



Kol HaOt Menu of Programs

Mapping the Journey



Mapping is the attempt to condense reality into graphic form. But mapping can also be viewed metaphorically as a means of translating non-physical states into images. In this unit, we explore the personal meaning of Israel using imaginative maps as a form of expression. This is accomplished by incorporating sources on the Land of Israel, poetry, midrash, art and pilgrimages, showcasing artistic maps of Israel through the ages and showing how physical geography merges with the spiritual. We introduce the idea of imaginative, non-literal mapping and introduce participants to David Moss' use of maps in his work along with his extraordinary bicycle map of Jerusalem. How can the design of a map reflect one's vision, dreams or values? What place does Israel have in your life and in what sense can your journey here be considered a pilgrimage? Each participant creates an artistic map reflecting their personal connections to the land. This experience transforms the participant—bringing them into a space where they consider the import of what it means to be a pilgrim (not a tourist!) in Israel.

Gates of Jerusalem



From the early days of Jerusalem, our feet have been entering and exiting her gates, and there is perhaps no other symbol that has represented Jerusalem so vividly as her gates. In our "Gates of Jerusalem" Program, spanning history and the arts, participants are invited to explore this symbol of transformation and hope, transitioning between wondrous worlds. A theatrical representation of the modern midrash, *Six Days and Seven Gates*, written by Yitzhak Navon personifying the seven gates of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War is the centerpiece of this experience. A limited edition of the book produced by Yehuda Miklaf, with etchings by Aryeh Azen will be exhibited and explained. A discussion with the bookbinder and/or artist may be included.

Mentschmaker, Mentschmaker, Make me a Mentsch.



What does it take to be a *mentsch*? The Hebrew word *middot* means measurements. But *middot* also mean moral virtues. Moral qualities are the measure of a human being. In this interactive program, we enter the realm of human virtues including Compassion, Truth, Humility, Justice, Holiness, Gratitude and more. Using dynamic paired learning, suggestive poetry and evocative, collage art we address the deepest issues of personality development.

Akeidat Yitzhak



In a unique, animated mural, David Moss has translated the narrative of the “Binding of Isaac” into emotive colors and symbols. It is a fascinating work that makes for an unforgettable learning experience. One variation of this program combines a close reading of Genesis 22 (with emphasis both on our own personal readings of the story and recourse to rabbinic voices). The program concludes with a wondrous exploration of Moss’ *Akeidat Yitzhak* scroll.

From Text to Symbol



Using David Moss’ *Akeidah* scroll as an inspiration, we open with a brief look at the *Akeidah* scroll and the way it transforms the characters and story line of the text into colors and symbols. We then go into a “hands on” project with the participants, in which we explore a chapter of Biblical text (typically taken from *Parashat HaShavua* or some other text that connects with the relevant time of year (Esther, Jonah, etc.)) and translate it into a visual word-less story. Participants may work individually or in groups.

Passover Haggadot



Any time of year is appropriate to the exploration of extraordinary artistic *haggadot*. Three *haggadot*, created by three Jerusalem artists would make compelling programs for any group. *The Moss Haggadah*, commissioned by Richard Levy and created by David Moss is a tour de force of *haggadot*. *Passover Landscapes: Illuminations on the Exodus*, commissioned by the Lovell Family and illuminated by Matthew Berkowitz sparks the imagination of children and adults alike. *The Elyahu Sidi Haggadah*, created over a number of years by renowned Jerusalem artist Elyahu Sidi, is vibrant and unique in its approach to the *seder* evening. Each of these works explores traditional and modern themes and lends itself to lively conversation.

The Tree of Life Shtender



Artists Noah Greenberg (Sfat) and David Moss (Jerusalem) joined together to create one of the most stunning and engaging pieces of Judaica ever created. *The Tree of Life Shtender*, woven into the Seven Species of the Land of Israel, is a modest looking bookstand that contains ritual objects needed over the course of the Jewish year. It is an imaginative piece woven deeply into midrashic sources that always engages adults and children alike. Through it, the daily, weekly and yearly Jewish time cycle and corresponding *mitzvot* can be explored. This is a perfect program for *Tu B'Shevat* or at any point in the year to teach on the Seven Species with which the Land of Israel is blessed.

Peace



We will study *Birkat Kohanim* together – exploring the meaning of peace in this prayer as well as in other prayers. That will lead us into a visual representation of this *tefillah*. We will then combine heart, hands and head to create a collage interpretation of another prayer related to the topic of peace. Rav Nahman of Bratslov’s *Prayer for Peace* will also be a guiding text as we then turn to a magnificent etched glass representation of this powerful prayer.