PAIDEIA

MIFGASH

meeting point for Jewish thought and culture

is strengthened by the collaboration with

The National Library of Israel

Events catalogue 2023

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What is Paideia Mifgash?

The Paideia Mifgash is a series of Sunday traveling one-day events, built around one common theme.

The project is dedicated to strengthening the presence of Jewish thought and culture in all its aspects, to bridge building and to the exchange of ideas at the local and Pan-European level.

The Paideia Mifgash aims to promote the diversity of Jewish life and to encourage and empower Paideia Alumni to grow as local activists.

The theme for 2023 series is: **belonging**.

The Paideia Mifgash has been strengthened by the collaboration with the National Library of Israel.

With its resources, knowledge and experience, the National Library of Israel supports the creation of the Study Material Package – the core element of the Paideia Mifgash project.

The Paideia Mifgash geographic spread





Liana Jagniatinsky

Vilnius, Lithuania
5th March 2023
Number of participants: 40

Liana's biography:

Liana was born and grew up in Vilnius. active in the rebuilding of the Jewish community since the early ‘90s, so she became involved in various activities there. As a student, Liana began to volunteer and to take part in student activities at both local and international levels. She was involved in EUJS and WUJS organizations. She was engaged with the EUJS and WUJS organizations. Currently, Liana is a member of the Paideia alumni, ROI Community, NGFP, and WJC JDCorps. In her professional life, she works as a PR and communication expert. Since 2015, she has been employed at the Israeli Embassy as a press officer.

Liana is Paideia Project-Incubator 2010 Participant.

Liana's Mifgash description:

The Paideia Mifgash event embraced the topic of belonging seen from the religious and traditional perspective of Purim. The event was dedicated to families with children. Dressed in carnival costumes (and those who didn’t, were painted and dressed at the venue), the attendees gathered in a fairy-like world called the Valley of the Fairies. When the first part of Hevruta and Q&A with Lara Lempertiene started, the children went on a tour to the valley of fairy tales. Here they got to know various heroes, heard their stories and encountered them in books. After the tour, the children met in a workshop room to watch a short movie with the story of Purim and started to make crowns and groggers, with the older children creating their own Megilat Esther based on the historical sources shown to them. During the cultural part of the event, we had a parade of Purim carnival costumes. Later, all participants exchanged traditional Mishloach Manot gifts, each brought by a guest (selected through a drawing of lots). The final part of the event was the reading of the Megilat Esther, making noise every time we heard Haman’s name.

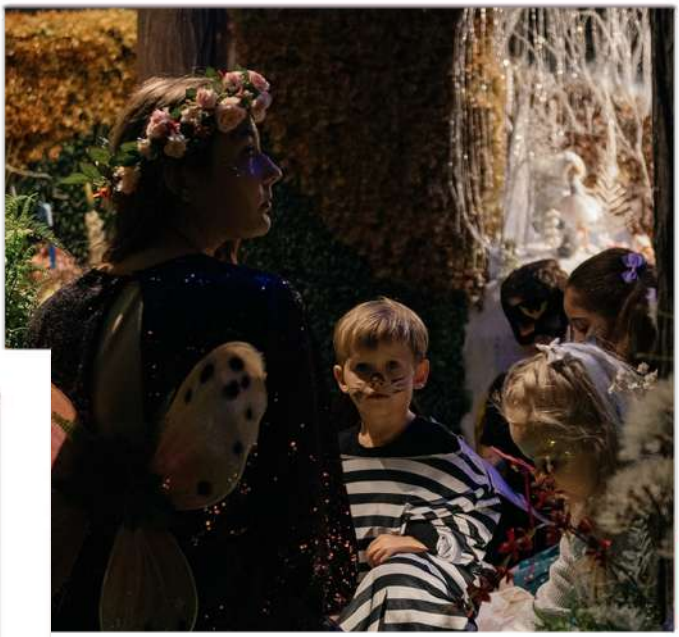


The Paideia Mifgash social media baner





Hevruta and Q&A session with Lara Lempert







Cultural part; storytelling, “Meet the heroes” and creating of Megillat Esther

Event's feedback:

I got a lot of very positive feedback! People wrote to me after the event that everything was absolutely wonderful, that all participants were included (children of all ages, adults) that they really liked the venue as well as the educational and cultural parts. They mentioned that they were happy that all the traditions were included, along with .the educational components in the event. Some people reconnected after many years of not seeing each other, while others met for the first time. And most importantly – the children got really involved in all the activities and left the event with lots of positive emotions. I'm very happy about the results. They may even have exceeded my expectations and completely matched my vision.



Darío Helman

Madrid, Spain
23rd March 2023
Number of participants: 21

Darío's biography:

Darío was born in Buenos Aires, and has lived and studied in Argentina, France, Singapore, Spain, Ireland, the USA and Israel. He has a rich and multidisciplinary formation in Economics and Communications, and Psychology and Religion. Darío has led a pioneering creative agency in digital media for the past decade, and many of his projects have become innovation landmarks in the digital media space. In addition to his career in communications, Darío has dedicated his time to do research and create original activities related to the world of spiritual traditions, both in Jewish and Interfaith contexts. He completed a Masters in Religious Studies at the University of Chicago, where he focused his research on the connections between religious practice and modern psychotherapy as systems of transformation, and has regularly produced workshops that intend to develop new creative ways to understand the meaning and purpose of developing a spiritual practice. Some of the spaces where he has recently taught include: Moishe House Paris, FED Community New York, Axialent Barcelona (Executive Coaching Consultancy), Mozaika Barcelona, Limmud Mallorca, H-Farm Venice (international start-up incubation hub), Moishe House Vienna, Junction Athens, Moishe Pod and School of Young Leaders in Madrid, NBI Community in Chile.

Darío is Paideia Paradigm Program 2016 Participant.

Darío's Mifgash description:

The event invited the audience to explore, in preparation for Pesach, the notion of “observing nature”, or the “Springtime renovation” as prescribed in a famous verse in Deuteronomy:

שָׁמוֹר אֶת־חֹדֶשׁ הָאָבִיב וְעָשִׂיתָ פֶּסַח

We met in Madarcos, a beautiful yet little-known village in the Madrid mountains, at the house of our hosts: Gonzalo and Aiana. After a round of personal introductions, we made a meditative walk along the riverside of the village. The walk was guided by a local botanist, whose explanations help people focus on this commandment of “observation”, and also gave them the chance to fulfill another time-bound mitzvah: to bless when seeing, for the first time in Nisan, a blooming tree. The walk ended by a water spring, where we had an appetizer in a beautiful setting. People had time to socialize, and a few brave ones took a plunge in the crystalline yet freezing mountain spring. After the walk, we returned to our hosts’ house and had a delicious home-cooked meal, vegan and vegetarian, with local organically produced ingredients. During the meal, the event leader introduced the texts to be shared and studied in Hevruta, and people discussed them during dessert (as Psalm 19 suggests, “there is nothing sweeter than Torah). The day concluded with a sharing session of the Hevruta discussions, along with a brief musical closing by our host Aiana, who sings Psalms with original music written by her. We were blessed with a truly beautiful day, and people left delighted and grateful, both adults and children.

Preparando Pesaj

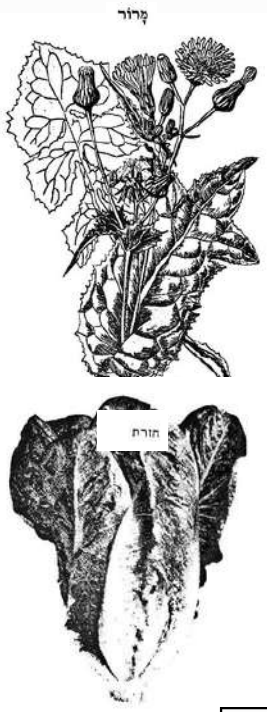
Un día de meditación, estudio, y música en la naturaleza.

En menos de un mes será la luna nueva de Nisan, el mes de la redención en la tradición judía. Pero como enseña la historia, y la vida, eso ¡no sucede solo!

La tradición tiene dos mandamientos únicos a este mes:

- Recitar una bendición especial al ver por primera vez un árbol en flor, y
- "Observar" la primavera (*Dvarim 16:1, Shemot 34:18*).

Para explorar estos rituales, os invitamos a pasar un día especial en un entorno natural con un original programa, y llegar así a Pesaj con los sentidos más abiertos y liberados.



¿Cuándo?

Domingo 26 de marzo (4 Nisan 5783)
12:30 hs.

¿Dónde?

Madarcos, Comunidad de Madrid.
Gonzalo y Aiana nos recibirán en su casa de Madarcos, donde disfrutaremos de una caminata meditativa con un guía naturalista, una comida deliciosa con productos caseros y de la Sierra, y un breve concierto de salmos para cerrar con la música original de Aiana.

¿Más detalles?

Caminata meditativa de una hora aproximadamente en la rivera de Mardarcos (grado de dificultad baja)

Sesión de estudio sobre la dimensión espiritual del mundo natural en Pesaj y Nisan, facilitada por Darío Helman (no se necesitan conocimientos previos).

- Buffet casero servido por nuestros anfitriones.
- Breve cierre y concierto de Salmos.

Estimamos terminar a las 18:00hs.



Todas las edades son bienvenidas, aunque la caminata no se recomienda a menores de 8 años y adultos con alguna dificultad para caminar (que podrán venir y relajarse en el pueblo hasta nuestra vuelta).



Finalmente, traer bañador y toalla los que quieran darse un chapuzón en el manantial!

- **Inscripciones:** dario@powertoc.com (cupo máximo de 20 personas, hasta completar aforo, por orden de inscripción!)
- Si no tienes coche, contáctanos y te ayudaremos a conseguir transporte.
- **Precio: 15€**



ACTIVIDAD PATROCINADA POR:

PAIDEIA MIFGASH
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is strengthened by the collaboration with The National Library of Israel

https://paideia-eu.org/

The Paideia Mifgash flyer



Meditative walk along the river side



Meal and hevruta session



Meal and hevruta session

Event's feedback:

We were blessed to have a representative of each of the following groups among the event's participants, which is highly unusual: We had members of the Reform Jewish Community, an Orthodox family, a Catholic priest, and non-affiliated Jews and non-Jews. This unique mix gave people the opportunity to study and socialize in a way that essentially cannot be done anywhere else, which made the experience particularly memorable and inspiring. Finally, another objective of the activity was to establish a new "format" for meeting and celebrating around Jewish themes. This gained experience should hopefully help us replicate the format, if new funding allows, more easily in the future.



Klodeta Cane

Didymoteicho, Greece

7th May 2023

Number of participants: 95

Klodeta's biography:

Klodeta was born in Albania and recently graduated from the Weiss-Livnat International MA Multidisciplinary Program in Holocaust Studies at Haifa University.. She holds a BA in Computer Science and Business Information Systems from Clausthal University of Technology in Germany. Her life in Albania was a continuous thread of leading different initiatives, which has led to various national and local engagements, such as her position as the president of the Student Government at Vlora University, Project Manager in the Balkans-Israel Cooperation Project, Coordinator for developing Bilateral Projects, and establishing partnerships and connections between Israel and the Balkans/Albania.

Klodeta is Paideia Project-Incubator 2022 Participant.

Klodeta's Mifgash description:

The event was developed as a 3-part activity: A walking tour of Jewish sites, An Estrea Taraboulous Testimony Commemoration and a symposium on the preservation of the Jewish community in Dimotika, Greece.
The walking tour of about two hours went through the remains of around 100 houses, most of which have not been cared for in the past 80 years. We also visited the Jewish Cemetery, where Thrasyvoulos Papastratis read Kantis in memory of the Greek Jews of Didimoteichus and of the 731 Jews exiled to the death camps. During the walk, we heard about the history of the Greek Jews and also visited the house of Astro, who welcomed us with traditional self-made sweets. We also witnessed what is left of the historic synagogue of Didymoteicho: the flooring, which the municipality has tried to preserve, and the memorial for the perished Jews of Dimotika in the Holocaust. The tour was an opportunity to bring people in contact with the Jewish past, enriching the experience through sharing small texts based on Marco Nahon's Memoir "Birkenau, the Camp of Death'' (he was a Holocaust Survivor from the local community of Dimotika and described in detail the arrest, deportation, and his survival in Birkenau). After experiencing the heritage in this town, we shared our insights about developing the present and future, and finding new ways of further preserving the Jewish legacy of the town.





The Paideia Mifgash flyers



Walking tour



Estrea's (Astro's) Taraboulous testimony



Commemoration Ceremony

Event's feedback:

The feedback from our target group throughout the event and afterward was amazing and if further helped us identify areas where further refinement or clarification is required. I hope this information will also help us improve future events and tailor our content to better meet the needs of various audiences in the Balkans. I realized that the events are going to be the first foundations in order to build the bridge of necessary educational background to present knowledge gaps.



Ze'ev Maon

Barcelona, Spain
7th May 2023
Number of participants: 25

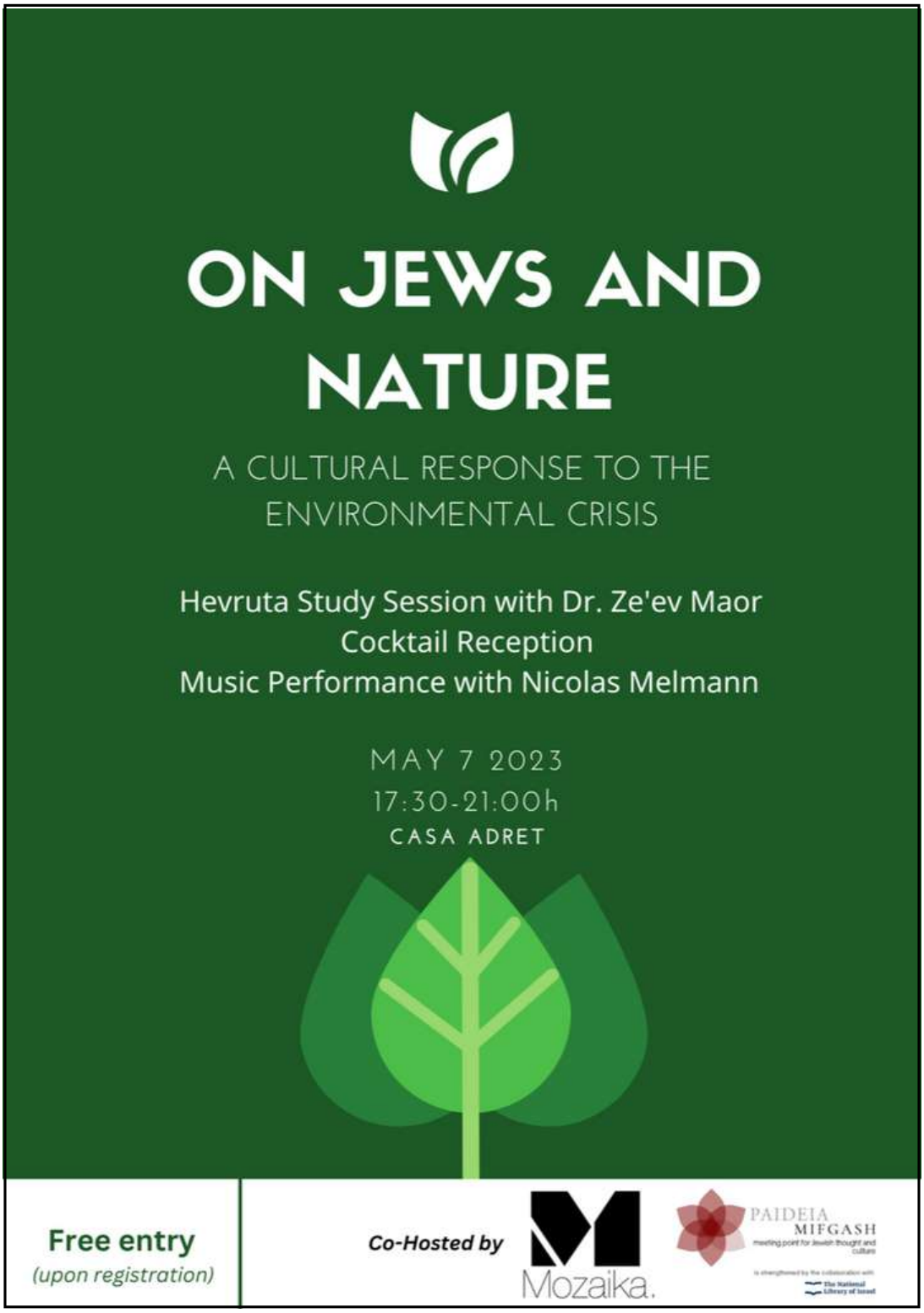
Ze'ev's biography:

Ze`ev Maor grew up in Jerusalem and lives in Barcelona. He holds a PhD in Philosophy (summa cum laude) from the European Graduate School (EGS) in Switzerland, a Master's degree in Architecture and Urban studies from Universitat Politécnica de Catalunya in Barcelona (UPC), and a Master's degree in Environmental Philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Recently, and supported by, Paideia - The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden (Project-Incubator 2022) and Mozaika - plataforma cultural judía de Barcelona, Maor directs the establishment of an academic infrastructure for Jewish/Sephardic Studies in Barcelona.

Ze'ev is Paideia Project-Incubator 2022 Participant.

Ze'ev's Mifgash description:

The event aimed to promote Jewish culture and heritage from the point of view of nature and ecology, foster community engagement, and provide an enriching experience for participants, and was organized as a team effort. The Hevruta study session was led by Dr. Ze'ev Maor. The cocktail reception that followed the study session involved planning and implementing the food and beverage service. Finally, the music performance by Nicolas Melmann required technical setup and management. The topics covered provided a comprehensive understanding of Jewish history, traditions, and contemporary issues related to the theme of "On Jews and Nature". This gathering successfully brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those with a background in Jewish studies, members of the Barcelona Jewish community and interested individuals from the general public. We are thrilled to see such a diverse group of participants showing interest in the event. It reflects the inclusive and open approach we have taken in promoting the program. By reaching out to both our existing network and expanding our reach to new audiences, we aim to create an enriching experience for all attendees.



The Paideia Mifgash flyer



Hevruta study session



Hevruta study session



Music performance by Nicolas Melmann

Event's feedback:

Participants appreciated the diverse range of topics covered and the depth of knowledge shared by the speaker. Many participants valued the opportunity to explore Jewish culture and heritage in a fresh and thought-provoking way. The event provided an excellent platform for participants to connect with like-minded individuals, fostering new connections and strengthening the sense of community. Participants highlighted the warm atmosphere at the event. They felt comfortable asking questions, sharing their perspectives, and engaging in discussions.



Varda Sokolowicz

Barcelona, Spain
21st May 2023
Number of participants: 25

Varda's biography:

Varda was born in Israel and has been living in Barcelona since she was three years old. She is interested in diversity, in education and inclusion. Varda works as a Project Manager at Mozaika (mozaika.es). She holds a BA in Humanities from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, with a specialty and honors degree in philosophy, including Erasmus exchange at Università di Pisa. Varda has lived and worked in Pisa, London and Paris as a cultural project manager, supporting museums to promote their programs and facilitating professional networking. She is used to work in an international environment and happy to learn, share and meet new people and challenges.

Varda is Paideia One-Year Program Fellow and Paideia Project-Incubator Participant.

Varda's Mifgash description:

The project “Where you go, I will go” (Ruth 1, 16) - Xuetas, Marranos y Conversos was implemented through careful planning and collaboration. We organized a study session on the theme of “belonging” in the book of Ruth, led by Rabbi Irene Muzás Calpe. Additionally, we screened the documentary “Xueta Island " and held a conversation with journalist Ofer Laszewicki Rubin and some Xueta individuals living in Catalonia. The project raises awareness and fosters dialogue around the topic, and we were pleased to see a diverse audience of approximately 25 participants, including individuals with Jewish studies backgrounds and those from various other disciplines, who were genuinely interested in exploring this aspect of Jewish culture and history.



The Paideia Mifgash flyer



Hevruta study session



Screening of "Xueta Island"



Hevruta study session

Event's feedback:

The feedback received from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the enriching nature of the study session with Rabbi Irene Muzás Calpe and the engaging conversations that followed the documentary screening, allowing attendees to delve into personal stories and reflections on the experiences of the Xuetas. The participants found the event to be intellectually stimulating and emotionally impactful. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to delve into the theme of “belonging” as explored in the book of Ruth, and how it resonated with their own experiences and identities. They appreciated the depth of the discussions, which allowed for personal reflections and connections to be made.



Marina Gehta

Riga, Latvia
28th May 2023
Number of participants: 28

Marina's biography:

Marina Gehta is a deputy director at the museum “Jews in Latvia” of the Riga Jewish Community. She attended the One-Year Program at Paideia in 2010-2011, and continued at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg, graduating with an MA in Jewish Civilizations. Marina has been working at the museum for 11 years, being responsible for education, administration and communication. She is raising two daughters. Marina is also the coordinator for the PJ Library program in Riga.

Marina's Paideia One-Year Program 2010-2011 Fellow.

Marina's Mifgash description:

The event focused on understanding the concept of belonging through the lens of Shavuot. It consisted of several parts, starting with a Hevruta session led by Rabbi Eliyohu Krumer on materials prepared in collaboration with the National Library of Israel. Then, participants had an opportunity to be part of a tour in the synagogue. The tour was led by Rabbi Eliyohu Krumer and Ilya Lensky, the director of the Museum “Jews in Latvia”. The third part consisted of a musical performance. Tenor Telman Guzhevsky performed traditional prayer motifs and psalm melodies. The event was concluded in a coffee table format, with questions from participants and answers from Rabbi Eliyohu Krumer, Ilya Lensky and deputy director of the Museum Marina Gehta.



The Paideia Mifgash flyer



Hevruta study session



Musical performance by tenor Telman Guzhevsky



Rabbi Eliyohu Krumer, Ilya Lensky and Marina Gehta

Event's feedback:

We learned a lot of new things and gained new experiences - both for the taste buds, for the ears through music and for the mind and heart thanks to the interesting script reading workshop led by the rabbi



Daniel Heller

Rome, Italy
11th June 2023
Number of participants: 28

Daniel's biography:

Originally from Rome, Daniel holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences with a specialization in Political Science and a Master's degree in Conflict and Development from Universiteit Gent, where he for his Master's thesis researched the challenges and advantages of an intersectionally informed approach to hate crime policies. His interests include concepts of violence, racism, the political, and intersectionality.

Daniel is Paideia Paradigm Program 2022 Participant.

Daniel's Mifgash description:

The event was part of Jewish Queer Pride, which was organized by the Jewish LGBTQAI+ organization Keshet Italia, aiming to celebrate the intersection of Jewish and Queer identities during Roma Pride 2023. The opportunity to contribute to another event facilitated the sharing of ideas at the community level regarding belonging to various groups, and contributing to my growth as a local activist.

The event brought together a diverse audience of people from different backgrounds and contexts, mainly from European Jewish and LGBTQAI+ communities, to discuss and reflect on the concept of belonging to a community and how discrimination impacts lived experiences. The event objectives included a reflection on how Jewish people are perceived in different contexts and how identity characteristics, such as religion, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and sexual orientation, impact the lived experience of people within and between the communities. Using CEJI's pedagogical approach, the event allowed a reflection on (innovative) responses to concepts of antisemitism, anti-Queer, multiple and intersectional discrimination. The activities selected for the workshop aimed at making participants reflect on their positions in the communities and encouraging them to consider the concept of belonging.

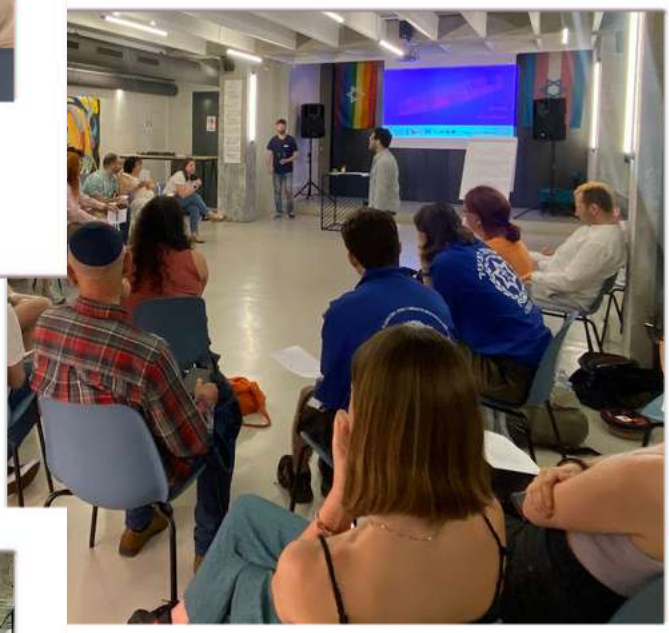
The workshop included the enthusiastic participation of 28 people from various backgrounds, each bringing their unique perspectives and experiences to the table. This diverse group allowed for rich and meaningful discussions, fostering an inclusive, safe and brave space for everyone involved. The opportunity to have such a diverse range of participants was instrumental in broadening the scope of the workshop, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of topics related to Jewish queerness. By encouraging open dialogue and the sharing of personal stories, attendees were able to deepen their understanding and empathy for one another, ultimately creating stronger bonds within the Jewish and queer communities.
The workshop's success was further enhanced by the possibility to navigate the intersectionality of Jewish and queer identities, providing participants with valuable insights and guidance. Overall, the workshop played a significant role in nurturing a sense of belonging, empowerment and unity among the attendees, highlighting the power of intersectional identities in fostering a more inclusive society.



The Paideia Mifgash flyer



Hevruta study session



Q&A Session



Refreshments waiting for the participants

Event's feedback:

As part of the event, I asked participant to evaluate their experience and to reflect on what they would have liked to do differently in future workshops. I created a short questionnaire for people to share their perspectives with closed and open questions. The questionnaire was anonymous and 13 participants answered it. The great majority of respondents stated that they felt interested, stimulated, curious and respected during the workshop. Respondents stated that the workshop helped them reflect on other people's experiences and how their identities shape the person and their sense of belonging to the communities. When answering the question about what they learned during the workshop, one participant stated: "That different people from different backgrounds might have similar experiences and that we can always learn from other perspectives." The majority of respondents stated that it was a safe space where they felt empowered to share their (personal) experiences. Participants appreciated the interactive sessions and valued the opportunity to interact and establish deeper connections with fellow participants. Participants also brought attention to the workshop's limitations, emphasizing the need for more time and exploring ways in which individuals not identifying as minorities could provide support to other communities.



Andrea Ausztrics

Budapest, Hungary
18th June 2023
Number of participants: 30

Andrea's biography:

Andrea Ausztrics is a creative producer and curator with a background in Culture Anthropology and Film Studies. She also holds a PhD in Social History and publishes frequently. Since 2003, she has worked across several production roles on her way to become an independent producer. Her main focuses are documentary films and integrated animations with a special interest in identity issues, cultural heritage and minorities. She has a broad experience in different genres of moving image and she truly believes in interdisciplinary projects. She is also artistic director of Marom Budapest's arts and culture project called ZSK2028 (Jewish Culture 2028). She often volunteers for Jewish causes and she is part of a variety of Jewish initiatives across the globe, including ROI Community, Paideia Alumni, the Jerusalem Biennale, the Muslim Jewish Conference, European Masorti Movement, and the MiNYanim Group. More about her: ausztrics.com

Andrea is Paideia Project-Incubator 2010 Participant.

Andrea's Mifgash description:

A couple of months back, we came up with the idea to talk about Shmita in general, because our everyday life is very busy with a lot of challenges. The idea turned into a performance by Zsófi Rebeka Kozma and into a playful Hevruta with Klára Cserne.
The word Shmita in Hebrew means to let go and in the Bible it means a year when, according to Jewish law, the farmers have to let the land rest. It is forbidden to cultivate. This year comes every seven years, which is mirrored by Shabbat coming every seven days. This compulsory rest, a rule to separate work and leisure, has really clicked since my leisure activity - my hobby - more and more became my work, and I felt a mad need not to let the two merge. For me, relaxing, not doing, became the only means of feeling in control of my imaginary struggle with capitalism. That's when I started to explore performative means to capture this phenomenon and made a dance performance out of it. Now, I'm trying a different direction: a sound installation, which I propose to listen to while lying on the ground, to observe the feelings and memories that are evoked by the contact with the ground. What we can let into the earth, what we can give and receive from it, whether we can feel some kind of symbiosis lying in a garden in the middle of the city. The participant is given space to separate work from leisure or what he or she has to separate at any given moment. There will be doing and not-doing. After a lie-in, there may even be a joint letting-go dance ritual. And a Sabbath reception. And learning.
The program went as we had planned. We had a great crowd that were happy to participate, talk about their experience in life and work balance. It was so successful that we will continue this event in our Hanukkah Festival.



The Paideia Mifgash Social Media advertisment



In the garden of Auróra



The Paideia Mifgash MIngle



Hevruta

Event's feedback:

The goal was to start a project on Shmita and how it can be part of our everyday life. What is the concept behind it? Zsofi Rebeka Kozma, one of our performative artists, worked on an audio performance/meditation that we used in the garden of Auróra. It was a great success, everybody loved it. The ensuing discussion and Hevruta about work and rest balance was very interesting. We used some texts that Klári Cserna, another artist, prepared for this event and learned about how we can create more balance in our life. The audience was engaged, and we continued the discussion after the program in Auróra and we had a very nice evening together. We also decided that we will continue this project, and that it will be delivered in its next edition at our Hanukkah Festival this year. We reached young Jews in our community of the ages 5-45, as the parents also brought their children. They really enjoyed the program in the garden. We also had a couple of people who are working in theatres and performative arts. We were approximately 30 people.



Marcin Grynberg

Warsaw, Poland
18th June 2023

Number of participants: 30

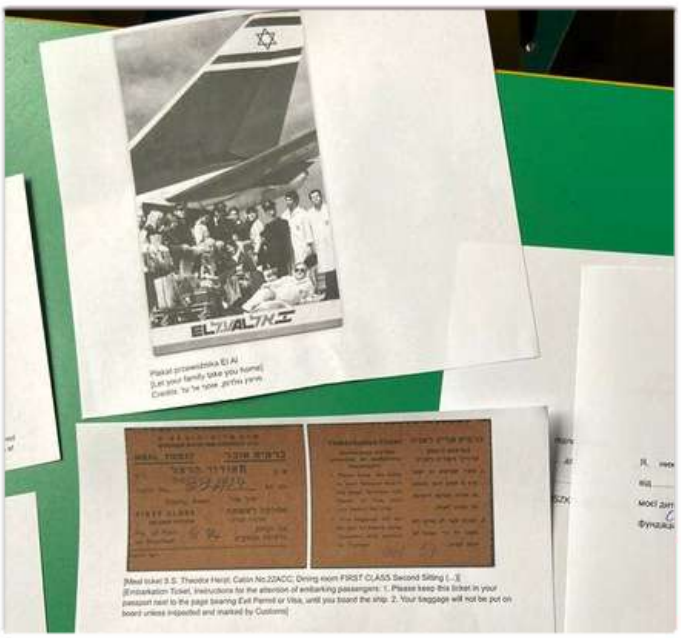
Marcin's biography:

Marcin lives in Warsaw, Poland, where he's a biologist at The Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics PAS. He's long been an active member of the Jewish community and four years ago he and a group of friends established the grassroots foundation Puszke, which helps the community to help its members, regardless of their form of attachment to Jewishness. In the past year, Puszke has actively been involved in the aid to Ukrainian refugees. It is currently giving help to 250 people from Ukraine and a considerable number of Polish Jews

Marcin is Paideia Project Laboratory 2021 and Paideia Paradigm Program 2022 Participant.

Marcin's Mifgash description:

The event had two parts. First, as a relaxation, we invented a set of games in a neighboring park, which was followed by a march to the Lauder-Morasha School at 10 Wawelberga St. There we intended to split kids from parents to have some serious discussions with adults. The unexpected downpour took us completely by surprise at the park. Some people walked to school, some went home to change. Half of them did not come back to the meeting, so we were around 30 people. During lunch, people started to talk intensively; everyone was hungry for contact. This was the successful result that we had been waiting for. We then split the group according to plan, where the adults engaged in Hevruta studies, a film about Israel and additional discussions. The concluding discussions focused especially on ways to keep the dialogue going in the future, and meeting again.



Hevruta materials



The Paideia Mifgash Mingle

Event's feedback:

We organised a ground for free contacts between people who could be in touch, but that have never had the opportunity to meet, to exchange their experiences, their states of mind, to express emotions etc. I very much rely on the future contacts that they promised to keep. I very much cross my fingers. Around 30 Ukrainian refugees joined the event. Most of them were very grateful for this opportunity and they are eager to continue this kind of meetings.
To let you feel the importance of this meeting to people, 2 families that joined us came from Łódź (!).



Federico Szarfer

Barcelona, Spain
2nd July 2023

Number of participants: 87

Federico's biography::

Federico Szarfer, based in Barcelona, works as project manager for a number of EU-funded projects and for the European Days of Jewish Culture. He is also in charge of communication for the AEPJ. He conceives his work as the design and creation of experiences for cultural institutions, television, theatre and events. His passion lies in communicating Jewish culture as a pluralistic, current and meaningful heritage that can engage anyone. He is the founder and a member of the Jewish Cultural Platform Mozaika in Barcelona.

Federico is Paideia Project-Incubator 2014 Participant.

Federico's Mifgash description:

The project was implemented between February and July, led by the dedicated team composed of Matias Szarfer, Alex Szarfer, Esteban Atlasovich, Monica Buzali and Federico Szarfer. The entire team volunteered their time and effort, showing great commitment to the project's success. The development process was both stimulating and educational, as team members acquired new skills and capabilities along the way. The team's responsibilities encompassed comprehensive research, technological development, artistic creation, magazine editing, event logistics, experience design, communication and event execution. The involvement of Olga Lempert from NLI in the research process, Nuria Garcia in the design and layout of the magazine and Monica Buzali in the execution of the tasting menu have been key factors for the development of the whole project. The event, held on July 2nd, was an artistic happening exploring the intersection of technology and Judaism through interactive experiences, culinary delights, and futuristic Jewish music. The historic Casa Adret provided a unique backdrop, enhanced by retrofuturistic decor, including laser lights, smoke, cables, and chips, creating an unforgettable ambiance. The event featured several engaging elements and interactive experiences:

Window to the Future: A digital interface projected onto the ancient stone walls allowed participants to envision the future of Jewishness. Their responses were transformed into images, which were printed as souvenirs and documented for posterity.

Roborabbi: Attendees engaged in thought-provoking study sessions with an AI-powered Roborabbi, designed to emulate a rabbi from the year 2433. Discussions and responses were recorded for documentation.

Musical performance: An innovative musical interpretation of Jewish tunes, combining klezmer and Sephardic origins, through the Aquofono instrument. Hospital droppers released saline liquid onto sensors, generating notes based on configured scales. The performer's interaction with the liquid activated and deactivated sensor contact.

Archaeological Exhibits: Artists Gaston Lisak and Yael Bartana presented futuristic archaeological findings, shedding light on Jewish life in a futuristic past.

Gastronomy Tasting: A team of molecular chefs offered futuristic Jewish culinary experiences, including spherified gefiltefish, bug-filled warenikes, and more.

Jewish Futures Magazine: A 60-page, full-color publication with the collaboration of dozens of authors who explore the future of Jewishness in the most diverse ways.

Hevruta: Attendees engaged in Hevruta study sessions, using readings recommended by the National Library of Israel.



The Paideia Mifgash flyer



Welcoming guests



Hevruta



RoboRabi

Event's feedback:

The event reached a diverse audience of 87 attendees from various social backgrounds. A majority of participants could be categorized as part of the Mozaika community, including both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals. The feedback garnered from participants has been exceptionally positive, showcasing a remarkable level of engagement and contentment with the event. While a formal satisfaction survey was not conducted, the organizers informally gathered feedback, which revealed a strong appreciation for the innovative and thought-provoking approach undertaken to delve into the future of Judaism. Attendees enthusiastically embraced the interactive elements, such as the enlightening Roborabbi study sessions and the captivating Aquofono musical performance, finding them both enthralling and intellectually stimulating. A distinctive highlight of the event was the seamless fusion of technology, art, and culinary experiences, which resonated deeply with participants. The gastronomy tasting, in particular, was celebrated for its imaginative ingenuity and sensorial allure. Notably, the acquisition of a substantial number of the “Jewish Futures” magazines by attendees before leaving the venue serves as a compelling testament to their keen interest and overall satisfaction. This symbolic act underscores not only the comprehensive documentation within the magazine but also the attendees’ proactive involvement and enthusiastic engagement. This gesture of acquiring the magazine underscores the event’s impact, unveiling attendees’ curiosity to further explore and revisit the event’s thematic discussions. The magazine’s popularity as a cherished keepsake reinforces the profound resonance of the event’s concepts, leaving a lasting imprint on the participants’ memories. In summary, the event successfully engaged a diverse audience, both locally and internationally, through various channels, expanding the reach and impact of the “Jewish Futures” project.

Project partner:

The National Library of Israel

Local events' partners:

Folklore Museum of Didymoteicho

Municipality of Didymoteicho

Mozaika

Museum "Jews in Latvia"

Jewish Community of Latvia

Magen David Keshet Italia

Junction

UNAR

CEJI

ILGA World

Moishe House

Fundacja Puszke

Staff:



Paideia

Agnieszka Baraszko

Project Manager

Agnieszka's biography::

Agnieszka Baraszko born and raised in Gdansk, Poland, is a Project Manager and Recruitment Officer at Paideia – the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden.
She works with the One-Year Jewish Study Program and runs Paideia Mifgash Project.
Agnieszka leads Hevruta training sessions and gives lectures on Jewish Folklore.
She is Paideia alumna and an active member of Stockholm and Gdansk Jewish Communities.
She graduated from University of Warsaw, Jewish Open University in Warsaw and Autonomous University of Madrid. She holds an MA in Spanish literature and language and specializes in translation.

The National Library of Israel

Olga Lempert

Project Manager



Olga's biography::

Olga Lempert was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She has worked in the field of Jewish education for many years and is also a literary translator whose published works include David Grossman's A Horse Walks into a Bar and See Under: Love, as well as David Fishman's The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis. Now living in Israel, she is pursuing an MA in Literary Translation at Bar-Ilan University and working as a project manager for the Gesher L'Europa program at the National Library of Israel, where she is responsible for projects in the fields of culture, heritage, and lifelong learning.

PAIDEIA

The European Institute
for Jewish Studies in Sweden

Paideia's annual work program is

Co-funded by
the European Union