

# **Pardees Community Education**

**Teshuva Program**

**Faculty Bios and Class Descriptions**

**September 9 – October 1, 2024**



## Faculty Bios



**Gidon Rothstein** has semicha from Yeshiva University and a PhD in Post-Biblical Jewish History and Literature from Harvard. He has taught at all ages and stages of the educational process, and is the author of Jewishly-themed fiction and non-fiction, most recently “The Judaism of the Poskim: Responsa and the Nature of Orthodox Judaism.”



**Yardeana Osband, MD**, is a pediatrician and a teacher. She hails from Boston. She studied for two years at Midreshet Lindenbaum, received her BA in Jewish Studies and Music at Stern College for Women, and attended medical school at the Sackler School for Medicine. She has taught in many schools and synagogues and is the co-host of the Daf Yomi podcast, Talking Talmud. Yardeana is currently a student in the International Halakha Scholars Program at Ohr Torah Stone. She

serves on the boards of ORA - Organization for the Resolution of Agunot and The Eden Center, and is a founder of the Orthodox Leadership Project. Yardeana came on aliya 3 years ago with her husband David Glazer and 5 children.



**Judy Klitsner** is the Rabbi Joshua S. Bakst Chair in Tanakh senior educator in Bible at Pardes, where she has empowered a generation of students to seek meaning and relevance in the text through a skills-based method of learning. Many of her students now employ her methods in educating adults and children throughout the Jewish world. In her classes, Judy weaves together traditional exegesis, modern scholarship and her own original interpretations that are informed by close

readings of the text. A disciple of the great Bible teacher Nehama Leibowitz, Judy is a popular international speaker whose teaching style is accessible, interactive and text-based, and she is particularly fond of uncovering the intertextual links– the “vibrant conversation” that takes place between the Bible’s parallel stories. Judy has taught Bible to Christian and Muslim religious leaders and she has served as a regular visiting lecturer at the London School of Jewish Studies. Judy is the author of the acclaimed book *Subversive Sequels in the Bible: How Biblical Stories Mine and Undermine Each Other*, which received a National Jewish book award. Judy is the founding board chair of Sacred Spaces, an organization that seeks to address abuses of power in Jewish institutions.



**David Levin Kruss** is an adjunct faculty member at Pardes. David holds a B.A. and Teachers’ Certification in English Literature and Jewish Thought from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He himself attended Pardes as a student. Following that he spent a number of years in yeshiva and received rabbinic ordination from the Joseph and Gwendolyn Straus Rabbinical Seminary. Most recently, David was the Director of Jewish Education, Europe for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Previous to

that he was faculty and director of special programs at Pardes..He has also served as the director of the overseas department at the Melitz Centers for Jewish Zionist Education. David spent four years in the United Kingdom as the community director and family educator of Stanmore and Canons Park Synagogue, in northwest London, the largest orthodox synagogue in Europe. David hails from South Africa, loves cooking in his spare time and sees himself as a bridge between Jewish heritage and those seeking to connect or reconnect to that tradition. David founded and directs “My Open Book Life Coaching” which uses general and Jewish texts as well as life coaching techniques to achieve personal breakthroughs.



**Rabbanit Michal Kohane** is a graduate of Yeshivat Maharat, currently teaching Torah and Talmud. She holds degrees in Land of Israel Studies, Education and Psychology. Her first book, “Hachug,” was published in Israel in 2016 and her weekly blog on Torah and life can be found at [www.miko284.com](http://www.miko284.com).



**Rabbi Dr. Reuven Kimelman** is the former rabbi of Beth Abraham, the Sephardic Congregation of New England in Brookline, MA., and Professor of Classical Judaica at Brandeis University. His Ph. D. is from Yale University. He is the author of the Hebrew book, *The Mystical Meaning of 'Lekhah Dodi' and Kabbalat Shabbat*, published by The Hebrew University, and the forthcoming *The Rhetoric of Jewish Prayer: A Historical and Literary Commentary of the Prayer Book*, published by Littman Library of Jewish

Civilization. His audio course books are *The Hidden Poetry of the Jewish Prayer Book*, and *The Moral Meaning of the Bible*.

# Teshuva Class Descriptions

## **Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rothstein - The Gemara's Repentance**

Just a few pages in Yoma have the bulk of what the Talmud had to say about repentance. Rambam famously collated these into his Laws of Repentance, but we're going to go back to the original, to see what the Gemara itself, and Rambam's predecessor, Rif, thought we needed to know about teshuva.

## **Dr. Yardeana Osband - Exploring the Musaf Prayers: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – Rituals, Themes, and Spiritual Significance**

Explore the prayers of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with a deep-dive into the musaf prayer of the high holidays. How do the prayers reflect celebration and joyfulness with sacred reflection and repentance.


## **Judy Klitsner - The Paradox of Rebecca, Unsteady Camel Whisperer**

In this four-part series, we will focus on the surprising, often contradictory, character of our most iconoclastic matriarch, Rebecca. Through close readings of her narrative, we will uncover layers of her complex, ever-evolving, character; we will then expand our grasp by comparing aspects of her story to those of other biblical figures, as presented in parallel texts.

## **Rabbi David Levin Kruss - Yom Kippur Day with Ishay Ribo, Leonard Cohen, and Paul Robeson**

We will interplay the traditional liturgy with popular music and see how both inform and give meaning to each other. We will look at Unetaneh Tokef and Leonard Cohen's Who By Fire; the service of the High Priest and Ishay Ribo's Seder Ha'avoda; Jonah and the many songs it inspired; the Martyrology and the Partisan Song.

## **Rabbanit Michal Kohane - New beginnings: The Jewish Calendar and Other Fascinating Sugiyot from Tractate Rosh Hashana.**



The Babylonian Talmud has dedicated a whole tractate for Rosh Hashana with numerous insightful discussions. We will explore 2-3 of those to learn about our calendar and its beauty. No previous background needed; texts in Hebrew and English.

### **Rabbi Michael Hattin - Exploring Sefer Yonah: Themes of Repentance and Redemption**

Sefer Yona is traditionally read as the Haftara for the afternoon service of Yom Kippur. This short work, cryptic and profound, seems to be composed of equal parts history, allegory and fantasy. We will carefully study the book of Yona using the foundational texts of the midrash and the medieval commentaries, as well as the modern tools of literary analysis, as we attempt to answer the most mysterious question of all: why does Yona steadfastly refuse to undertake his mission to Nineveh?