / 10:30-11:15 AM Pacific**

### **SUNDAY**

#### **Art in the Age of Vulnerability: Artist's Talk**

*Sarah Zell Young*

To be in a relationship is to be vulnerable. This can also apply to how we relate to the sacred texts from our tradition. In this presentation, Sarah will share some of her work and explore the role of vulnerability in art practice in relation to inherited religious tradition.

*Sarah Zell Young (2015-16) lives and works in the metropolitan NY area after living in Israel for several years. She earned her MFA in visual art from Hunter College and is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. She was the inaugural arts fellow at Pardes, an art fellow at Drisha and a Dorot fellow. Sarah has created experiential artist projects for the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA), Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI), Jewish Theological Seminary, Boston University and others. Sarah has a certificate in Jewish Education from Midreshet Lindenbaum and Experiential Jewish Education from M2 and is currently working at Netivot, a Montessori Yeshiva day school.*

#### **Writing Creative Midrash: Lilith as a Model of Courage and Resilience**

*Sivan Rotholz*

Join feminist Torah scholar, creative writing professor, and Pardes student Sivan Rotholz for an encounter with Lilith, the first woman of creation, Adam's first wife, and the world's first feminist. In this session, we will meet this maligned and misunderstood figure and read creative responses to her story. Then, via writing prompts, we will write our own creative midrash and add our voices to an age-old tradition.

## MONDAY

### **Tree of Strength Art Workshop**

*Sara Laya Heller*

How do we find strength in transition periods? What do we lean on in our personal lives? How did *Bnei Yisrael* (the Israelites) go through a tremendous transition by leaning on "Chazak ve'Ematz" - the call to bravery and courage that characterized Joshua's leadership? Focusing on this theme, we will each create a personal Tree of Strength. No artistic experience necessary!

Materials: This session works with just a pencil and paper, but feel free to bring along markers, paints, magazines or paper for collage!

### **Writing for Resilience: Creating Your Personal Prayer**

*Alden Solovy*

Join Pardes Liturgist-in-Residence [Alden Solovy](#) for a guided writing exercise to cast light on your inner resilience and give words to the deepest desires within you for hope, clarity, and abundance. Using a question and answer technique he developed for use with writers and non-writers, you will use pen and paper to explore inner realms for personal growth.

## TUESDAY

### **Recognizing, Naming, and Honoring our Superpowers**

*Faith Brigham Leener*

In this guided writing workshop, we will explore personal moments of resilience.

*Faith Brigham Leener (2010-2011) is a Pardes Year Program alumna and a current Pardes Board Member. She is a co-founder and the Executive Director of Base, a growing movement of pluralistic rabbinic couples building hyper-local, post denominational communities rooted in radical hospitality, a love of Jewish learning, and acts of service to our neighbors. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband (and Pardes alumnus) Rabbi Jon Leener and their two delicious children Hudi and Hannah.*

### **Reflection Circle**

*Valerie Brown*

Share something you've learned this week that you're still thinking about and hear from others who attended different classes. We will do some free writing and have a chance to share + connect. Especially for those who wish they could attend more than one session at once!

## WEDNESDAY

*This session will begin at the above time but will likely run beyond 45 mins, depending on the lineup.*

### **Open Mic / Virtual Gallery Tour!**

ALL are invited to come together for a **creative celebration of courage and resilience**, where participants will read, perform and share their work around these themes with the Winter Learning Intensive community.

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## **ELECTIVES II**

[21:30-22:30 Israel] / 19:30-20:30 GMT / 2:30-3:30 PM Eastern / 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Pacific

### **SUNDAY**

#### **Learning to Live Courageously in Reality: Halakha as Practical Wisdom (1/2)**

*Elisha Ancselovits*

This two-session class begins by studying how Jewish law (halakha) was traditionally about making realistically good decisions, rather than about championing ideals or fitting life into concepts. The class continues by studying traditional sources' presentations of the advantages of this approach over an idealistic or resistance approach (whether radical or ultraconservative). Through traditional sources, we will also explore how a person can emotionally train themselves to develop this approach. Prerequisite: a real-life familiarity with the existence of competing human needs, and an understanding of the truth of at least some perspective that you find wrong.

#### **What's in a Story? The Narratives That Shape Us**

*Michael Emerson*

Often we look at stories from the past to teach us about historical figures, family events, and important moments. Stories give us a sense of belonging, history, and identity to help us face our own challenges with courage and resilience. If we dig deeper, however, stories can teach us more about the values, ideals, and lived realities of the storytellers themselves. In this elective, we will examine a collection of Biblical, Rabbinic, and contemporary stories to begin to unpack the choices and goals of the storyteller, and to think about how we will craft our own stories of 2020.

#### **Victim, Hero, Learner: How Our Narratives Dictate Our Lives**

*Joseph Shamash*

Which narrative do you ascribe to? Life is riddled with pain but the lenses in which we interpret those events have a huge impact on the way we respond to life's challenges. We'll explore a number of Jewish texts that help us live lives of strength, hope, resiliency, and faith.

*Rabbi Joseph Shamash (Pardes 2012-13) is a Jewish Persian Cowboy. Born in Dallas, Texas to Iranian immigrants, Joseph currently serves as a Spiritual Counselor and Manager of the Elaine Breslow Institute at Beit T'Shuvah, a full-time Jewish residential treatment facility that fuses Jewish spirituality with the 12-steps, to help addicts in recovery live better lives. He is a trained Sofer, an award-winning filmmaker and an avid meditator. Joseph lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Allie Peha Shamash, and their 2 wonderful children, Benjamin and Lucy.*

### **MONDAY**

#### **Reading Our Way to Resilience**

*David Levin-Kruss*

Participants are asked to bring a saying or short text (Jewish or general) that has helped them overcome difficulties and led to strength in times of crisis. We will use life coaching techniques to plumb the depths of these texts and make them even more relevant.

**This session will be capped at 10 participants, who will be asked to share their saying or text in advance.**

## **Ordination for Women - A History of Resistance and Resilience**

*Nechama Goldman Barash*

We will look at the history of female ordination in the Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism. While Orthodoxy is the new kid on the block, gaining access to the hallowed sanctum of rabbinic ordination took persistence and perseverance on the part of strong, determined women who paved the way for the many young rabbis working in the field today. What price did they pay and what is the situation for female rabbis today?

## **Mahloket Matters: The Courage to Disagree Constructively**

*Sefi Kraut*

We often think of disagreements as an unfortunate aspect of life. Yet, in the tradition of the Mishnah and Talmud, mahkloket (debate) is a vital tool to generate discussion, critical thinking, personal growth, and the deepening of relationships. Through the study of Jewish texts and social psychology, we will distinguish between different types of disagreements and explore why good people may have diametrically opposing views on moral issues. In an age when civil discourse is on the decline and demonization of the other has become common practice, it is crucially important that we find the courage to productively engage with people with whom we disagree.

## **TUESDAY**

### **Take a Plunge! Mikveh, Niddah and Relationship Resilience**

*Nechama Goldman Barash and Miriam Lorie*

Join two teachers who work with gay and straight couples, singles and anyone interested in how the laws of mikveh & niddah can bring meaning to our spiritual and sexual lives. We'll share some favourite texts and open up a conversation about how this area of halakha can have particular meaning, and also be particularly challenging, in these Covid times.

*Miriam Lorie (Pardes Experiential Educators Program / European Leadership Fellowship 2016-17) is a Jewish educator and rabbinical student at Yeshivat Maharat, the first orthodox institution to ordain women. Her teaching, described as "expansive, open and a lot of fun", builds on working in Jewish community leadership development, seven years spent working in inter-faith dialogue, a degree in Theology at the University of Cambridge and study at Midreshet Harova and Pardes. Miriam is co-founder of Kehillat Nashira, the UK's first regularly meeting Partnership Minyan.*

### **Learning to Live Courageously in Reality: Halakha as Practical Wisdom (2/2)**

*Elisha Ancselovits*

See course description above.

### **Cultivating the Spiritual Practice of Self-Confidence / Bitachon Atzmi**

*Yiscah Smith*

This session explores the high value that Jewish tradition places on *bitachon atzmi* - self-confidence and being able to trust in one's self and one's judgment. Based on the episode with Calev and the spies when the verse in Numbers 14:24 refers to Calev as possessing a *ruach acheret* - a different spirit. We all have a spark of Calev within us, a unique spirit, the source for cultivating courage and resilience.