October 2021

What’s Happening? Authors Talk about Writing and the Books on Their Shelves

Professor Shimon Adaf, Novelist and Poet, in Conversation with Yuval Avivi

Wednesday, 30 Tishrei, October 6, 18:00

Professor Shimon Adaf is the recipient of the Prime Minister’s Prize for Hebrew Literary Works, the Sapir Prize, and the Yehuda Amichai Prize, and the author of several poetry collections and novels. Following the recent publication of his novel *The Tongue was Stripped,* he will speak with Yuval Avivi, presenter of Kan Culture’s program “Under Cover,” about the craft of writing in general and in the past year.

Image: Picture by Elyasaf Kovner

Homework: Researchers Share a Sneak Peek at Their Research

“A Great Birth Cry”: Reading from the Hidden Files of Aharon Appelfeld’s Poetry

Sunday, 4 Cheshvan, October 10, 18:00

Aharon Appelfeld published 46 works of prose, but he began his artistic career as a poet, writing dozens of poems. While some of them were published in magazines and newspapers, Appelfeld never released them as a collection. Recently, while studying his literary archives, researchers found a notebook of poems that have never seen the light of day. Professor Yigal Schwartz will try to assess Appelfeld’s decision to conceal the poems as a key to understanding the entirety of his work.

Image: Cover of the notebook of poems as found in the library

Yehoshua, Yeshua, Rashbi: Episodes from the Religious World of Galilean Jewry in Late Antiquity

First meeting:

The Tree, the Cave, and the Spring: The Galilean Holy Place

Tuesday, 6 Cheshvan, October 12, 18:00

The holy place, which lies at the heart of the Galilean experience, is neither a synagogue nor a study hall—rather, it is a tree, a cave, or a spring. These holy places, which are spread out across the Galilee, are meta-communal and open to all. Professor Elchanan Reiner examines what makes a place holy and how it performs its role for its visitors, both people from the surrounding area and pilgrims from far-off places.

Image: Private photograph

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Nir Baram, Novelist and Publicist, in Conversation with Yuval Avivi

Thursday, 8 Cheshvan, October 14, 18:00

Nir Baram, winner of the Prime Minister’s Prize for Hebrew Literary Works, converses with Yuval Avivi, presenter of Kan Culture’s program “Under Cover,” on writing in the time of Corona, following the publication of his new novel *The World is a Rumor*.

Image: Shir Weisman Ben Yosef

Yehoshua, Yeshua, Rashbi: Episodes from the Religious World of Galilean Jewry in Late Antiquity

Second Meeting:

The Galilee’s Founding Story: Myth and Its Incarnations

The Tree, the Cave, and the Spring: The Galilean Holy Place

Tuesday, 13 Cheshvan, October 19, 18:00

Myth is foundational to the religious world of Galilean Jewry, connecting the biblical story to the environment in which it is told. Myth is not commentary; rather, it lives alongside commentary. In many respects, it is a translation from the biblical language to the local language, to its landscapes and traditions. The second meeting, therefore, will deal with the emergence of the myth, its basic elements, and its connection to the Galilean holy place.

Image: Private photograph

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Zeruya Shalev, Novelist and Editor, in Conversation with Yuval Avivi

Wednesday, 14 Cheshvan, October 20, 18:00

Zeruya Shalev is the winner of the Prix Femina, the Jan Michalski Prize for Literature, and the Rome Prize. Her novels include *Pain, The Remains of Love,* and *Love Life*. Following the release of her latest novel, *Wonder*, Shalev speaks with Yuval Avivi, presenter of Kan Culture’s program “Under Cover.”

A Second Look

The Rabbi, Hidden and Revealed: The Riddle of Monsieur Chouchani

Thursday, 15 Cheshvan, October 21, 19:00

A great Torah scholar, a rare genius, a wanderer, strange and neglected, a remarkable and cruel teacher whose real name no one knows, Monsieur Chouchani left behind notebooks and letters full of wonders and secrets. In honor of the transfer of his personal archives to the National Library, researchers, archivists, and students will speak about the mysterious figure of Monsieur Chouchani. Participants include Professor Elchanan Reiner, Professor Hanoch Ben-Pazi, Professor Moshe Halbertal, Dr. Rina Rosenberg, Hodaya Samet Har-Shefi, and David Lang.

Image: A page from one of Chouchani’s enigmatic notebooks. Manuscript, the National Library

Yehoshua, Yeshua, Rashbi: Episodes from the Religious World of Galilean Jewry in Late Antiquity

Third Meeting:

*Ziyarah* and Pilgrimage: Meron as an Example

Tuesday, 23 Cheshvan, October 26, 18:00

The *Ziyarah*—the pilgrimage towards and arrival at the holy place—builds the unique calendar of Galilean Jewry. At specific times of the year, pilgrims come to the holy place—first those who live nearby, then those for whom the holy place plays a central role in their daily lives, and finally pilgrims from distant circles. In the final talk in the series, Professor Elchanan Reiner examines the custom of pilgrimage, in particular the custom that has continued to this day—the pilgrimage to Mount Meron on Lag BaOmer.

Image: Private photograph

Homework: Researchers Share a Sneak Peek at Their Research

Chronology, Ideology, and Ecology: On Various Jerusalemite “Laws and Customs”

Wednesday, 24 Cheshvan, October 27, 18:00

Lists of customs, published at the beginning of the year and displayed on the walls of synagogues, represented a variety of worldviews and ideological struggles. Dr. Ayala Sheklar revisits the historical incarnations of these lists over the years, and through them reveals the spirit of their times.

Image: Cover of the calendar of Avraham Moshe Luntz, 1905, courtesy of Kedem Auction House

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Haim Be’er, Novelist, in Conversation with Tsila Hayun

Thursday, 25 Cheshvan, October 28, 18:00

Haim Be’er is the author of many novels, including *Feathers, The Pure Element of Time*,and *The Time of Trimming.* Following the publication of his new novel *The Shadow of His Hand*, he speaks with Tsila Hayun, the head of the National Library’s Department of Education and Culture*.*

Image: Haim Be’er (Wikipedia)

Researchers Talk

The Birth of Doubt: Dealing with Uncertainty in the Literature of the Tannaim

Sunday, 25 Cheshvan, October 31, 19:00

In their study halls, the Tannaim (early sages) frantically developed Jewish legal rulings for a variety of uncertain situations that arose in daily life. How did the sages form their instructions for doubt, given their fear of sin and guilt, and given the price of a misstep in an uncertain situation? Professor Moshe Halbertal of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem discusses the birth of doubt with Stanford University’s Dr. Dorit Malka.

Image: Karl Schleicher, 1870