

Limmud Durban Presenter Bios & Session Details		
21 AUGUST 2023 BOOKS OPEN 15:00 THE DURBAN JEWISH CLUB		
 Andrea Ascher	<p>Andrea is a freelance creative producer and curator with a background in Culture Anthropology and Film Studies. She has a PhD in Social History. She has a special expertise in film and the role of film in documentary film and animations with a special interest in cultural heritage. Andrea is part of several Jewish initiatives across the globe. Since 2020 she is the artistic director of Mosaic Budapest's arts and culture project.</p>	<p>VENUE 2 15:30-16:30</p> <p>Documentary Film with Young Jews in Budapest: Who we are, the Third Generation of Holocaust Jews after the Holocaust Come to a documentary film that tells about people's lives and connections to their unique Jewish heritage. The film participants – the third generation – all have different professional backgrounds and an important link to the local Jewish Community in Budapest.</p>
	 Adam Fergusz	<p>Adam Fergusz is professor and holds the Rabbi S.R. Hirsch Chair in the Israel and Gdida Kischitzky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewish Studies. He is also the chair of the department of the bar's "Unabating Lectures" series. Adam's work beyond Sederstein was the National Jewish Book Award. His research focuses on Jewish responses to modern and contemporary Jew. Raised in New York, the Ferguszes moved to Israel in 1987.</p>
 Allison Kaplan Sommer	<p>Allison has been a journalist in Israel since 2012, hosts the Hebrew-friendly podcast and is a co-host of The Promised Podcast. She is the former Washington DC bureau chief for the Jerusalem Post, and has also worked for the New Republic, Politico, and other publications. She has won a 3rd prize World Center Award for Journalism for Excellence in Disproportionate Reporting and a Simon Rockower award for excellence.</p>	<p>VENUE 1 17:00-18:00</p> <p>Behind Today's Headlines: Israel's Turbulent Political Reality Established An up-to-the-minute conversation on the current state of Israeli politics and how we got here, including the role of the right, the weakening of the left, the alarming threat and escalating conflict of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a journalist who has covered the Israeli political landscape for three decades.</p>
	 Dov Lipman	<p>Dov Lipman was elected to the Knesset in 2013. He has authored nine books about Judaism and Israel. He holds visiting professorships from the Hebrew Rabbinical College and a Masters in Education from Johns Hopkins University. Lipman focuses on Israel Education for diaspora, mainly young Israel and abroad and the integration of the ultra-Orthodox population into Israeli society. He founded The Center which assists new immigrants with their acclimation to Israel.</p>
 Dorag Borkin	<p>Dorag is an actor and a producer. He is also the creative director of the Jewish Community Centre Budapest. Born and raised in Budapest he has played an active role in several Hungarian Jewish organizations. He is also the founder of Personal History Budapest, a theatre production for Holocaust survivors and high school students.</p>	<p>VENUE 3 17:00-18:00</p> <p>The Current Situation of Hungarian Jewry: History, Challenges & a Bright Future The Jewish community in Hungary, 100,000 Jews, lives in a country in Europe, the largest Jewish community in Central Europe. 100,000 Jews live in the capital, deeply rooted in the history of the country. What does the future hold for us?</p>
	 Jeffrey Vavinsky	<p>Jeffrey is Jewish Studies Graduate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at the University of Michigan. He is the author of four award-winning books on the history of Jewish life in Russia and Eastern Europe, including most recently, "In the Mold of Christ: The Russian Pogroms of 1903-1904 and the Onset of the Holocaust."</p>
 Joel Haber	<p>Joel Haber researches, writes, and lectures about Jewish Food history. His currently writing a book examining the history of Jewish dishes from around the world and serves regularly on his blog, www.jewishfood.com. Joel recently launched www.chickenbook.com featuring a new cookbook. Joel goes on the US and meets anyone in 2023. He is a dedicated Linuxer and works as a freelance food guide in Israel.</p>	<p>VENUE 1 15:30-16:30</p> <p>The forgotten Poets in Revolutionary Ukraine Between 1918 and 1921, over a hundred thousand Jews were murdered in Ukraine in pogroms, massacres, and killings who killed the Jews for the benefit of the Russian Revolution. Largely forgotten today, these pogroms served as preconditions to the Holocaust. Through stories of survivors, testimonies, and governmental records, Jeffrey explores how so many different groups came to the same conclusion: killing Jews was an acceptable response to their problems.</p>
	 Michael Zoran	<p>Michael Zoran is an Israeli writer and cultural anthropologist. She writes for the national TV show "The Jews are Coming". She is the founder of "White Cloud", an evening of literary talks between pairs of young authors. Her latest series started and continues for a number of female comedians in Israel, and co-hosts the weekly podcast "That's My Opinion Anyway". Her debut novel will be published this year.</p>
 Naomi Fergusz	<p>Naomi is an occupational therapist and holds a PhD in Neuroscience. She is a senior lecturer at the Occupational Therapy Department of Ohio Academic College. She has taught and developed courses of learning and teaching multiple challenged populations. Naomi also has a passion for Torah study, applying her knowledge in the fields of neuroscience and education to great unique perspectives on traditional biblical and rabbinic texts.</p>	<p>VENUE 4 17:00-18:00</p> <p>The Revolution at Sinai: A Multidisciplinary Experience Perspectives of Neuroscience as well as Occupational Therapy often shed light upon biblical texts, helping us gain insight and understanding into what often might seem unrelated behaviors or commandments. In this last-based class, we'll present scientific research of sensory perception to engage with the multidisciplinary, almost supernatural, events of the Revelation at Sinai.</p>
	 Natalie Hausdorff	<p>Natalie Hausdorff is a British barrister and frequent speaker on international law and the Arab-Israeli conflict. She studied for the President of Israeli Supreme Court and was a Fellow at Columbia Law School's National Security Law Program. Natalie was also a Oxford University, qualified as a solicitor in England and general an LL.M from Tel Aviv University. She serves as legal director of UK Lawyers for Israel Charitable Trust.</p>
 Neil Janas	<p>Neil is the rabbi of the South Bucks Jewish Community. He is also school rabbi at Clove Shelton in Hertfordshire. He serves as a rabbinic advisor to the UK Jewish Council. He is a member of a PhD at King's College London, where he is studying rabbinic literature. Ordained by Leo Baeck, he has degrees in Jewish Studies, Psychology and Education. He is an alumnus of Yeshiva University and the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>VENUE 3 15:30-16:30</p> <p>Shal, a time of change & new beginnings In this session we will share an overview of the practices of change and explore how our rituals and customs shed light on how we make change in our lives. It makes sense to encounter this question at this time of the year because Eilat and the Eilat-Nitzana area is a time of change.</p>
	 Omri Benjakob	<p>Omri is an investigative journalist for Ha'aretz working at the intersection of politics and technology. He covers disinformation, cyber and surveillance for the newspaper and has participated in a number of international investigations, among them "Project Progress" and "Team Target", a recent article on disinformation for the BBC. He is also a contributor to the writing on Wikipedia. A recent article on Wikileaks for the BBC. He is also a contributor to the writing on Wikipedia. A recent article on Wikileaks for the BBC.</p>
 Tamar Hoth	<p>Tamar is a historian and the head of Hava Hava in the Holocaust, as well as the head of Holocaust remembrance on Israeli society. The topic of his doctoral thesis was the Dergavsky trial case in Israel. He is working on a book about the Next Comes Investigations Unit in Israel Police. He teaches at Tel Hai Academic College. He is also a folk musician.</p>	<p>VENUE 2 17:00-18:00</p> <p>Bob Dylan & Leonard Cohen: their music is society This interactive presentation combines selected songs from Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, with particular focus on Jewish themes in their work.</p>
	 Yisroel Weisman	<p>Yisroel studied at Yeshiva Rabbinical College. He practiced for 22 years as a solicitor in London. He was President of British Friends of Peace Now and the New Israel Fund. He has served as President of the Board of Deputies, Vice President of the World and European Jewish Congress and Chair of the UK Chief Rabbis Network. Yisroel is currently a graduate student in Jewish History at University College.</p>