Events, February 2022

Writers Speak: Authors in conversation about writing today

Author Liad Shoham Speaks with Yuval Avivi

Tuesday, February 1, 18:00

Overview: Liad Shoham is an attorney and author of bestsellers, some of which have been translated into many languages and adapted to theater and television. Among his books are *Retrial*, *Asylum City*, and *One of Ours*. Shoham speaks with Yuval Avivi, presenter of Kan Culture’s radio program *Book Bound*, about his personal library, and writing today.

Image: Liad Shoham, Photo: Oren Dai

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/liad-shosham>

Visiting Scholars: Researchers invite the public for a glimpse at their work

Is it Good to Die for Your Country? How Trumpeldor’s Last Words Were Understood in the 1920s. Marking the 11th of Adar, the Day of his Passing.

Dr. Amit Assis, Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel, editor of *Segulah: The Jewish History Magazine*

Tuesday, February 8, 19:00

Overview: The words that Trumpeldor did or did not utter with his last breath at the battle of Tel Hai have become a slogan in Israeli culture, symbolizing the ideology taught to generations of Israelis. To mark the 11th of Adar, the day of Trumpeldor’s death, Dr. Amit Assis will return to the original meaning of these words in the 1920s and examine their meaning today.

Image: A Haganah fighter stands next to the lion sculpture at Tel Hai in 1938. Photo: Zultan Kluger.

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/trumpeldor>

Head-to-Head: Selected Debates from Library Collections

Third Meeting:

Rabbi Kook: On Ruling, Holiness, Secularization and Haredism: *Shmita* as the Kernel of Debate

Professor Avinoam Rozenak, Hebrew University

Presentation of Items from the Library’s collections, Dr. Yochai Ben-Ghedalia

Wednesday, February 9, 19:00

Overview: The debate over *shmita* in 1910 was a battle of titans, between Rabbi Kook–the Rabbi of Jaffa and the moshavot–on one side, and the old ultra-Orthodox Yishuv, the rabbis of the Diaspora and Rabbi Kook’s friend, the Rabbi of Zefat, the Ridbaz (Rabbi Dovid Wilovsky), on the other. This debate is essential for understanding Rabbi Kook’s rulings, his worldview on Zionism, and his understanding of holiness and secularization. This debate can also provide insights on many of today’s debates, and presents a historical journey that is also a contemporary one in many respects.

Image: A postcard from Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook about the sale of the land of Beer Yaakov for the purpose of *shmita*, according to the authorization sent to Rabbi Kook, 1909. The Collection of Rabbi Yaakov Yitzhaki, the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

<https://nlisrael.typeform.com/to/dibrljk9?typeform-source=www.google.com>

Writers Speak: Authors in conversation about writing today

Author Maya Arad Speaks with Yuval Avivi

Thursday, February 10, 18:00

Overview: Maya Arad, the author of *Jealousy of Writers*, *Seven Moral Failings*, *The Hebrew Teacher*, and *Behind the Mountain*, speaks with Yuval Avivi, presenter of Kan Culture’s radio program *Book Bound*, about her personal library and writing today.

Image: Maya Arad. Photo: Mira Memmo.

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/maya-arad>

Writers Speak: Authors in conversation about writing today

Ilana Bernstein Speaks with Yuval Avivi

Wednesday, February 16, 18:00

Overview: Ilana Bernstein, author, playwright and winner of the 2019 Sapir Prize for her book *Tomorrow We’ll Go to the Amusement Park*, speaks with Yuval Avivi, presenter of the radio program *Book Bound* on Kan Culture, about her personal library and writing today.

Image: Ilana Bernstein. Photo: Avigail Uzi.

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/ilana-bernstein>

Head-to-Head: Selected Debates from the Library Collections

Innocents or Sons of Belial: The Debate between the Jews and the Conversos in Spain

Professor Ram Ben-Shalom, Chair of the Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Judaism, and Head of the Hispania Judaica Center for the Study of the Jewry of Spain and Portugal

Presentation of items from the library collections, Dr. Aliza Moreno

Thursday, February 17, 19:00

Overview: The expulsion from Spain, one of the most tragic events in the history of the Jewish people, drove magnificent communities to fall apart and their members to flee. Anyone who chose or was forced to stay within of Spain became a “New Christian.” Nevertheless, many of these conversos clandestinely retained their Judaism, often in an altered form, in order not to risk their lives. What did those who remained in the faith think of them? How were converts who sought to return to Judaism received? Century-old debates affect the offspring of the conversos even today.

Image: A manuscript of a responsa by Yitzhak bar Sheshet, 1326–1408, one of the Spanish exiles, known for his lenient rulings concerning the forcibly baptized. From the collections of the National Library.

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/polemic-anusim>

Study

Stefan Zweig and the *World of Yesterday*. An Event Marking Eighty Years of the Author’s Passing

Opening words: *The World of Yesterday* in the Library Collections, Dr. Stefan Litt, The National Library

The Fourth Life of Stefan Zweig and *The World of Yesterday*, Professor Mark Gelber, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

“As If He Suddenly Totally Forgot Who and What His Body Is:” Past and Present in *The World of Yesterday* by Stefan Zweig, Karin Neuburger, Van Leer Library Fellow

Jewish Aspects of *The World of Yesterday*, Shai David, Director of the Israeli Friends Association of Stefan Zweig

Tuesday, February 22, 19:00

Overview: The final, autobiographical book by Jewish author Stefan Zweig was published posthumously a year after he took his own life at his home in Brazil, an uprooted son of Europe. Eighty years after his passing, his work continues to echo throughout the world, providing a frightening testimony of the world that once was, and was destroyed, and a warning to the world of tomorrow.

Image: The first edition of *The World of Yesterday*, 1943. The National Library.

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/stefan-zweig>

Academic Conference

Innovations in Kabbalah Research

Marking Forty Years since the Passing of Gershom Scholem z”l

Wednesday-Thursday, February 23–24

Overview: From the nineteenth century–when the research of Kabbalah spread in *Wissenschaft des Judentums* circles–until today, this field attracts many scholars whose interpretations have shed light on Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah. To mark forty years since the passing of the greatest researcher of Kabbalah, Gershom Scholem, we will hold a conference of leading scholars dedicated to innovations in Kabbalah research.

With the participation of: **Ronit Meroz, Moshe Idel, Yehuda Liebes, Tzahi Weiss, Oded Yisraeli, Avishai Bar-Asher, Leore Sachs-Shmueli, Yehudit Weiss, Rachel Elior, Jonatan Benarroch, Tehiya Fruman, Omri Shasha, Yossi Hayot, Uri Safrai, Assaf Tamari, Shai Alleson-Gerberg, Ron Margolin, Daniel Reiser, Alexandra Mandelbaum, Ori Meitlis, Haviva Pedaya, and Zvi Leshem**

Image: Gershom Scholem’s Ex Libris

Link for the opening session, February 23:

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/gershom-scholem-opening>

Link for the conference, February 24:

<https://www.nli.org.il/he/visit/events/gershom-scholem-conference>