

# SUNDAY 16th JUNE 2024

<b>8:00-9:00am</b>	<b>ARRIVAL &amp; REGISTRATION - OFFICIAL OPENING 8:50am</b>					
<b>9:00-10:00am</b>	<b>I made a golem but the golem made me</b> Annaliese Rosa	<b>Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People*</b> Ben Freeman	<b>The importance of legacy: Collecting Family History</b> Rachelle Unreich	<b>The favored Diaspora: The status of U.S. Jewish-Israel relations</b> Ron Kampeas	<b>Meditative Walk</b> Debbie Miller	
<b>10:10-11:10am</b>	<b>Religious Radicalisation in Israel</b> Anton Goodman	<b>Em, Bat, Eshet—Mother, Daughter, Wife: The Nameless Women of the Bible</b> Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz	<b>Combating Antisemitism in Schools*</b> Kris Clancy	<b>Schmendrick, Schlemiel, Schlimazel - The Role of the Loser in Jewish Comedy</b> Jacob Sacher	<b>Charity: Obligation, Tradition, or Altruism?</b> Daniel Yesgar	<b>Three Thousand Years of Jewish Continuity as Seen Through Three Thousand Years of Hebrew</b> Joel Hoffman
<b>11:10-11:30am</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>					
<b>11:30am-12:30 pm</b>	<b>Time: the sacred Jewish commodity*</b> Atara Yesgar	<b>Unity and Diversity: A Closer Look at the Tower of Babel</b> Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz	<b>Four Exiles and Four Spiritual Revolutions</b> Joel Hoffman	<b>A summer of hate?</b> Ron Kampeas	<b>Panel: Poetry, personal history and our relationship to language</b> Danny Bultitude, Vivienne Ullrich, Bryan Walpert, Gigi Fenster	<b>The Jews: An Indigenous People</b> Ben Freeman
<b>12:30-1:30pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>					
<b>1:30–2:30pm</b>	<b>A Brilliant Life: The Lessons I learned from my Holocaust survivor mother</b> Rachelle Unreich	<b>Stories from the Ground*</b> Anton Goodman	<b>Reclaiming our Story: Combatting Internalised Antisemitism</b> Ben Freeman	<b>Oct. 7 and its aftermath: How a day of horror changed the Jews</b> Ron Kampeas	<b>Will the Real Bible Please Stand Up?</b> Joel Hoffman	<b>Suffering Servants! How to Deal with the Missionary at the Door</b> Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz
<b>2:40–3:40pm</b>  <b>Local Hour</b>	<b>Cultivating/fostering creative Jewish education in our homes</b>  Keren Segal	<b>What is Jewish data?</b>  Adam Gluckman	<b>The Kids Are Alright: Reimagining Jewish lives for Young (-ish) Adults in New Zealand*</b>  Daniel Josephs, Sacha Sampson	<b>Making Jewish Theatre: An International Collaboration Developing the New Play GLIMPSES - a stage adaptation of the biography of Maria Dronke</b>  Yael Gezentsvey, Illana Stein, Monica Tempian	<b>Against ideas: The pleasures of discovery in poetry</b>  Bryan Walpert	<b>Ghost Stories</b> Barbara Sumner, David Cohen
<b>3:40–4:00pm</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>					
<b>4:00 – 5:00pm</b>	<b>Non-binary Conflict Resolution</b> Anton Goodman	<b>A time to be born and a time to die: in whose hands?</b> Jessica Young, Jonathan Adler	<b>Exploring what Judaism has to say on AI and human cloning*</b> Daniel Yesgar	<b>Two Kaddishes and a Ghost Story</b> Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz	<b>Psychedelic Judaism</b> David Menkes	<b>Access to Justice</b> Ariel Levinson-Waldman
<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>CLOSING</b>					

Sessions marked with an asterisk (\*) are recommended for teen participants.

# **SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2024**

**8:00AM-9:00AM**

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## **ARRIVAL & REGISTRATIONS**

Tea & Coffee available - Official opening at 8:50am

**9:00AM-10:00AM**

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## **I MADE A GOLEM BUT THE GOLEM MADE ME**

The golem is a mirror that reflects our intentions. In this session artist Annaliese Rosa talks about their process of self-discovery and community mindfulness through the spiritual act of creating golems.

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*Annaliese Rosa*

## **JEWISH PRIDE: REBUILDING A PEOPLE\***

Join Ben M. Freeman, author and founder of the modern Jewish Pride movement, in conversation to hear why Jewish Pride— a movement to educate, inspire, and empower Jews to embrace their identity with pride rather than shame— is essential for the Jewish future.

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*Ben Freeman*

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGACY: COLLECTING FAMILY HISTORY**

Even though she had worked for decades as a journalist, Rachelle Unreich never thought to collect her family history, and only did so with her mother as an afterthought. Since her mother's death, she had to comb through archives, photographs, family artefacts and question relatives around the world, so that she could accurately tell her mother Mira's story in her book, *A Brilliant Life*. Since then, she has urged people to collect their own family histories, and advised them where to start.

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*Rachelle Unreich*

## **THE FAVOURED DIASPORA: THE STATUS OF U.S. JEWISH-ISRAEL RELATIONS**

U.S. Jews were galvanized after Oct. 7 to reestablish a tradition of wall-to-wall support for Israel, with a mass rally in Washington in November. The coalition helped secure emergency funding for Israel's war effort. But now long-simmering distrust of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is resurfacing as tensions heat up between the Biden and Netanyahu governments.

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*Ron Kampeas*

## **MEDITATIVE WALK**

This session will involve walking up nearby Mt Victoria to enjoy the secluded nature. We will then sit and have a guided meditation, using kabbalistic imagery and breath work as a morning prayer practice.

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*Debbie Miller, Zachariah Miller*

**10:10AM-11:10AM**

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### **RELIGIOUS RADICALISATION IN ISRAEL**

For many years I have run a campaign against the rise of religious extremism among the national religious population in Israel. In this session, I will present the theology and politics of Jewish extremism, using primary sources from Rabbis and footage from the ground.

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*Anton Goodman*

### **EM, BAT, ESHET - MOTHER, DAUGHTER, WIFE: THE NAMELESS WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

The Bible is full of nameless women, from Noah's wife to Pharaoh's daughter and Sisera's mother. We'll explore five stories about them, meeting two wise women, an unlucky concubine, and a strong-minded woman of means, and consider what they tell us about the biblical view of women. Bring a Bible/Tanakh if possible.

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*Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz*

### **COMBATING ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS\***

Since 7 Oct, there has been an exponential increase in antisemitism being experienced around Aotearoa, especially in schools. Join HCNZ Ed Dir to hear how HCNZ is combating this rise in antisemitism and discuss what's going on in your children's schools. This will be 30 - 45 min of presentation with another 30 - 45 min Q&A for parents, and especially students, to ask questions about what to do if they experience antisemitism.

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*Kris Clancy*

### **SCHMENDRICK, SCHLEMIEL, SCHLIMAZEL - THE ROLE OF THE LOSER IN JEWISH COMEDY**

The loser is hard to avoid in Jewish comedy. From the schlemiel (who spills the soup) to the schlimazel (who has the soup spilled on them), they have proved to be a staple in Jewish comedy from the Bible to today. Come discuss different Jewish loser archetypes, as we trace their prevalence across page, stage and screen.

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*Jacob Sacher*

### **CHARITY: OBLIGATION, TRADITION, OR ALTRUISM?**

Unravel the complexities surrounding charitable giving in Judaism. Explore whether charity is mandated by the Torah, prescribed by rabbinic law, or simply considered a virtuous act. Delve into methodologies for determining the appropriate amount of charity, and contemplate whether generosity holds the key to financial prosperity. Join the discussion on the multifaceted role of charity in Jewish ethics and practice.

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*Daniel Yesgar*

### **THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF JEWISH CONTINUITY AS SEEN THROUGH THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF HEBREW**

The saga of Hebrew mirrors the continuity of the Jewish people. Three thousand years ago, an early experiment in writing changed the world. Then different dialects graced the Bible and our liturgy. After centuries of disuse, a fourth dialect arose in modern Israel. Learn how Hebrew began and how it has changed — and stayed the same — over the millennia.

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*Joel Hoffman*

**11:10AM-11:30AM**

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**MORNING TEA**

**11:30AM-12:30PM**

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### **TIME - THE SACRED JEWISH COMMODITY\***

The very first mitzva given to the Jewish people as a nation was around sanctifying time, which sets the tone for Jewish life. This reflective and collaborative session will include practical activities to help you gain an awareness of your time use and help you align your routines and rituals with your values and priorities.

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*Atara Yesgar*

### **UNITY AND DIVERSITY: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TOWER OF BABEL**

We will use midrash, mediaeval commentators, and modern thinkers to explore the meaning of the Tower of Babel story from the Torah. Is it about languages, divine punishment, or perhaps something much more relevant to what is going on in the world today?

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*Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz*

### **FOUR EXILES AND FOUR SPIRITUAL REVOLUTIONS**

**Arts & Literature; Jewish Culture**

A whirlwind tour of 3,000 years of Judaism, focusing on three spiritual revolutions and the exiles that led to each, then the most recent revolution: modern Judaism. How are we, today, like the prophets and like the authors of the Talmud? How is 21st century New Zealand like the Golden Age of Spain? And what will we build for future generations?

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*Joel Hoffman*

### **A SUMMER OF HATE?**

In a pivotal election year, American Jews feel besieged by hostility from the left and the right. Far-right figures who invoke tropes of Jewish control are coalescing around the Trump campaign as the former president heads into the election bent on retribution for his felony convictions. And far-left activists who accuse Israel of committing genocide and Biden of enabling it plan on bringing the protests that disrupted American campuses to the Democratic convention in Chicago.

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*Ron Kampeas*

### **PANEL: POETRY, PERSONAL HISTORY AND OUR RELATIONSHIP TO LANGUAGE**

In Danny Bultitude, Vivienne Ullrich and Bryan Walpert, we have three poets at different stages of their writing who have come to poetry through different routes. But all three are united in a curiosity about their craft and the tools it gives them. In conversation with Gigi Fenster, they discuss their work, their themes, and what fascinates them about poetry.

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*Danny Bultitude, Vivienne Ullrich, Bryan Walpert, Gigi Fenster*

### **THE JEWS: AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

Drawing from his upcoming book, join acclaimed author Ben M. Freeman for an exploration of the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel, affirming without doubt that Jews are unequivocally indigenous to Israel.

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*Ben Freeman*

**12:30PM-1:30PM**

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**LUNCH**

**1:30PM-2:30PM**

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### **A BRILLIANT LIFE: THE LESSONS I LEARNED FROM MY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR MOTHER**

When Rachelle Unreich's mother Mira was dying, she decided to interview her. Not just to find out what happened to her in the Holocaust - at 17, she survived four concentration camps, including Auschwitz - but to try to discover the secret behind her survival. How had she gone on to live with such joy afterwards? How could she say, "In the Holocaust, I learned about the goodness of people?" A story of luck, serendipity and the unbreakable bond between mothers and daughters.

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*Rachelle Unreich*

### **STORIES FROM THE GROUND\***

Since November I have led Rabbis for Human Rights humanitarian aid program to West Bank Palestinian Communities. Working on the ground in the West Bank in these difficult times provides a window into Palestinian life under occupation, and during the war. In this session, I will share and unpack stories of experiences, from the perspective of a Jewish human rights activist.

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*Anton Goodman*

### **RECLAIMING OUR STORY: COMBATting INTERNALISED ANTISEMITISM**

Join Ben M. Freeman, author of "Reclaiming Our Story," the first book in almost a century on the topic of internalised antisemitism, in conversation to explore the pandemic of internalised Jew-hate and how we, as a community, can address and solve it.

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*Ben Freeman*

### **OCT. 7 AND ITS AFTERMATH: HOW A DAY OF HORROR CHANGED THE JEWS**

It was the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. In America and elsewhere, Jews sought comfort from one another as alliances that they believed to be rock solid seemed to turn to dust.

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*Ron Kampeas*

### **WILL THE REAL BIBLE PLEASE STAND UP?**

What does the Bible really say about violence? About marriage? About men and women? The Bible has been reinterpreted and misinterpreted almost from the day it was written, so most people reading the Bible now have very little sense of the original text. We'll peel back 2,000 years of revisionism and take a look at the Bible as it originally was.

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*Joel Hoffman*

### **SUFFERING SERVANTS! HOW TO DEAL WITH THE MISSIONARY AT THE DOOR**

For centuries certain texts in the book of Isaiah have been used by (some) Christians to try to convert Jews. What are these texts and what is the Jewish perspective on them? We'll look at the texts themselves, classic Jewish commentaries, and Christian commentaries, and develop some skills that might prove useful next time your doorbell rings ...

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*Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz*

## **2:40PM-3:40PM - LOCAL HOUR**

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### **CULTIVATING/FOSTERING CREATIVE JEWISH EDUCATION IN OUR HOMES**

In this workshop, we will talk about ways for bringing Jewish themes and education into our homes. I am inspired by Rudolf Steiner's educational philosophy through which we try to nurture principles of truth, beauty and goodness. The workshop incorporates these principles in learning about Jewish culture and heritage.

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*Keren Segal*

### **WHAT IS JEWISH DATA?**

Data can influence both our perceptions of the past, and our decisions for the future, and is central to all of our modern lives. But what does it look like from a Jewish lens — what is Jewish data? We'll explore together, by looking at some historical contexts, as well as stepping beyond common conceptions of data. We will connect both past and future and build an intuitive idea of what our collective data is as Jews, and how we can shape this for our individual selves as well. (please note: all technical language will be defined— no background or tech savvy needed!)

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*Adam Gluckman*

### **THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT: REIMAGINING JEWISH LIVES FOR YOUNG(-ISH) ADULTS IN NEW ZEALAND\***

Two young (ish) Jewish kiwis grapple with the perennial question facing Jewish communities across the world: how to engage the "missing generation" (Jewish young adults in their mid 20s to early 30s, post-youth movements)? We will explore how our Jewish institutions in NZ might respond to this intractable problem by considering the model of Moishe House, and the thriving and engaged community it has built in Auckland for young Jewish adults and professionals since 2016.

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*Daniel Josephs, Sacha Sampson*

### **MAKING JEWISH THEATRE: AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION DEVELOPING THE NEW PLAY GLIMPSES - A STAGE ADAPTATION OF THE BIOGRAPHY OF MARIA DRONKE**

Here from New York for the workshop week and reading of the new play GLIMPSES, theatre director Illana Stein is in conversation with writer Yael Gezentsvey about their work developing this stage adaptation, based on the biography of Maria Dronke, GLIMPSES OF AN ACTING LIFE by Monica Tempian, published by Playmarket. Maria Dronke was a star of the European stage who fled Nazi Germany to the UK, subsequently arriving to New Zealand where she would go on to change the face of New Zealand theatre, training the country's first generation of theatre icons. Readings by Dronke biographer Monica Tempian will provide rich glimpses of one of New Zealand's artistic heroes. This conversation will also include insights into Illana's involvement with the Jewish Plays Project (NYC), and the Alliance for Jewish Theatre. Yael and Illana first worked together on GLIMPSES, when it was accepted into the Alliance for Jewish Theatre's New Play Lab and they are thrilled to continue their collaboration developing this piece.

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*Yael Gezentsvey, Illana Stein, Monica Tempian*

### **AGAINST IDEAS: THE PLEASURE OF DISCOVERY IN POETRY**

Maybe you have a great idea for a poem. Or maybe you can't come up with a single idea for a poem. It doesn't matter. It really doesn't. In fact, it can be better if you don't have a single idea. The poet Paul Valéry famously tells a story about Edgar Degas: The painter, who wrote poems from time to time, complained to Stéphan Mallarmé, "I can't manage to say what I want, and yet I'm full of ideas." Mallarmé's response is a simple but instructive one: "My dear Degas," Mallarmé said, "one does not make poetry with ideas, but with words." Want to write a poem? Come to this workshop where we'll put Mallarmé to the test. Bring a pen and paper or a computer or tablet—but it's okay to leave your ideas at home.

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*Bryan Walpert*

## **GHOST STORIES**

“Know from whence you came,” the Talmud commands, “and where you are going.” But what if the facts of one’s Jewish heritage have been obscured by adoption? In this freewheeling session, author Barbara Sumner joins local journalist David Cohen to discuss the ghosts she encountered writing historical fiction such as her newly published *The Gallows Bird*. Was this a way of unlocking and unriddling her own family history?

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*Barbara Sumner, David Cohen*

**3:40PM-4:00PM**

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## **AFTERNOON TEA**

**4:00PM-5:00PM**

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## **NON-BINARY CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

We are often presented with the idea that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a zero sum game, binary reality. This is the paradigm we need to challenge. In this session I will present the diversity of identities and attitudes, leading to an understanding of the complexity of our conflict and the need for a new paradigm based on human rights, and the inherent sanctity of all human life.

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*Anton Goodman*

## **A TIME TO BE BORN AND A TIME TO DIE: IN WHOSE HANDS?**

As a palliative medicine physician and an assisted dying researcher, we might be assumed to have opposing perspectives on end-of life-issues. We invite you to join us to have a frank and open dialogue on issues related to death and dying, including assisted dying. We will call on aspects of philosophy, ethics, religion, sociology and medicine to examine assisted dying and end-of-life care and the plurality of Jewish interpretations of these practices. We hope this discussion will help people to have those hard conversations about death and dying that might be useful, and reflect on the things that are important to them.

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*Jessica Young, Jonathan Adler*

## **EXPLORING WHAT JUDAISM HAS TO SAY ON AI AND HUMAN CLONING\***

Delve into the ethical and moral dimensions of cutting-edge technology. Discover Judaism's perspective on artificial intelligence and human cloning, debating if a human clone can be a Jew and navigating through ancient wisdom of creating a Golem to address many contemporary dilemmas. Uncover insightful parallels and contrasts between Jewish teachings and the forefront of scientific innovation, challenging assumptions and fostering meaningful dialogue.

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*Daniel Yesgar*

## **TWO KADDISHES AND A GHOST STORY**

Many people feel passionately committed to saying Mourners’ Kaddish---but how did the practice start? We’ll look at the origin of Kaddish and how it became associated with mourners, using texts and a medieval ghost story to investigate the prayer’s surprising history.

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*Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz*



## **PSYCHEDELIC JUDAISM**

Interest in the clinical and recreational use of psychedelic substances (LSD, psilocybin, DMT, MDMA, ketamine) has grown enormously in recent years. Concurrently, there has been rapid development of research and scientific understanding of how these drugs affect the brain and may help to treat conditions as diverse as depression, anxiety, PTSD, and addiction. Less well-known is how Jews regard use of these drugs, and what impacts their use may have on secular and religious Jewish identity.

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*David Menkes*

## **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

This session will cover access to justice in the U.S., including wrestling with why it is important as a matter of racial justice and the extent to which it exists for those unable to afford it, describing efforts by the organized American Jewish community to contribute to closing the justice gap, and closing with considerations for New Zealand in this time of budget austerity.

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*Ariel Levinson-Waldman*