

Yom Masorti 5785

It's time to celebrate our songs and stories,
traditions and prayers, our complexity and
culture, our Torah and texts.



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	Reach Out	Rise Up	Look Inwards	Learn	
1.45pm	Opening plenary in the Beit Kneset with Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet				
2.15pm	Kiddush lunch in the Foyer				
2.50pm	"Where Are You Really From?" – Unpack the Question, Own your Story, Connect with Curiosity Yoav Oved & Rabbi Natasha Mann Youth Room	Hostage Advocacy: From the tunnels of Gaza to the Halls of the United Nations Adam Wagner & Adam Rose Beit Kneset	Kaddish: Beyond Mourning Rabbi Roni Tabick & Ayala Gottlieb Alter Beit Tefilah A	The Valley of the Shadow of Death: Rabbinic Voices on Despair Rabbi Lara Haft Yom-Tov Beit Midrash	
3.50pm	How do we rise from destruction? Poems written since October 7th Rabbi Osnat Eldar Beit Tefilah A	Itai Shabi: Rebuilding Kibbutz Be'eri Itai Shabi & Rabbi Jeremy Gordon Beit Midrash	Deepening Congregational Prayer Rabbi Joel Levy, Joe Crossley & Ayala Gottlieb Alter Youth Room	Club Pret on Shabbat: Non-Jewish Coffee Shops on Shabbat, the view from 1950s Tunisia Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill Beit Tefilah B	Israeli Dance Class The Israeli Dance Institute Beit Kneset
4.40pm	Break with refreshments in the foyer Minchah (optional) in the Beit Midrash				
5pm	Shared society in Israel: How has that dream changed since October 7th? Mandie Winston, UJIA, Ilan Amit & Kher Albaz, AJEEC-NISPED Beit Tefilah A	Civil Disobedience: When do we have a Duty to Protest, even in a Non-Violent Breach of the Law? Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg Beit Kneset	Jewish Meditation and Niggun Circle Rabbi Lara Haft Yom-Tov & Ayala Gottlieb Alter Beit Midrash	A Hand-Out, or a Hand Up? Supporting Jews abroad Meketa & Rabbi Joel Levy Youth Room	
6pm	Closing plenary in the Beit Kneset 'The Israel We Need Today' with Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Rabbi Osnat Eldar & former member of Kneset Yael Cohen-Paran				

Session 1

2:50-3:40

Name	About	Room
"Where Are You Really From?" Unpack the Question, Own your Story, Connect with Curiosity Yoav Oved & Rabbi Natasha Mann	Join us to unpack a loaded and charged question, to turn it into curiosity, respect, and discovery of our life journeys.	Youth Room
Kaddish, Beyond Mourning Rabbi Roni Tabick & Ayala Gottlieb Alter	For so many of us, Kaddish is bound up in loss and grief, but there are many different kinds of Kaddish used throughout the year. Through music and text study, we'll deepen our understanding of this critical Jewish prayer.	Beit Tefilah A
The Valley of the Shadow of Death: Rabbinic Voices on Despair Rabbi Lara Haft Yom-Tov	When everything is broken and the world is on fire, how do we respond and make meaning? Join us to explore Jewish perspectives on despair across the ages, from messianic longing to toxic positivity or gallows humour.	Beit Midrash
Hostage Advocacy: From the Tunnels of Gaza to the Halls of the United Nations Adam Wagner & Adam Rose	Shortly after 7/10/23, lawyers Adam Rose and Adam Wagner offered free legal representation to any British-linked families of hostages. "The Adams" (as they became known to the families) never expected the professional and emotional journey it would take them on, from Doha to Downing Street (through Lisbon).	Beit Kneset

Session 2

3:50-4:40

Name	About	Room
Deepening Congregational Prayer Rabbi Joel Levy, Joe Crossley & Ayala Gottlieb Alter	What is our job in shul? We tend to assume that davening will be good or bad depending on the skills of the shaliach tsibbur (prayer leader) or some elusive, intangible quality that cannot be controlled or evoked. In this session, we will practice a few different techniques for deepening congregational prayer.	Beit Tefilah B
How do we Rise from Destruction? Poetry with Rabbi Osnat Eldar	Rabbi Osnat Eldar invites participants into a shared space of reflection and resilience. Through poetry, she will express her experience as an Israeli, a Jew, and a rabbi in the wake of October 7 th . She will explore the journey of restoring faith, navigating grief and holding onto hope for renewal.	Beit Tefilah A
Club Pret on Shabbat: Non- Jewish Coffee Shops on Shabbat, the view from 1950s Tunisia Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill	A text-based session on how halakha is shaped by changing relations between Jews and non-Jews, and by the varying levels of observance within our communities.	Beit Tefilah B
Rebuilding Kibbutz Be'eri Itai Shabi and Rabbi Jeremy Gordon	A powerful discussion between Rabbi Jeremy and Itai Shabi, a father and musician, who survived the October 7th terror attacks with his wife and small children. How has that terrible day affected his relationship with the Kibbutz, and how are they looking towards the future?	Beit Midrash
Israeli Dance Class Israeli Dance Institute	Learn some dances which have special meaning at this time in Israel's history and enjoy a demonstration of dances which are based on both prayer and Israeli culture.	Beit Knesset

Session 3

5.00-5:50

Name	About	Room
A Hand-Out, or a Hand Up? Supporting Jews abroad Meketa & Rabbi Joel Levy	What is the best way for us, as Jews, to help others? The impacts on and moral dilemmas of a small charity trying to support the Jewish community in northern Ethiopia. Hila Bram (Co-founder of Meketa - supporting Ethiopian Jews) and Rabbi Joel Levy discuss the ethics and practice.	Youth Room
Shared Society in Israel Mandie Winston, UJIA, Ilan Amit & Kher Albaz from AJEEC-NISPED	How do we build a shared society in Israel after October 7th? In conversation with Mandie Winston (UJIA), Ilan Amit and Kher Albaz from AJEEC-NISPED, an Arab-Jewish organisation for social change, will explore the real impact of recent events on Arab-Jewish relations, the resilience of grassroots partnerships, and why now may be one of the most hopeful—and challenging—moments for shared society work in Israel	Beit Tefilah A
Jewish Meditation and Niggun Circle Rabbi Lara Haft Yom-Tov & Ayala Gottlieb Alter	"Now then, get me a musician." As the musician played, the hand of HaShem came upon him'. (<i>Kings II 3:15</i>) Experience the deep spiritual power of singing melodies without words, as Rabbi Lara and Ayala take us on a journey of the thousands-year old tradition of Jewish meditation.	Beit Midrash
Civil Disobedience: When do we have a Duty to Protest, even in a Non-Violent Breach of the Law? Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg	Join Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg for a text-based exploration of the moral and Jewish dimensions of civil disobedience. Through study and discussion, we'll ask when breaking the law becomes a form of upholding a higher ethical responsibility—and how our tradition guides us in moments of conscience and protest.	Beit Knesset

Speakers

Kher Albaz

Kher lives in Tel Sheva with his wife and seven children. He has a B.A. in social work from Ben Gurion University in the Negev, M.A. in Planning and Social Policy from WLU in Canada and an M.B.A. from the University of Haifa. He is an expert on government social policy and current trends in Bedouin society, as well as being a poetry lover and sci-fi movies enthusiast. He is the Co-Chair of AJEEC-NISPED, an Arab-Jewish organisation for social change in the Negev. The organisation consists of a team of Arabs and Jews who work together to create a shared society, where Arabs and Jews live together while preserving their respective identity and culture.

Ilan Amit

Ilan was born and raised in the Negev, and currently lives in Jerusalem with his wife and three children. He holds a Master's in Urban Planning from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Immigration from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. He is a weekend scuba diver who loves the sea and live music. He is the co-CEO of AJEEC-NISPED, an Arab-Jewish organisation for social change in the Negev. The organisation consists of a team of Arabs and Jews who work together to create a shared society, where Arabs and Jews live together while preserving their respective identity and culture.

Hila Bram

Hila Bram is the Community Development Officer for Oxford Jewish Congregation. She taught at the Jewish school in Gondar and co-founded Meketa in 2013. Having lived in Israel for many years, Hila was aware of the difficulties faced by Ethiopian immigrants to Israel and wanted to help the economic wellbeing, educational potential and self-confidence of those left in Gondar.

Yael Cohen Paran

Yael Cohen Paran served as a member of Knesset representing the Zionist Union Party from 2015 to 2019. Cohen Paran brought to this role an important perspective as a proud member of a Masorti/Conservative community in Pardes Hanna as well as being one of Israel's leading environmentalists. As a member of Knesset, Cohen Paran chaired the subcommittee dealing with renewable energy and the Paris Climate Agreement. Cohen Paran established the Israel Energy Forum, an NGO focused on sustainable energy, serving as its CEO and representing Israel at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences. Cohen Paran currently serves as co-chair of the Green Movement in Israel.

Joe Crossley

Joe Crossley is a student of Judaism living in London. He has just returned from two years' study at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He is particularly interested in halakhic legal theory, anthropology of religion, and telling good stories.

Rabbi Osnat Eldar

Rabbi Osnat Eldar currently works as the Experiential Education Director of the TAL Education Fund and is the Rabbi of the Sulam Yaakov congregation. A poet, she has published two poetry books, *Miriam's Well* and *Bless Your Soul* and is currently working on her third book which has been affected by the threats of the current war. She is married to Daniel and together they are raising three daughters: Naama, Hagar and Adi. They live in Kibbutz Ramot Menashe.

Speakers

Rabbi Jeremy Gordon

Rabbi Jeremy is the rabbi of New London Synagogue, where he has been a member since the age of 1. He is married to Josephine who directs the arts-charity Dash Arts. They have two sons, Carmi and Harry and a daughter Eliana.

Ayala Gottlieb Alter

Cantorial student, Singer, Cellist and Jewish Educator, fresh from a year as Cantor for The Great Synagogue of Stockholm, Ayala is currently lending her voice to the exciting new Shema Koleinu Tefilah (prayer) skills website for Masorti Judaism and teaching at Paideia Folkhögskola. She is passionate about empowering people to access the music of our tradition.

Rabbi Lara Haft Yom-Tov

Rabbi Lara Haft Yom-Tov (they/them) is a rabbi at New North London Synagogue and works with young adults in the Masorti movement. Rabbi Lara has worked as a Jewish educator for the past eight years, learning Torah with elementary school students, elders, and everyone in between.

Israeli Dance Institute

The Israeli Dance Institute is the UK's leading Jewish charity developing culture through Music and Dance. It promotes Jewish knowledge, Israel engagement and mental well-being through its work with Israeli culture. Since October 7th, the organisation's work has included in promoting Jewish identity and relieving the trauma of war through its activities.

Rabbi Anthony Lazarus Magrill

Rabbi Anthony grew up in South West London. At university, Rabbi Anthony became heavily involved in the Masorti community and subsequently spent time studying at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Having served Mosaic Masorti as a Rabbinic Intern since Summer 2021, on ordination he assumed position as the community's new rabbi.

Rabbi Joel Levy

Rabbi Joel became the rabbi of Kol Nefesh Masorti in September 2001. He lives in Jerusalem and is at Kol Nefesh roughly one Shabbat each month, as well as each year for the Yamim Nora'im and Shavuot. Rabbi Joel is Director of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, where he is also active in inter-denominational and inter-faith work. Rabbi Joel is married to Susanna Cohen, a long-time classical musician and music therapist. They have two daughters, Shira and Kalya.

Rabbi Natasha Mann

Rabbi Natasha joined New London Synagogue by herself as a teenager. She was born in Hertfordshire to a lively interreligious and intercultural family. She has now returned home to New London Synagogue to serve as a rabbi.

Speakers

Yoav Oved

Yoav Oved is a classically trained singer who specialises in performing Israeli and Jewish music. Yoav moved to England, from Israel in 2012 to study music at Royal Holloway University. Currently, Yoav educates on Jewish and Israeli ethnic music, singing both Mizrahi and Ashkenazi music. He works closely with the Jewish Music Institute to educate on ethnicity through performance and has built programmes to represent this

Adam Rose

Adam Rose is a partner at Mishcon de Reya. Alongside Adam Wagner, he has been representing the British and closely connected hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, since October 2023. In the wider Jewish world, he is currently a trustee of UJS, Masorti Judaism and the Jewish Youth Fund. He is past-chair of HIAS+JCORE.

Itai Shabi

Itai Shabi is a husband and father of 4-year-old twins. He lives in Kibbutz Be'eri, where he moved after marrying his wife, Moran, a longtime member of the community. During the October 7 attack, his family was forced to escape through their safe room window and hide in their garden, just metres from the attackers. They concealed themselves under palm leaves that Itai had gathered ahead of Succot to build a sukkah for his children - materials that, unexpectedly, helped shield them during the attack.

Rabbi Roni Tabick

Rabbi Roni is rabbi of New Stoke Newington Shul. He specialises in Talmud, mysticism and Jewish Mythology, especially the Leviathan and other sea monsters. With his wife Shoshana and their two children, Danya and Meital, they are delighted to welcome people into their homes regularly for Shabbat meals and learning.

Adam Wagner

Adam Wagner is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers in London, specialising in human rights, public law and public inquiries. He is a Visiting Professor of Law at Goldsmiths, University of London and is the founder and chair of EachOther, a multi-award winning human rights public information charity.

Speakers

Mandie Winston

Mandie has been Chief Executive of UJIA since 2020, having relocated to London with her family from the South of Israel to take up the role. She joined the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in 2001 and rose to become Regional Director overseeing JDC's work with Jewish communities in Asia and Africa and responsible for JDC's global disaster and development programmes. Mandie is also a trustee of the NALA Foundation, a leading NGO that seeks to eliminate neglected tropical diseases in Africa.

Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg

Rabbi Jonathan is rabbi of the New North London Synagogue and has taken a leading role in the development of the Masorti Movement for traditional non-fundamentalist Judaism in England. In 2008 he was appointed Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism in the UK. Rabbi Jonathan is married to Nicky Solomon; they have three children and a dog. He loves plants, animals, people, and woodland and mountain walks.

Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet

Adam Zagoria-Moffet is the rabbi of St Albans Masorti Synagogue and the Director of Strategy for Masorti Judaism. He was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he also received an MA in Jewish Thought. He grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and has lived in America and Israel before moving to the UK. He co-edited the first Hebrew/English egalitarian Sephardi siddur and runs the independent publisher Izzun Books. He often teaches about Sephardi halakha and culture as well as mysticism, mythology and ethics.