

Yachad educational courses

Yachad provides a wide-ranging education on Israel from a biblical, Talmudic and 21st century perspective. Our diverse set of educators are able to use their knowledge and skills to provide a robust and challenging outlook.

How this works: You can create whatever course best reflects your needs. You decide how many sessions you would like to run in your synagogue or community. Pick the sessions you would like from the list below and email us:

info@yachad.org.uk

with your ideal sessions and dates and we will try and provide you with the course of your choosing. Each session costs £100.

Session 1: The end of Jewish Sovereignty:

When the rabbis of the Talmud look back at the loss of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel in the year 70, the conclusion they draw is that Jewish infighting and disunity was as much to blame as the Roman Empire. Together we will read the story and explore the lessons it may hold for us today.

Session facilitator: Dan Reisel

Dan Reisel is a doctor working in London and currently serves as Yachad chair. He has taught throughout the community and is a well-known presenter at Limmud. He received his PhD from the University of Oxford in 2004 and served as an infantry soldier in the Second Lebanon War.

Session 2: Terminology 101

When people talk about occupations, annexation, laws of war and refugees what are they actually referring to? This session will take participants through the basic terminology of the conflict and frame some of the most contested issues in the context of international law.

Session facilitator: Danny Friedman

Danny Friedman is a barrister practicing at Matrix Chambers who specialises in human rights, international humanitarian law and national security issues. He currently serves on the board of Yachad.

Session 3: Is the Talmud a blue-print for conflict resolution?

This session will explore whether the Talmud can offer us any insight into conflict and peace-making in the 21st century.

Session facilitator: Benedict Roth

Benedict Roth is a popular Talmud teacher who studied Hebrew grammar at Oxford and Talmud at Machon Pardes in Jerusalem. He commented, when preparing for this course, that "My teachers not only taught Jewish values from the Talmud but also lived with those values, because they felt a direct connection between the ancient voices on the page and the challenges of today. My role is to continue teaching those connections."

Session 4: Ten Myths about Israel and How to Counter Them

Ever felt stumped in an argument about Israel? Ever had the feeling that some of the reasons you're told there isn't a partner for peace, or that Palestinian statehood is a threat to Israel's existence, don't quite add up? This session will look at how we can change this narrative by countering some of the 'myths' of the conflict.

Session facilitator: Dan Reisel

Dan Reisel is a doctor working in London and currently serves as Yachad chair. He has taught throughout the community and is a well-known presenter at Limmud. He received his PhD from the University of Oxford in 2004 and served as an infantry soldier in the Second Lebanon War.

Session 5: Bridging the divide Session 6: Bridging the divide

This session will provide participants with the opportunity to view a photographic exhibition and film which showcase verbatim stories taken from interviews by The Forgiveness Project with 8 members of Combatants for Peace, an Israeli/Palestinian organisation created by ex-militants from both areas who have, through their own personal journeys, individually and now collectively reached the conclusion that they no longer wish to be part of perpetuating what they see as a Cycle of Violence. The session aims to create an environment which facilitates insight into our own mind-sets: how they develop, how they control our outlook and the impact of allowing them to begin to dissolve. It is hoped that the discussion will enable the participants to begin to address their thinking with a generosity that might allow greater compassion for the intricacy and complexity of what feels like an intransigent situation.

Session Facilitator: Ann David

Ann David is a trained Psychotherapist and has worked both as a Clinician and as a Trainer. For the last 6 years she has been involved and worked with a number of Israeli NGOs while in Israel including Physicians for Human Rights, Rabbis for Human Rights, Women's Federation for World Peace and Combatants for Peace. The more that she saw and experienced, the more she realised the complexity of the situation and that the real challenge is to find a way forward through a genuine respect of the realities of all of those involved with the conflict.

Session 6: Demography and Democracy

Israeli democracy is work in progress, not yet an established fact. The makeup of Israeli society has changed radically over the past 63 years as successive waves of immigration followed that of the founders. Many of the problems and challenges Israel faces internally can be traced to the beliefs and expectations of so varied a population, and the complex political and legal system whose foundation was laid long before statehood.

Session facilitator: Naomi Shepherd

Naomi Shepherd, educated in London and Oxford University, lived in Israel for 45 years. She has been correspondent for a number of British and US papers, documentary script writer, and author of eight books- mostly history and biography on Jewish and Israeli themes. She has written, inter alia, on Palestinian history before the establishment of Israel, refugee rescue during the Holocaust, Jewish radical women, and Russian immigrants to Israel. From 1972 she participated in civil rights movements such as the Association for Civil Rights in Israel and the Public Committee against Torture.

Session 7: Visions and realities

When our vision for Israel does not match up to the reality in front of us how can we make a difference and who do we take inspiration from? This session will explore some of the personal stories of individuals involved in social change in Israel and will look at how we can best channel our energy from the Diaspora to be part of a solution.

Session facilitator: Hannah Weisfeld

Hannah Weisfeld is the director, and one of the founders of Yachad. She previously chaired the Jewish Social Action Forum, bringing together over 20 Jewish communal organisations working on social change issues. Hannah has campaigned professionally on a variety of issues including the conflict in Darfur, climate change and fairtrade. She has a Masters degree in Global Politics from the London School of Economics.

Contact details:

info@yachad.org.uk
www.yachad.org.uk