

Session Descriptions

Session One

10:00 - 11:00

Why Noah chose the Dove: puppet show and puppet making.

Valerie Chikly

LecTheatre Performance, Workshop
C: Family Programme

Valerie Chikly from Israel presents a special puppet show for children, dealing with peace and peaceful behaviour, based on the wonderful story by Isaac Bashevis Singer. After the show the children will be invited to build themselves a dove puppet.

We Are All Connected: Songs to Lift the Spirit

Marge Eiseman

A25 Performance
[Y] C: Family Programme, Music/Arts
Religion/Spirituality

Jewish music is more than liturgy, more than niggun, more than minor mode -- it helps us express our joy of living, and addresses our human condition. Marge Eiseman's music feels like the soundtrack to a life well-lived - from blues to triumph, from contemplation to praise and worship, you'll be singing along right away.

Bizarre Bible - the strange tale of Esther

Clive Lawton

B24/B27 Lecture, Text Study
[Y] D:Text-Based, Torah, History,
Religion/Spirituality

A close examination of the Book of Esther shows that nothing makes any sense, which might explain why the best state to enjoy Purim in is slightly inebriated. We'll ponder the puzzles and enrich your enjoyment of this wonderful, though bizarre, little book.

Kabbalah for SKeptics

Janet Berenson-Perkins

A19/A22 Discussion, Workshop
Adults E: Religion & Spirituality,

Madonna's involvement with the Kabbalah Centre has brought it into the public eye. Do you have to believe in the Jewish God to be a Kabbalist? We will focus on some of the central concepts within the Jewish Kabbalistic tradition and how they might add meaning and stability to our lives. No specific Jewish knowledge required but will be welcome.

Number limit: 50

Negotiating water issues with Israel's Neighbours - an example of real-politik

Ronit Ben Dor

A35 Discussion, Lecture
F: Israel, Contemporary Issues

As a member of both the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jordanian Water Committees, I can share some insights on the matter with participants and illustrate how the work on these issues was always fruitful - thus indicating what could be expectations for the future on other subjects.

Magen David Adom - Saving More Lives!

Richard Simon

A29 Lecture
F: Israel

The work of MDA in Israel, how it operates on a daily basis as Israel's Medical Emergency Service & Blood Bank and also how it copes with emergencies in locations such as Sderot and Kiryat Shemona.

People Like You and Me Changing Israel's Environment

Sigal Yaniv Feller

A33 Discussion, Lecture
F: Israel

Introducing local stories of civic environmental action: More and more Israelis who are concerned about their environment have decided to stop kvetching and to do something about it - including Bedouin, Charedi/ ultra-orthodox, students, Jews and Arabs living in neighbouring communities, and others. I will take you on a journey to meet some of these amazing people through whom the story of Israel's environment and environmental movement is told.

The Writer in the Attic: Tamar Yellin and 'The Genizah at the House of Shepherd.'

Tamar Yellin

A39 Lecture
G: Arts & Performance, History, Identity

Tamar Yellin's award-winning first novel, 'The Genizah at the House of Shepherd' was inspired by the discovery of a vast cache of family documents in the attic of her grandparents' house in Jerusalem. The author will read from and talk about the extraordinary true story behind her book, which embraces the gamut of Jewish history as well as exploring challenging questions about God and the Bible, destiny and identity.

Combatting Jewish white slavery in Scotland, 1885-1924

Nicholas J. Evans

A31 Lecture
H: History

This illustrated talk will chart the notorious white slave trade in Jews, from Europe to America, Argentina and South Africa, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As well as discussing attempts in London and the provinces to curtail the trafficking of female Jews, it will also consider the reasons for the delay by Jewish communities in Scotland to establish a branch of the Jewish Association for the Protection of Women and Girls during the Edwardian era.

A Consideration of some Holocaust literature

Claire Anne Singerman

A21 Discussion
[Y] H: History, Identity, Contemporary Issues
I intend to examine some of the ways writers have attempted to understand the Nazi era and the worst atrocity of the 20th Century, looking at contemporary writing for both for adults and children.

Number limit: 20

Religion and the workplace

Michele Neville

A24 Discussion
J: Contemporary Issues, Religion/Spirituality

How far should workplaces be expected to accommodate the religious beliefs of their employees? Join a structured discussion on this important issue.

Number limit: 20

Session Two 11:15 - 12:15

Any Questions Panel: Bagels or the Bible? Is Judaism a Culture with a Religion or a Religion with a Culture?

Chair: Beverley Lyons

Panellists: Fergal Davis, David Rose

Dvora Sznadjer, Henry Tankel

Ass. Hall K: Panel

How is Esther Like a Giraffe? A Family session for Purim (8-12s)

Janet Berenson-Perkins

A19/A22 Workshop
C: Family Programme,

Parents and children 8 - 12 will join together to investigate and solve the mystery of 'How is Esther Like a Giraffe?' No previous knowledge required but a willingness to have fun and talk to your children essential.

Number limit: 20

Truly Twisted Tales (5-7s)

Mekella Broomberg

A25 Performance, interactive children 5-8 C: Family Programme,

Come and find a strange and magical world of Jewish stories where nothing is quite as it seems. And the best thing about these tales is, you can even step inside...

L'Chaim: Is Drinking on Purim Healthy for Jews?

Nancy Morris

A34 Discussion, Text Study
Adults D: Torah, Contemporary Issues, Religion/Spirituality

Everyone knows we are supposed to drink on Purim until we don't know the difference between 'cursed be Haman' and 'blessed be Mordechai'. All sage health professionals warn against excessive drinking. What does Jewish tradition have to say about it? Were the rabbis of the Talmud hundreds of years ahead of their time with their ambivalence about drinking? What is the average obedient Jew eager to perform this simple Purim mitzvah meant to do?

An Unorthodox Revolution: The Religious Feminist Movement in Israel and its Impact

Shira Ben Sasson Furstenberg

A39 Lecture
F: Israel, Identity

Focussing on the struggle against the traditional exclusion of women from the 'three houses'- Beit Hamidrash (House of Study) , Beit HaKneset (House of Prayer) , Beit HaDin (House of Lawgiving).

Can non-Jewish citizens have rights in a Jewish State?

Dalia Halabi

A31 Lecture & Discussion
F: Israel, Contemporary Issues

As a Palestinian- Arab woman living in the state of Israel, I claim that Israeli liberalism has failed in developing equity for individuals and for the Arab Palestinian minority in particular. In my opinion this has resulted due to its basic assumption that Israel is a state for the Jews and not for all its citizens. It has failed in creating an Israeli nation, and instead it has created an ethnic democracy.

Number limit: 20

Shared Memories - writing workshop

David Ian Neville

A24 Workshop
[Y] G: Arts

Unlock the creativity in your mind and your past in a writing workshop open to all.

Number limit: 15

Poor Man's Food - Simply The Best!

Gil Hovav

B34 Workshop
G: Arts & performance, Israel

Gil Hovav, a leading restaurant critic and TV host in Israel, cooks a simple vegetarian Israeli meal, filled with sunshine, spices and smiles.

Number limit: 20

Lithuanian Jewry, past and present

Simon Davidovich

A29 Discussion, Lecture
H: History, Contemporary Issues

A guided photographic visit to the communities of Lithuania, before the Holocaust and now. What was the effect of WW2 on these communities and the reaction of the local people, good and bad? I will contrast the periods under German and Russian rule and will also look at the situation today.

To blog or not to blog

Nigel Allon

A21 Discussion, Lecture
J: Contemporary Issues

The Glasgow Jewish Educational Forum Blog is now one year old. It has come under much criticism and been much appreciated in its short history. There will be a presentation and discussion on its relevance to Glasgow Jewish communal life.

Lunch

12:15 - 1:30

in the Dining Hall

Lunchtime Sessions

12:20 - 12:50 & 12:55 - 1:25

Melton taster (2 sessions)

Clive Lawton

A19/A22 Discussion, Text Study
K: Tasters

The Florence Melton Adult mini-School (hereinafter called Melton) is a magnificent adult Jewish education programme devised by specialists in the Hebrew University and brought to London by Limmud several years ago. We have now negotiated with the Melton people in Jerusalem to open the programme up to the whole of the UK and Scotland is first in with a bid to run it in Glasgow. This is almost certainly the most exciting thing to hit Jewish adult education in Scotland since the invention of Scotland's Limmud programme. Come and get a taste of what it's all about with one of the most experienced Melton teachers in the UK.

Number limit: 20 per session

Session Three

1:30 - 2:30

The Shel Silverstein Session of Silliness

JCC Tribute Troupe

Dan Berelowitz, Mekella Broomberg, Jen Charlton, Daniel Hart

LectTheatre Performance

[Y] Families C: Family Programme, Music/Arts

The JCC Tribute Troupe bring you a session of silliness in celebration of Shel Silverstein, the late great poet, songwriter, musician, composer, cartoonist, screenwriter and author of some of the greatest stories for children, including *The Giving Tree* and *The Unicorn*. With poems, stories and songs for all who are children and all who are childish.

The Akedah - An argument for the sake of Heaven

Nahum Gordon

A35 Discussion Text Study
D: Torah, Religion/Spirituality

Probably more has been written about the near-sacrifice of Isaac than any other part of the Bible. I have written a script involving all the main players and those whose voices should have been heard. Come and take part in the reading and then let's hear your opinion. What do you think is the moral of the story? One thing is for sure: everyone is likely to come up with a different answer!

Don't light up, please, we're Jewish - the smoking ban & Halachah

David Rose

A34 Text Study
D: Torah, Contemporary Issues

In March 2006, Scotland introduced a smoking ban in public places. What does Jewish law have to say about such a ban and about smoking in general? This is a textual session looking at the sources. No previous knowledge of Hebrew necessary.

Number limit: 20

Rosh Chodesh: Gateway to Every Woman's Soul

Marge Eiseman

A25 Workshop

Women only E: Religion & Spirituality, text study
From the beginning of the Jewish narrative, women have gathered in the dark of the moon to have women's time. Bringing the contemporary celebration of Rosh Chodesh from the American scene, Marge Eiseman uses music, art, movement and text-study to create a real sisterhood!

Religious Pluralism in Israeli society: Obstacles, Challenges, Achievements

Shira Ben Sasson Furstenberg

A39 Lecture

F: Israel, Identity, Religion/Spirituality

Is there more than one way of being Jewish in the state of Israel? We will look at the work of pluralistic organizations in Israel within different target populations. Their remit is to help build alternative Jewish identities and further the quest for freedom of and from religion. These organizations are also involved in promoting legislation and developing rituals for civil marriage.

Conflict and Reconciliation - Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families working for peace.

Judith Elkan

A33 Film, Discussion

G: Israel, Contemporary Issues

The session will screen 'Encounter Point' - a moving and remarkable documentary that describes the work of reconciliation in Israel / Palestine, with special focus on the work undertaken by a group of bereaved families on both sides. Robi Damelin lost her son and Ali Abu Awwad lost his brother in the conflict. Both are members of the ParentCircle -Families Forum , now comprising more than 500 bereaved families from both sides who seek to achieve reconciliation and peaceful co-existence. Robi and Ali feature centrally in the film and both are eloquent and passionate communicators of their vision. There will an introduction by Judith Elkan, co-chair of the Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum in the UK, and time for questions and discussion.

Israel at the UN: A Nation That Dwells Alone?

Hillel Neuer

A31 Lecture

F: Israel, History Contemporary Issues

An eyewitness account of the fight for equal treatment of Israel at the United Nations, with a focus on the new Human Rights Council.

Wartime Cooking in Jerusalem

Gil Hovav

B24/B27 Lecture

G: Art & Performance, Israel

How do you get a five year old in 1960 Jerusalem to eat his vegetables?

Why did my mother not eat anything when the 1948 siege was finally lifted from Jerusalem?

What did my great-grandfather do on his death-bed, that shocked the British Consul?

******Double Session:********Chiune Sugihara (1900 - 1986),
Japanese diplomat who saved many
Jews in WW2****Introduction (30mins) by Simon Davidovich
followed by:****SUGIHARA: Conspiracy of Kindness
- a Film (80mins)**

A29 Lecture & Film

[Y] H & J: History / Identity

As director of the Sugihara Museum in Kaunas, Lithuania, I will give a short account of this remarkable man. He, his wife, and some Dutch diplomats managed to arrange transit visas to Japan for many Lithuanian Jews, thereby saving them from the Holocaust. His diplomatic career was ruined as a result. At last his bravery and selflessness have been recognised. The film gives a moving account of this unsung hero.

**Session Four
2:45 - 3:45****Israel at 60 – Opportunities and
Challenges****Israel Panel****Chair: Joel Conn****Panellists: Ronit Ben-Dor, Naomi Chazan, Ezra
Golombok, Clive Lawton, Barry Marcus**

Ass. Hall K: Panel

**Yiddish Singing workshop - Nigunim
Stephanie Brickman**

A25

[Y] C: Family Programme

For hundreds of years nigunim (repetitive tunes with or without words) have been sung by Jews. In this session we will learn some nigunim and have fun singing together - no experience necessary.

**Purity and Body in Early Jewish-
Christian Discourse****Yair Furstenberg**

A35 Lecture

D: Text-Based, Torah

Jewish laws governing food were criticized by Christianity from its very first stages. This dispute exposed an essential characteristic of Rabbinic food laws: the ongoing attempt to guard the body from invasion, fearing the vulnerability of the body. What are the moral faults of such a view and how can it be defended? A close reading of a New Testament paragraph alongside the Talmudic reaction can serve to elucidate these matters.

Jewish social teaching**Paul Spicker**

A24 Discussion, Lecture

J: Contemporary Issues

Is there a Jewish way of looking at society and social responsibility? This session will look at moral obligations to others, universal and communitarian ideas, and Jewish views about social protection and welfare.

**Not Called 'Your Son' but 'Her Son'
Mark Solomon**

A34 Text Study

D: Text-Based, History, Contemporary
Issues Torah

In Orthodox Halakhah a child's status, as Jewish or otherwise, always follows the mother. But this was not always so, and is still disputed in Liberal Judaism. In this session we will study some basic texts from Mishnah and Talmud to learn about the history of Jewish status - that where the father is Jewish the child's status derives from the father not the mother, and that originally the rabbis declared the child of a Jewish mother a mamzer!

**Challenges and opportunities of Arab-
Jewish relationships post 2nd
Lebanon War****Dalia Halabi**

A33 Lecture

F: Israel

**Why a Jewish Museum has to be a
'Museum for Everyone'****Natasha Beckman**

A31 Discussion, Lecture

G: Arts

The goal of Ben Uri Gallery is to be A Museum for Everyone, bridging Communities through Art. But why does a Jewish Museum have to be a Museum for everyone? And can communities be bridged through art?

Jews and Crime**Ross Bradshaw**

A33 Lecture

[Y] H: History

There is a Yiddish phrase which, translated, says "A Jewish thief steals only books". Yet Jewish history has its criminals from the fictional Fagin to the London Jewish gangster Jack Spot. From Odessa to Tel Aviv there have been and still are Jewish "mobsters". This session looks at Jews and crime in fiction, film and fact.

Hebrew and Aramaic: A Friendly Embrace**Oron Joffe**

A21 Lecture

J: Contemporary Issues, History

The language of Moses was Hebrew, but Jesus spoke Aramaic. How and when did the change of language take place? Oron will explore the intimate relationship between the two languages.

Session Five**4:00 - 5:00****The Great Tzedaka Debate****Clive Lawton**

B24/B27 Activity and discussion

[Y] C: Family Programme, Contemporary Issues

In this session, participants will have an active opportunity to test their values and decide which field of tzedaka they rate as most important. Is it animals or the elderly, Jews or the general population, here or abroad, emergencies or strategic interventions. We all know charity begins at home, but where to then?

Strictly Israeli Dancing**Shosh Greenberg**

A31 Workshop

[Y] C: Family Programme, Music/Arts

Come along and participate in a session on Israeli dance, taught by an experienced teacher. Learn more about the culture and music of Israel by taking part in these traditional dances, and enjoy the best music the country has to offer. All welcome; no experience necessary.

Number limit: 20

Purim - The Alternative Version**Nahum Gordon**

A35 Lecture, Text Study

D: Torah, Religion/Spirituality

Two years ago at Scotland Limmud Day, I looked at the real story behind Chanukah, its origins and consequences. Sadly, the story did not have a happy ending. Now I am going to do the same to Purim, and this promises to be even more controversial. However, I will conclude by offering you an inspiring message of hope to counter those winter blues.

What was behind God's back? A radical re-reading of Moses' visit to Rabbi Akiba's Torah Academy**Diana Lipton**

A33 Text Study

D: Text-Based, Torah, History Identity
Torah Religion/Spirituality

The story of Moses' visit to Mount Sinai, where he sees God tying crowns to the letters of the Torah and travels through time to Rabbi Akiba's Torah academy, is one of the Talmud's best known narratives. Diana Lipton will lead an accessible, highly interactive session, culminating in a radical re-reading of a rich and fascinating text.

Writing Your Soul's Song**Marge Eiseman**

A25 Workshop

E: Religion & Spirituality, Music/Arts

The Psalmist says, "Sing unto G!D a new song!" And each of us has a song that is uniquely our own, but how do we find it? Marge Eiseman guides you on a journey of personal exploration, writing and singing to connect you to your own soul-song.

Number limit: 15

Does Israel Need a Constitution? Democracy, Rights, and the Rule of Law**Naomi Chazan**

A19/A22 Discussion, Lecture

F: Israel, Identity, Contemporary Issues

Prime Minister Olmert promised Israelis a draft constitution as a 60th birthday present. The Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee is working overtime on a draft, just when the High Court of Justice is under increased attack. What provisions are included in the draft? Do they promote civil rights in Israel? What effect will they have on Israel's democracy? Is this the kind of gift Israelis need at this time?

How Green is the Land of Milk and Honey?

Sigal Yaniv Feller

A24 Discussion, Lecture
F: Israel, History Contemporary Issues
Education/Science Israel

The task to build the state of Israel was a challenging mission. Zionism didn't always take nature and the environment into account. Today, 60 years later, Israel's massive development and geopolitical situation resulted in a complex environmental reality. In this session I walk you through the major milestones of Israel's history, from a new and little known perspective - the green angle. Is Israel going to be environmentally sustainable?

The Leonard Cohen Lit Café

JCC Tribute Troupe

Dan Berelowitz, Mekella Broomberg,

Jen Charlton, Daniel Hart

LecTheatre Performance

[Y] G: Families, The Arts & Performance

See some of the hottest young Jewish talent pay homage to one of the coolest Jewish lyrical legends. Join the JCC Tribute Troupe in a celebration of the work of Leonard Cohen. Join singer/songwriters, Dan Berelowitz and Jen Charlton, musician and actor Daniel Hart and storyteller Mekella Broomberg, as they sing 'Hallelujah' to the poet, writer, songsmith, musician, Torah reading Zen Buddhist monk and his inspirational 'Tower of Song'.

Avrom Nokhem Stencl: a Yiddish poet in Berlin and London

Heather Valencia

A39 Lecture
G: The Arts

Avrom Nokhem Stencl, a young Yiddish poet from a Hassidic background in Poland, migrated to Germany in 1921 and led a bohemian life in the cultural melting-pot of Berlin. He fled to England in 1936 and became a central figure in post-war Yiddish life in London. I will discuss his interesting life and present some of his poetry (no knowledge of Yiddish required!)

A Scottish Shtetl? - The Jews of the Gorbals a Hundred Years Ago

Harvey L Kaplan

A29 Discussion, Lecture
[Y] H: History

Illustrated presentation on the Jews of the Gorbals a century ago, showing how thousands of Jewish immigrants established a close-knit community, with a network of religious, welfare, social and cultural organisations.

Shoah: Forgive or Forget?

Barry Marcus

A34 Discussion, Lecture
J: Contemporary Issues, History, Identity

Is there an imperative to remember the Shoah, and, if so, should it be indefinite? Is the Shoah in danger of overwhelming us/defining us - would it be better for our own psyche and wellbeing to forgive and forget? What should our attitude and approach be to the Death Camp and Concentration Camp sites – should we allow them to disintegrate slowly, or should we insist that they are maintained?

Finale

5:00 - 5:30

in the Dining Hall