

Educational programs by Ittay Flescher

ittay78@gmail.com

One State, Two States or Land for All?

What are the dominant solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, who supports and opposes each, and which is most popular today?

The Music of October 7

Every war in Israel has its song, to the extent that it's hard to think about the Six-Day War without *Yesruhalayim Shel Zahav*, or the Yom Kippur War without *Lu Yehi*. This session will explore the many new songs that filled the Israeli airwaves since October 7, 2023, and what they say about us as a people.

The 10 biggest mistakes we make in responding to Antisemitism

When Herzl dreamed of a Jewish state, he imagined that the gift of a national home would ultimately end the centuries-old scourge of antisemitism. Yet today, it feels more prevalent than ever before. This session will explore why antisemitism still persists both within and beyond the borders of Israel, and what may be the least and most effective responses to it.

Unbelievably true stories from Jerusalem

Join Plus61J Jerusalem Correspondent and Peace Educator Ittay Flescher for a special hour of tales from the holy city that will comfort the troubled and trouble the comfortable.

Can Israelis and Palestinians share Jerusalem in peace?

In this session, Ittay Flescher will share his reflections about the complex identities of Jewish, Muslim and Christian residents of Jerusalem through his experience as the Education Director at Kids4peace, an interfaith youth movement in Sheikh Jarrah.

What does “Shrinking the Conflict” mean and could it spell the end for left and right in Israel?

Philosopher Micha Goodman is an unofficial counsel to Israel’s Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. Could his idea of “shrinking the conflict” outlined in the book *Catch 67* really be a pathway to peace, or is it an illusion that provides no solution at all?

The four tribes of Israel: Rivlin's New Israeli Order

Exploring how the "four tribes" of Israel each perceive themselves as the majority and the minority, both powerful and under threat, at the same time. This session will explore both the stereotypes and realities of what motivates the behaviour and identity of Arab/Palestinian, Haredi, Religious Zionist and Secular Israelis

The many meanings of "never again"

"Never again" is a highly common phrase in contemporary Jewish discourse. This lecture will explore how the memory of the Holocaust is used by both the Israeli and American left and right in campaigns for everything from the status of asylum seekers in Israel to the future of settlements and immigration policy.

Humanistic Kabbalat Shabbat

Experience a journey into Shabbat in concentric circles that combines traditional Jewish songs with pop music and your stories about the week. This unique experience brings a group together, building a sense of solidarity and empathy through music and stories as the sun sets over the hills of Jerusalem



Jewish Peoplehood

Israel and the Diaspora: How our actions affect the other

From the Jewish nation-state law to the Kotel, conversion and law of return, how do diaspora Jews feel when they hear these issues being discussed in Israel?

From demonstrations in support and against the Zionist movement to the growing rise in antisemitism, how do Israelis feel when they read stories from the diaspora? This session will explore these questions and many more as we journey into the relationship of Jews who live both within and beyond the borders of our modern homeland.

Is it true that what unites us is greater than what divides us?

Jewish Peoplehood refers to the awareness and identification of Jewish individuals to the collective Jewish people via various common components: historical memory, Jewish values, Jewish culture and creativity, Hebrew and Jewish languages, a multifaceted connection to Israel and a Jewish way of life. It's often said that what unites us as a people is greater than what divides us, but is this really true?

Inside the Australian Jewish Community

The Australian Jewish community may not be one of the larger ones in the world, but in terms of dynamism, connection to Israel and providing a home to refugees after the Shoah, it stands above many others in terms of its vibrancy and experience of Jewish life. This session, facilitated by a recent oleh from Australia, will explore the stories that animate this community and explore the threats and opportunities this community faces in the coming years.

War and Peace

Solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

From the Confederation and Annexation to the Geneva Initiative and the Trump Plan, this session will outline the six most discussed peace plans to solve the conflict, outlining who supports and objects to each.

What I learnt about Israelis and Palestinians from working at an Interfaith Youth Movement in East Jerusalem

In this session, Ittay Flescher will share his reflections about the complex identities of Jewish, Muslim and Christian residents of Jerusalem through his experience as the Education Director at Kids4peace. In the workshop, there will be opportunities to experience parts of programs run for the youth and ask questions about the benefits and challenges of cross-border contact between cultures and societies whose people are in conflict.

Jerusalem and Belfast: Two divided cities yearning for peace

[Kids4Peace Jerusalem](#) Education Director Ittay Flescher recently led a religiously diverse group of 12 Israelis and Palestinians to Northern Ireland for a week of encounters with activists, former fighters, peacemakers and bereaved parents. Exploring the similarities and differences between the Oslo Accords and the Good Friday Agreement, this session will explore what, if anything, Israelis and Palestinians can learn from the peace process that ended The Troubles.

When enemies cry together: The challenge of the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial

After 10 years of holding a joint memorial ceremony every Yom HaZikaron, this session will explore the many reactions to the controversial joint Israeli-Palestinian ceremony, opening the room for questions and reflections on the meaning of grief and memory in times of war.

Aboriginal, Palestinian and Zionist memories of history

Exploring how indigenous populations in Australia, Palestine and Israel relate to the suffering they endured from colonial powers.

How to facilitate dialogue

A workshop on how to lead circles for diverse groups, including strategies to open, close and keep conversations safe and meaningful for all participants



TV as a Window to Israeli Society

1. The Jews are Coming

In August 2020, hundreds of Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox demonstrators protested outside the Kan public broadcaster's offices in Jerusalem against its satirical TV show "HaYehudim Baim" ("The Jews are Coming"), over its depiction of biblical and religious figures. The irreverent and acclaimed show employs sketches of biblical figures to comment on contemporary Israeli and Jewish social, political, and religious issues. Through watching a number of episodes from the series, this question will explore why the show has become so controversial.

2. Unpacking Fauda; the jagged line between justice and revenge

This session is intended for people who have watched Fauda on Netflix and are interested in exploring the many ethical questions it raises about the role Israelis and Palestinians play in perpetuating the conflict.

3. The Beauty and the Baker

This Romeo and Juliet story of two lovers from either side of the ethnic and class divide in Israel is both insightful and heartwarming. Exploring the unlikely love story between a poor Mizrachi baker and a beautiful Ashkenazi supermodel.

4. What the HBO series 'Our Boys' teaches us about solidarity, grief and revenge

This co-production between an Israeli and Palestinian Director about the tragic kidnappings and murders of 3 Israelis and 1 Palestinian during Summer/Ramadan 2014 in Jerusalem has been called "antisemitic" by Prime Minister Netanyahu and a "powerful tool for peace and reconciliation" by bereaved parent Robi Damelin. Through watching excerpts and vigorous discussion, this session will give you the opportunity to reflect on the role of shows like this to mirror our past and shape our future.

5. Bridge over the Wadi

For the first time in Israeli history, a group of Arab and Jewish parents in 2004 decided to establish a cooperative binational, bilingual school inside an Arab village. The film follows the school's first year, and, through the personal stories of its children, parents and teachers, portrays the complicated and fragile nature of co-existence in modern Israel.

6. Tehran and the complicated relationship of Persian Jews to Iran

Tamar is a Mossad hacker-agent who infiltrates Tehran under a false identity to help destroy Iran's nuclear reactor. But when her mission fails and she's trapped in a new life. Tamar must plan an operation that will put everyone dear to her in jeopardy. This series produced by Kan and picked up by AppleTV+ brings the voices of Persian Jews who live in both Israel and Iran to the fore like few other popular TV series have ever done before.



The protests that most shaped modern Israel

Week 1: The legacy of the Shoah

The story behind the protest that led hundreds of Israelis to storm the Knesset in 1952

How will the survivors who made Israel their home after the war leave their mark on society? This question was first raised by a significant protest movement in 1952 when Menachem Begin led the campaign against the “blood money” reparations from Germany. In this lecture, we will explore this protest and more recent campaigns against deportation of asylum seekers and Israel’s weapons sales that have again put the question of what the term “never again” means in the modern era.

Week 2: Economic and Ethnic Inequality

From the Bread-Work and Wadi Salib protests in the 1950s to the Black Panther protests of the 1970s, the enormous Social Justice protests of 2011 that began on Rothschild Boulevard, the cost of living has always been a source of protest no matter the party in power. In this class, you will hear the extraordinary stories of what motivated Charlie Bitton, Vicky Knafo, Daphni Leef and others to initiate movements struggling for justice in Israel.

Week 3: War and Peace

Following the immense loss of life as a result of the Yom Kippur War, IDF Reserve Captain Motti Ashkenazi began a one-man protest that eventually led to the resignation of Prime Minister Golda Meir's government and ultimately the fall from power of the

Labor Party. It also gave birth to two protest movements on either end of the Israeli political spectrum. These were: Gush Emunim who led the movement that established the first West Bank Settlement in Sebastia, 1975 and resisted the disengagement from Gush Katif in 2005; and Shalom Achshav, that was formed to lobby for the Peace Agreement with Egypt, and drew enormous crowds for demonstrations after the Sabra and Shatila massacre and in favour of the Oslo Accords. In more recent times, the Four Mothers and Women Wage Peace have called for the women to be more front and centre when it comes to security decision-making policy.

Week 4: Religion and State

The tension between those who would like to see Israel governed by Halacha to those who want it to be a secular Zionist state has been the source of dozens of protest movements. Haredim have taken to the streets to protest against the Supreme Court, archeological digs at holy sites, the army draft and even iconic tv shows such as “The Jews Are Coming”. Meanwhile, ongoing Women of the Wall protests at the Kotel and more recent gay rights marches over surrogacy have come to symbolize the clash between majority and minority rights in Israel.

Week 5: Arab Rights in Israel

From the Land Day protests in 1976 to the current protest against Kamenitz Law, the issue of land distribution and building rights has been at the heart of tensions between Israel’s Arab population and the government. In addition to the October 2000 protests and the 2021 anti-gun violence campaigns, this class will explore the different expressions of Arab and Palestinian identity in Israel through protest.

Week 6: Balfour Protests

Over 10 different protest movements calling for everything from women’s rights to justice for Iyad Al Halak began protesting outside the home of Prime Minister Netanyahu in May 2020. Since that time, their weekly gatherings in Jerusalem calling for his resignation over his alleged corruption have shaped the political climate in Israel more than any other movement in recent memory. This final class will explore what happens when several protest movements merge into one in response to them all sharing a common problem while having vast differences of opinion in regard to the solution they desire.

Justice in the Jewish State

A window into Israeli society through the most significant trials in the history of the country.

Israeli courts have been admired and condemned throughout the world for the decisions made within them over the past 75 years. This course will look at five prominent cases as a window into the tensions that lie at the heart of Israeli society to this day.

Topics in this course will cover:

1. Eichmann in Jerusalem: Explore the trial that introduced the Holocaust into the historical, educational, legal and cultural discourse, not merely in Israel and the Jewish world, but on the consciousness of all peoples of the world.

2. The trial of Yiska Shadmi following the Kfar Kassem Massacre: Are Israeli security personnel required to disobey illegal orders?

3. The Hasidic sex abuse trial that became Israel's longest-ever extradition case: How three sisters from Australia took on the Israeli Health Minister in their campaign to bring back Malka Leifer.

4. Who killed Mohammed Abu Khdier? Following the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli yeshiva students in the summer of 2014, a 15-year-old Palestinian boy is killed in revenge. Ittay will explore the legacy of this murder by looking at the trial of the accused and the popular depiction of this tragedy in the HBO series "Our Boys."

5. The Trial of Benjamin Netanyahu: The case of the first sitting Israeli Prime Minister to go on trial for bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

Biography

Ittay Flescher is the Education Director at Kids4Peace Jerusalem, an interfaith movement for Israelis and Palestinians and the Israel Correspondent for Plus61J Media from Australia.

He also frequently teaches on gap year programs about the identity, narratives and cultures of the people who call Jerusalem home.

Contact:

ittay78@gmail.com

+972 523 528 965

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