



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			Text Intensives I ●●●				
9:15 - 10:00 PM	12:15 - 1:00 PM	10:15 - 11:00 AM			BREAK / includes 15-20 min. mind / body options ●●●				
10:00 - 10:40 PM	1:00 - 1:40 PM	11:00 - 11:40 AM			Peer Session Options / Open Havruta Time ●●●				
	3:00 - 4:00 PM	1:00 - 2:00 PM	8:00 - 9:00 AM		KEYNOTE ●●●	Electives I ●●●			
	4:30 - 6:00 PM	2:30 - 4:00 PM	9:30 - 11:00 AM		Text Intensives II ●●				
	6:00-6:45 PM	4:00 - 4:45 PM	11:00 - 11:45 AM	8:00 - 8:45 AM	BREAK / includes 15-20 min. mind / body options ●●				
	6:45 PM - 8:00 PM	4:45 - 6:00 PM	11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	8:45 - 10:00 AM	Contemporary Issues ●●●●				CLOSING SESSION ●●●●
	8:30 - 9:15 PM	6:30 - 7:15 PM	1:30 - 2:15 PM	10:30 - 11:15 AM	Creative Sessions ●●●●			OPEN MIC / GALLERY TOUR ●●●●	
			2:30 - 3:30 PM	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Electives II ●●				

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

For faculty bios, visit www.pardes.org.il/faculty/

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:

Beg Talmud: Rebuilding After Destruction: Rabbinic Courage to Repair and Adapt

Rahel Berkovits

Students will encounter the literary power of the Talmud 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 Gd 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 survey course will explore multiple Biblical stories, 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.

MONDAY (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.

WEDNESDAY (Judy): Navot's Vineyard and the Addictive Spiral of Crime: Can the Spiral be Reversed?

In a shocking biblical narrative, a king of Israel embarks on a spiral of crimes culminating in murder. We will examine the appetites and processes that lead from misdemeanour to crime and then address the larger issue of how the trajectory of sin resembles that of addiction. We will examine the role of resilience in this cycle, and whether or not addictive spirals can be reversed.

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.

PEER SESSIONS / OPEN HAVRUTA TIME

SUNDAY-THURSDAY 13:00-13:40 Israel / 11:00-11:40 GMT

No pre-registration necessary. Choose from a number of sessions offered by current Pardes students, or dedicate this time to havruta (paired) learning on the topic of your choice; this is a great opportunity to learn in person, if your circumstances allow.

BYO learning partner, or contact us in advance if you'd like to be set up.

KEYNOTE

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

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

The Mitzvah of Resilience

Jeremy Borovitz and Rebecca Blady

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.

ELECTIVES I

15:00-16:00 Israel / 13:00-14:00 GMT / [8:00-9:00 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 (Tues): 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 (Wed): 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

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. Based in a variety of Jewish texts, 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?

TEXT INTENSIVES II

SUNDAY-THURSDAY [16:30-18:00 Israel] / 14:30-16:00 GMT / 9:30-11:00 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 Deborah, 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?

MIND / BODY WORKOUTS II

SUNDAY-THURSDAY

18:15-18:35 Israel / 16:15-16:35 GMT / 11:15-11:35 Eastern / 8:15-8:35 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.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

18:45-20:00 Israel / 16:45-18:00 GMT / 11:45-13:00 Eastern / 8:45-10:00 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 halakhah 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 halakhah conceives of the role of soldiers and their responsibility to God, to their society, and to humanity as a whole.

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 description above.

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.

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, why mystical means did Rabbi Akiva Eger employ to ward off the plague?

Jewish Law in Warfare (3/4)

Daniel Reifman

See description above.

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 description above.

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.

CLOSING SESSION

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

THURSDAY

18:45-20:00 Israel / 16:45-18:00 GMT / 11:45-13:00 Eastern / 8:45-10:00 Pacific

CREATIVE REFLECTION SESSIONS

20:30-21:15 Israel / 18:30-19:15 GMT / 13:30-14:15 Eastern / 10:30-11:15 Pacific

SUNDAY-TUESDAY

Choose from a variety of 45 minute sessions exploring courage and resilience through creative writing, visual art, music, theater and movement. Options TBA. Highlights include:

Recognizing, Naming, and Honoring our Superpowers: A guided writing workshop exploring personal moments of resilience

Faith Leener

Faith Brigham Leener is a 2010-2011 Pardes Year Program alumni, 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.

Artist's Talk

Sarah Zell Young

WEDNESDAY

This session will begin at the above time and run for 1.5-2 hours.

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.

ELECTIVES II

[21:30-22:30 Israel] / 19:30-20:30 GMT / 14:30-15:30 Eastern / 11:30-12:30 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 alumnus) 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

Topic TBD

Nechama Goldman Barash

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, mahloket (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

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?

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.