



Jerusalem Sukkot Festival of Jewish Learning and Culture  
"Our feet stood within your gateways, O Jerusalem" - Psalm 122



## Imagine...

- Tens of thousands of Jews gathering in Jerusalem on Sukkot
- Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, secular, and traditional
- A celebration of Jewish learning and culture

Gateways ([www.gate.org.il/en/](http://www.gate.org.il/en/)) is a free festival of learning and culture in Jerusalem on Thursday, October 16, and Sunday, October 19.

## **Pardes instructors will be teaching at the following times and venues**

### **Thursday 16 October**

**12:00-13:30**

**Shmuel Klitsner**

**Deception, Identity, and Freudian Slips in Genesis**

Heichal Shlomo, 58 King George St.

The author of *Wrestling Jacob* (Urim Publications - 2006) will share a close reading of Genesis 32 through an innovative literary/psychological method that sees Jacob as "everyperson" wrestling with self in a struggle for autonomy and integrity.

Shmuel Klitsner has taught Bible and Talmud for the past 20 years. He has guest taught at Pardes over the past 17 years and has enjoyed meeting scores of Pardes students at his Shabbat table through his wife Judy, a senior faculty member. Shmuel is an ordained rabbi and teaches at Midreshet Lindenbaum.

### **Thursday 16 October**

**14:00-15:30**

**Yaffa Epstein**

**Insiders and Outsiders: Who Decides the Boundaries of Rabbinic Authority?**

Heichal Shlomo, 58 King George St.

This class examines the fascinating story in the Babylonian Talmud of the deposition of Rabban Gamliel. We will examine critical questions of rabbinic leadership and authority with an eye to understanding just who makes the rules in the study hall.

Yaffa Epstein holds a Law Degree from Bar Ilan University and has been a member of the Israeli Bar since 2003. She teaches Talmud and Prayer at Pardes ([www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il)), where she also serves as the director of recruitment.

**Thursday 16 October**

**16:00-17:30**

**David Levin-Kruss**

**In Praise of Envy, Adultery and Disobeying Your Parents: Re-evaluating the Ten Commandments**

Heichal Shlomo, 58 King George St.

The ten commandments are more honored than understood. We pay lip-service to them but often do not understand how problematic they are. In this class we examine whether envy, adultery and honoring parents is indeed as straightforward as it seems.

David Levin-Kruss holds a BA and Teachers' Certification in English Literature and Jewish Thought from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, attended Pardes, and has rabbinic ordination from the Joseph Strauss Rabbinical Seminary. He teaches Jewish philosophy and mishna at Pardes where he also directs special programs.

**Thursday 16 October**

**18:00-19:30**

**David Bernstein**

**The Six Day War as a Turning Point in Jewish History**

Jewish Agency for Israel, 48 King George St.

That the June 1967 war changed the face of Israel and the Middle East is one thing. But it also had a profound impact on the diaspora, especially concerning Soviet Jews and the relationship between Jews in the west and Israel. Come learn how this event influenced the minds and hearts of a generation.

Dr. Bernstein holds a BA and MA in History and a PhD in Religious Education from New York University and also attended Yeshivat HaMivtar. David has been the dean of the Pardes Institute ([www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il)), a diverse and open yeshiva, since 1998. Before making aliya in 1984, Dr. Bernstein was the director of informal education at the Ramaz Upper School in New York City, where he created and taught an integrated course in world and Jewish history.

**Sunday 19 October**

**Daniel Roth**

**12:00-13:30**

**What exactly did the Vagabond, the Butcher and the Jester say to the New Immigrant? - Humorous Encounters in the Talmud between Israeli and Diaspora Jews**

Heichal Shlomo, 58 King George St.

Has your Hebrew accent ever been made fun of by your friendly Israeli cab driver? Have you ever been screamed at by an angry passing driver and told to go back from where you came from? If you have, this is the class for you. In this text focused class, we will explore three fascinating and all too familiar stories found in the Jerusalem Talmud, about new immigrants and visitors from the Diaspora who wanted to come "home" to Eretz Yisrael, only to be humiliated and ostracized by the locals. How did they deal with this? How can we deal today

with the many cultural clashes in our communities between locals and new immigrants? This class is open to all levels.

Daniel Roth teaches Talmud to the Pardes ([www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il)) Kollel (Advanced Learning Seminar), a program he also directs. He is writing his doctorate on reconciliation in rabbinic literature at the Bar-Ilan University Conflict Resolution department, and holds a Masters in Talmud from Hebrew University.

**Sunday 19 October**

**14:00-15:30**

**Alex Israel**

**Does Prayer Belong in the Synagogue?**

Heichal Shlomo, 58 King George St.

From the passionate prayers of Jacob and Moses via the Rambam to the biting critiques of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, we shall examine whether the synagogue enhances, or perhaps hinders prayer. Can a person meet G-d in shul?

Alex Israel was born in the UK, studied at the London School of Economics, and emigrated to Israel sixteen years ago. Alex studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and was ordained by the Israeli Rabbinat. He is Director of Continuing Education at Pardes ([www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il)).

**Sunday 19 October**

**16:00-17:30**

**Zvi Hirschfield**

**The Place of Place: The Concept of Kedushat Hamakom?**

U.Z. Greenberg Center, 34 Jaffa St.

Using sources ranging from the bible to modern Jewish thinkers, both secular and religious, we will explore the idea of Holy Place in Judaism. Our study will also lead us to explore the impact of these ideas on Jewish spirituality, Zionism, and the relationship between Israeli and diaspora Jews.

Zvi Hirschfield holds an MA from Harvard University in Medieval and Modern Jewish Thought, and has studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. He teaches Talmud and Jewish philosophy at Pardes. ([www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il))