January 2021

Homework: An Invitation to See What’s Behind the Research

What Can the Church of the Nativity’s Mosaics Tell Us?

Yisca Harani, Christianity Expert

Monday, January 4th, 14:00 (Israel time)

The Church of the Nativity, one of the most important and ancient sites in Christianity, has experienced many disruptions throughout history. During a comprehensive renovation of the building, amazing frescoes and mosaics were discovered on the roof of the church, shedding light on a surprising connection between crusaders and Orthodox Christians – What can these mosaics tell us about events from hundreds of years ago?

Visiting Scholars

Conrad Schick: The Most Famous German Protestant Who Built Jerusalem in the 19th Century   
Dr. Shirley Graetz, Author, Lecturer, and Tour Guide specializing in Jerusalem

Monday, January 4th, 19:00 (Israel time)

Israeli Art in a Crisis of Values – Series

Fourth Meeting

A Shattered Dream: Social-Utopian Promises in Early Israeli Art and Their Collapse in Contemporary Israeli Art

Dr. Gideon Ofrat, Art Critic and Israeli Art History Expert

Tuesday, January 5th, 18:00 (Israel time)

Last meeting in this series, a summary of Israeli art, dreams, and utopia confronting crises and reality.

Homework: An Invitation to See What’s Behind the Research

The Engineer and the Poet: Ben Yehuda and Bialik’s Linguistic Innovations, in Honor of Hebrew Language Day and Bialik’s Birthday

Dr. Rubik Rosenthal, Author, Language Scholar, Linguist

Wednesday, January 6th, 14:00 (Israel time)

In honor of Hebrew Language Day, two of the language’s greats will meet for a head-to-head matchup. Each of them loved the Hebrew language, juggled with it, and even made suggestions and innovations. Sometimes they saw eye-to-eye, but often, they deeply disagreed. So, what should we call it – a *kirkar* or a *sevivon*?

Unwritten Culture

A Series of Meetings on the Arts Treasures of the National Library

First Meeting: Architecture Cluster

Opening Words: Hila Zaksenberg, Director of Digital Heritage Collections at the National Library

Architecture Collections: A Close Up Look at the Fast Rise and Fall of the Israeli Collective

Prof. Zvi Efrat and Dr. Michael Siddur, Department of Architecture, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design

Wednesday, January 6th, 18:00 (Israel time)

(Image: Building team at work, Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk Archive, 1940)

(Logo: Bezalel, Harvard, Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage + Milestones)

A series of meetings, opening the library’s arts collections to the public. These are collections that don’t center on the written word. Their strength is in their looks – architecture, dance, design, theater, and more. Each meeting will present a new field as a jumping off point for shared learning.

What Are You Reading? An Intimate Conversation with Authors About Their Personal Libraries

Sami Bardugo, Winner of the 2020 Brenner Prize: His Books include: *Donkey, The Last Child of the Century, That is to Say*

In conversation with, Yuval Avivi, host of the KAN podcast, “What’s Involved”

Thursday, January 7th, 16:30 (Israel time)

Partners in Thought

The Bible With and Without Jesus  
Marc Zvi Brettler, Bernice and Morton Lerner Distinguished Professor in Judaic Studies, Duke University,

Amy-Jill Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt University

Sunday, January 10th, 19:00 (Israel time)

Behind the Scenes @ NLI

Magicians in the Laboratory: Marcella Scali, Director of the Rehabilitation and Conservation Laboratory at the National Library

In conversation with, Tsila Hayun, Head of the National Library’s Division of Culture and Education

Wednesday, January 12th, 11:00 (Israel time)

Unwritten Culture

A Series of Meetings on the Arts Treasures of the National Library

Second Meeting: Design Cluster

Opening words: : Hila Zaksenberg, Director of Digital Heritage Collections at the National Library

Place and Symbol: Jerusalem in the Works of Dan Reisinger, Commemorating the National Library’s Acquisition of Dan Reisinger’s Archive

Dr. Ilan Reisinger  
Wednesday, January 13th, 18:00 (Israel time)

(Image: Design: Dan Reisinger)  
(Logo: Shenkar, Harvard, Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage + Milestones)

What Are You Reading? An Intimate Conversation with Authors About Their Personal Libraries

Leah Aini, Winner of the Prime Minister’s Prize for Hebrew Literary Works, the Bernstein Prize, and the Newman Prize. Her books include: *The Dress, The Native, Rose of Lebanon*

In conversation with, Yuval Avivi, host of the KAN podcast, “What’s Involved”

Sunday, January 17th, 16:30 (Israel time)

Unwritten Culture

A Series of Meetings on the Arts Treasures of the National Library

Third Meeting: Theater Cluster

Opening words: : Hila Zaksenberg, Director of Digital Heritage Collections at the National Library

From the Soviet Union to the Land of Israel: The Migration of the Holocaust to the Israeli Theater in the 1940s

Dr. Shelly Zer-Zion, Department of Theater and Performance Studies, Haifa University

Wednesday, January 20th, 18:00 (Israel time)

(Image: Opening of the 1949-1950 season at HaBima – Premiere of “In the Negev Steppes,” Humphrey Collection, National Library)

(Logo: Haifa University, Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage + Milestones)

What Are You Reading? An Intimate Conversation with Authors About Their Personal Libraries

Matan Hermoni, Author, Winner of the Bernstein Prize, His Books Include: *Hebrew Publishing Company, Spielfogel Spielfogel*

In conversation with, Yuval Avivi, host of the KAN podcast, “What’s Involved”

Sunday, January 24th, 16:30 (Israel time)

Unwritten Culture

A Series of Meetings on the Arts Treasures of the National Library

Fourth Meeting: Dance Cluster

A Room of Our Own: On Amos Hetz’s Dance Archive and the Room Dance Festival

Dr. Idit Suslik, Lecturer, Scholar, and Choreographer; Iris Lena, Independent Researcher of Dance, and Talia de Paris, Dancer and Choreographer, Co-Artistic Director of the Room Dance Festival from 2017-2019

Wednesday, January 26th, 18:00

(Image: Photograph of a rehearsal, “Monologues and Dialogues After Socrates” (1996) Choreography: Amos Hetz,

in the photograph: Chumi (Nehama) Einbinder, Amos Hetz

Photographed by Benjamin Jagendorf)

(Logo: Batsheva Dance Company, Harvard, Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage + Milestones)