

Yom Kippur 5777 Afternoon Activities

The King's Mistake: Story and Discussion for Kids, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

In many stories, David, the King of Israel, is a hero, but the story of David and Bathsheba shows that not everyone is perfect. Why is it so hard to admit we are wrong? Sometimes, we need a little help.

This story and discussion is aimed at Grade Four and up. Grownups with or without kids are welcome to attend, but make sure to let the younger participants answer the questions!

Eden Nameri has been telling Bible stories to kids and grown ups for over 15 years. A recovering summer camp counsellor, Eden is the Shir Libeynu board member responsible for children's and family programming. She can often be heard telling stories at Shul or at 1001 Friday Nights.

The Other Book of Yom Kippur: constructing a good death for ourselves and our loved ones, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Library

Although a major theme of Yom Kippur is our hope to be inscribed in the Book of Life, we all know that the Other Book awaits us in the end. This practical workshop will help participants plan and think about some of the important issues facing us in our quest for the elusive Good Death, including (but not limited to) advance care planning, treatment choices, hospice/palliative care, and assisted dying.

Ed Weiss is a member of Shir Libeynu and a family doctor who practices in the west end of the city. He is on the Physician Advisory Committee of Dying with Dignity Canada. He lives in midtown with his wife, Mollie, and their two rotund cats.

Yom Kippur Yoga, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Workman Hall

A prayer of heart and body, this yoga workshop will be a chance to stretch out any stiffness and move with conscious contemplation of your Yom Kippur intentions for the new year. You are invited to bring something to write with for some reflection before and after the movement portion of our session. Your intentions can be anything ranging from healing in your body or in personal relationships, from creating and achieving goals.

Please bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

Judith Mintz is a PhD Candidate in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University, where she is writing her dissertation on the intersections of race, class, and gender in yoga communities in North America. In addition to being a full time student, Judith is also a graduate teaching assistant in Gender Studies at York University, registrar at Avenue Road Academy, and a single parent to two daughters. Judith has been a certified Kripalu Yoga Instructor since 1998 and a shiatsu therapist since 2000. She practiced both of these modalities full time until embarking on grad school in 2009.

Hevruta as Queer Practice, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sanctuary

In contemporary Jewish queer literature, the eroticized images of learning in *hevruta* (traditional study partnership) construct a distinctive Jewish model of same-sex relationships. *Hevruta* can be a very intimate space for queer Jews, one that combines erotic, intellectual, and emotional connections through sharing the text. This "text" model of gay relationships, which forms an intimate

"erotic triangle" between the text and the *hevruta* partners, is something that mainstream gay culture does not typically offer, and thus it creates a distinctive Jewish type of queer experience.

Shlomo Gleibman is a Humanities PhD Candidate at York University. His research and teaching focus on Jewish LGBTQ culture through exploring the intersections of the classical Jewish texts and their interpretive tradition, contemporary Canadian and American literature, and queer theory.

Mordecai Richler and Torah, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Library

Just as Torah in its strictest and widest sense is the shared central story of the Jewish people, the works of Mordecai Richler can be viewed as the shared central story of Canadian Jews.

Several stories look directly at Judaism: the rescue of the Sefer Torah from the fire in SON OF A SMALLER HERO, the Bar Mitzvah celebrations in THE APPRENTICESHIP OF DUDDY KRAVITZ or Reuben Shapiro's biblical exegesis on JOSHUA THEN AND NOW.

The multi-generational family saga of SOLOMON GURSKY WAS HERE strongly echoes the story of our Matriarchs and Patriarchs in BERESHIT. The Shoah is directly confronted in ST. URBAN'S HORSEMAN.

Just as with Torah, there are difficulties for contemporary Jews, such as the sexism of many of Richler's characters and repeated episodes of Jewish self-loathing. This workshop will develop from our shared experiences of Richler's oeuvre. Responses to the writings of other Canadian Jewish authors such as Leonard Cohen, Adele Wiseman, Naim Kattan or Phyllis Gottlieb are welcome.

David Orenstein lives in Riverdale with his partner, Jenny Stimac. They are both retired Toronto high school teachers. They frequently visit family in Montreal who live in Mordecai Richler's famous childhood St. Urban St. neighbourhood. After post-secondary studies focusing on mathematics and biology, he entered high school teaching in Toronto. After a career teaching mostly mathematics he retired four years ago. Apart from enjoying more family time, he now engages in nature study, researching the history of Canadian science and pursuing Jewish learning.

Stepping through the Gates: Meditation for Yom Kippur, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Open for me the gates of righteousness that I may enter and praise God (Psalm 118:19)

As the Days of Awe approach their conclusion, we will explore our intentions for the new year through silent and guided meditation, and a little chanting. Suitable for both novice and experienced meditators.

Lorne Blumer, a graduate of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's program in Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training leads contemplative ritual for Congregation Shir Libeynu, maintains a dedicated meditation practice, and blogs about in-the-street-spirituality at Lorne Meets World.

Uncovering Our History: Biblical Archeology, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Library

At Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we read particular passages from the Bible. Learn about the times and places these stories took place. Gerda will speak about her experiences as a volunteer on five archeological digs in Israel.

From 1988 to 2011, **Gerda Cole** was connected to the Biblical Archaeology Society in Washington. She has attended numerous seminars and lectures on Biblical Archaeology.