**TISHA B’AV AT PARDES**

**AUGUST 1, 2017**

***The Tisha B’Av 5777 Day of Learning in sponsored in loving memory of Ben Blutstein z”l by his family who misses him dearly; and in loving memory of Terri R. Mentor z”l and honoring her lifetime of engagement with Jewish learning by E. Scott and Jackie Menter***

**Topics, Speakers, Location, and Biographies**

**10:00-11:15 am**

***How to Restore Unity to a Fragmented World: “Loving one’s fellow as oneself”*** Yiscah Smith

**3rd Floor - Dining Room**

We will *explore the inner dimension of  "Loving one's fellow as oneself "  The secret to engaging in this spiritual practice that is surprisingly doable, practical and a must.*

*Yiscah is an adjunct faculty member at Pardes. She is a Jewish educator, spiritual activist and published author who addresses the spiritual dimension of authentic living. Yiscah employs her own story of ​the joys and struggles with her own spirituality, gender identity and commitment to authentic living​. As one who transitioned from a Chabad man to an observant woman, she presents topics in an accessible and vivid style, from both a personal and a text-based perspective.*

***Productive Conversations: Can we release feelings of frustration and hurt without damaging a relationship?***

Tovah Leah Nachmani

**Entry Level - Room C**

Through an intimate re-read of the midrash of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza, and a classicTalmudic disagreement, we will analyze the deep rooted tensions which ultimately led to the devastating destruction of Jerusalem. We will reveal two empowering and practical ways to do much more than pay lip service - to the root of some social tensions in our own times.

*Tovah Leah has been teaching Bible, Liturgy and Prayer and Relationships at Pardes for 14 years in the Summer Program and eight years as a full time faculty member. She holds a B.A. in Near Eastern Language and Literature and Religious Studies from Indiana University and a Teaching Certificate in Tanakh and Jewish Thought from the Michlelet Herzog Seminary in Gush Etzion.*

**Post Modern Eicha: Chanting and poetry from the depth**

Rabbi Dr. Ruth Gan Kagan

**Entry Level - Room A**

The kinot/amentations read in shuls are an age old practice of sinking into the experience if this day though challenging poetry written long time ago, We want to go the same path of opening to our feelings level only using poetry and melodies of our day and age, stringing new beads onto the old ceremonial chain.

*Rabbi Dr. Ruth Gan Kagan is the leader of Nava Tehila in Jerusalem. She experiments with rejuvenating prayer through music and intention, teaches Kabbalah and Chassidut and serves as a mentor and spiritual director for rabbinical students and others who wish to deepen their relationships with the Divine.*

**11:30 am-12:45 pm**

***Why Lose Hope? How to believe in redemption when all looks bleak***

Dr. Gideon Weitzman

**3rd Floor - Beit Midrash**

The Temple Mount is one of the most contested and volatile plots of land in the world, the focus of religious and national confrontation. This lecture will focus on the archaeological destruction perpetrated by the Islamic Waqf's renovations there and the subsequent initiative to sift through recovered earth from the site in search of ancient remains. We will discuss the political background that enabled this violation to take place and will use the artifacts as teaching aids in briefly tracing the holy esplanade's history.

*Rabbi Gideon Weitzman is director of the Puah Institute, rabbi of the Merkaz Modiin Synagogue in Modiin, and visiting associate principal in the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He writes a weekly column in the Torah Tidbits on medical ethics and has published three books on the philosophy of Rav Kook. Gideon is a frequent teacher in the Pardes programs.*

***“That Day His Soul Rested”: The mercy killing of Rebbe***

Gila Fine

**3rd Floor – Dining Room**

What makes Rebbe’s handmaid decide to put an end to her master’s life? Why does she use a clay jar as the murder weapon? And how does this story form the basis for the Jewish laws of euthanasia? A reading of Ktubot 104a, in light of the *Shulhan Arukh* and *Sefat Emet*, *Iggrot Moshe* and *Tzitz Eliezer*, Carol Gilligan and Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Abraham Joshua Heschel and Brittany Maynard.

*Gila Fine is the editor in chief of Maggid Books, a home for contemporary Jewish thought (Koren Publishers Jerusalem Ltd.). In her spare time, Gila is a teacher of Talmudic narrative, and has previously taught at the Hebrew University, Tel-Aviv University, the Shalom Hartman Institute and the Pardes Institute. She is the former editor of the quarterly journal Azure: Ideas for the Jewish Nation, and the ghostwriter behind several books and articles.*

***The Sound of Divine Silence: Suffering and the search for meaning***

Dr. Elliott Malamet

**Entry Level - Room C**

From the perspective of Jewish philosophy, the correct question is not so much “why do bad things happen to good people,” but how can a supposedly all loving and all-powerful God allow for the presence of evil and suffering in the world? We will explore how Jewish thinkers, ancient and modern, have approached this problem and analyse their “explanations”, with special emphasis on post-Holocaust theology.

*Dr. Elliott Malamet is the co-founder and program director of Torah in Motion, whose mission is to explore the interface between Judaism and modernity. Dr. Malamet currently teaches Jewish Philosophy at Yeshivat Machanaim in Efrat and will be teaching English Literature at the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University this coming year.*

***I would never set foot in Poland! A virtual walking tour of Jewish the Warsaw Ghetto***

Rabbi Gideon Sylvester

**Entry Level - Room A**

On Tisha B'Av 1942, the Germans started liquidating the Warsaw Ghetto transporting the Jews to Treblinka.Our "walking tour" of Warsaw, will tell the story of this great Jewish community through the testimonies of  those who lived through those terrible years. We will walk through the ghetto using power point slides to see not only how it looks now as "the real tours" do, but also how it looked then. We will visit the synagogue and historic cemetery, the remnants of the Ghetto wall and the train station from which the Jews were taken to Treblinka. Along the way we will meet the great personalities of Polish Jewry and hear their stories from the founder of Esperanto, to the great rabbis, from those who cooperated with the Germans to those who rebelled. Our walk will end near Mila 18 the focus of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising with its inspirational message to future generations.

*Rabbi Gideon Sylvester is the British United Synagogue's Israel Rabbi. He is an adjunct faculty member at Pardes and for the last three years, he has guided the United Synagogue's Young Professional Bus on the March of the Living.*

***Why Lose Hope? How to believe in redemption when all looks bleak***

Dr. Gideon Weitzman

**Entry Level - Room C**

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**1:15-2:15 pm**

**“This Pardes Life”, LIVE! Despair and Hope: Politics, religion and community in a changing world**

Nechama Goldman Barash, Rabbi David Levin-Kruss and Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth

Moderated by Rabbi Leon Morris

**Beit Midrash**

Reasons for despair abound in our world today.  Politics seems to have reached a new low.  Religious life is increasingly extremist and much more focused on hate than on love.  Building real community is threatened by an over-emphasis on the self and the lack of shared space in our online world.  What are the sources of hope in our current reality, and how might we translate that hopefulness into action that is redemptive?

This Pardes Life is a podcast in which Pardes faculty and public figures are interviewed about what they find compelling.

***Nechama Goldman Barash*** *teaches Rabbinic Literature, Women and Judaism, Medical Ethics, Prophets and Bible at Pardes. She made aliyah from Philadelphia over 20 years ago after graduating from Stern College. She studied for three years in Matan’s Advanced Talmud Institute and finished a Master’s degree in Talmud at Bar-Ilan University, with a thesis on the Beautiful Captive Woman in the Eyes of Chazal. She teaches at a variety of Israeli institutions and is also a graduate of Nishmat’s* [*Yoetzet Halacha*](http://yoatzot.org/search/?404;http://yoatzot.org:80/about.php)*program. Currently she is studying in Matan’s new Hilchata program, which is an advanced program in the area of Jewish law.*

***Daniel Roth*** *is the director of the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution. He holds a Ph.D. from* [*Bar Ilan University‘s Program for Conflict Resolution*](http://www1.biu.ac.il/indexE.php)*,* [*Management and Negotiation*](http://faculty.biu.ac.il/%7Esteing/conflict/programenglish.htm) *writing on Jewish models of conflict resolution, peacemaking, and reconciliation. Daniel has been teaching advanced rabbinics, Bible, conflict resolution and other subjects at Pardes for over fifteen years. Daniel is also a lecturer at Bar Ilan’s Program for Conflict Resolution, a senior research fellow at* [*George Mason University’s Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution*](http://crdc.gmu.edu/) *and an Israeli certified court mediator. He holds a MA in Talmud from* [*Hebrew University*](http://www.huji.ac.il/huji/eng/)*, a B.Ed in Jewish Philosophy and Talmud from Herzog Teachers’ College, and studied for eight years in* [*Yeshivat Har-Etzion*](http://www.haretzion.org/)*, during which time he received rabbinic ordination. Daniel is married with four children and lives in Jerusalem.*

***David Levin Kruss*** *is an adjunct faculty member at Pardes. He is the Director of Education, Europe for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.*

*David holds a B.A. and Teachers’ Certification in English Literature and Jewish Thought from the* [*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*](http://www.huji.ac.il/huji/eng/)*. 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.*

*Previous to working at Pardes, David served as the director of the overseas department at the Melitz Centers for Jewish Zionist Education. He also taught on a number of year long programs including Young Judea and Otzma. David spent four years in the United Kingdom where he served as the community director and family educator of* [*Stanmore and Canons Park Synagogue*](http://www.sacps.org.uk/)*, 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. He is married and the proud father of three boys.*

***Leon Morris*** *is the President of Pardes. He comes to Pardes from the Shalom Hartman Institute where he was Vice President for North American programs in Israel. He was also on the faculty of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Leon made aliyah with his wife Dasee Berkowitz (Pardes Year Program alumna 1994-95) and their three children in June 2014, after serving as the rabbi of Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, NY. He was the founding director of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El (now the Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center) in Manhattan.*

*Ordained from Hebrew Union College in 1997 where he was a Wexner Graduate Fellow, he has worked extensively with the Jewish community of India, beginning in 1990 when he served as a Jewish Service Corps volunteer for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He was also a Mandel Jerusalem Fellow. Leon has taught at Orthodox, Conservative and Reform institutions and is a regular contributor to the Jewish, US and Israeli press. He is an editor of the new Reform High Holy Day machzor, Mishkan HaNefesh and is a contributor to Jewish Theology in Our Time: A New Generation Explores the Foundations and Future of Jewish Belief (edited by Elliot Cosgrove, Jewish Lights, 2010)*

**2:45- 4:15 pm**

*Film: Tunnel of Hope A documentary charting the story of 220 Jewish escapees who successfully fled from a camp in Nowogrodek including Michael’s father, Jack Kagan*

*Followed by a discussion with the co-producer Michael Kagan*

**Beit Midrash**

The documentary covers a 13-year-old Jack’s escape in 1943, together with a ragtag group of 240 Jews, through a tunnel dug over one painstaking week, which took them out of the camp and into the nearby forest. They were the last remaining survivors of some 11,000 Jews from the region that had been decimated by two major massacres in the years prior, together with starvation and illness. Jack himself had lost all 10 toes to frostbite. (In one of the film’s most powerful scenes, Jack takes off his shoe to reveal his foot with no toes.) He was recovering from their amputation when he overheard the adults — led by Berel Yoselevich — formulating the escape plan.

***Michael Kagan*** *is the author of the Holistic Haggadah (Urim), God’s Prayer (Albion-Andalus) and The King’s Messenger (Albion-Andalus Books). He is a scientist, entrepreneur, and teacher of Holistic Judaism. He is also the co-creator of "The Dance of the Tree" (YouTube) together with Levi Ben-Shmuel which combines tai-chi-like movements and the sefirot into a meditative dance inspired by the Lurianic configuration for shaking the lulav. Michael is co-producer of "Tunnel of Hope".. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Rabbi Ruth Gan Kagan*

**4:30 pm**

*Memorial Service led by Yisrael Campbell*

*Followed by Mincha*

*Traditional Minyan Beit Midrash*

*Egalitarian Minyan Dining Room*