

Teva Seminar on Jewish Environmental Education Course Descriptions 2013



Congregation and Day School



Leadership and Activism



Camp and Wilderness



Farm and Garden

TUESDAY

TRACK INTRODUCTIONS - 11:30am-12:30pm

Meet other people attending the Seminar with similar curricular foci, explore basic concepts and pedagogy of your track, and set overarching goals for your time at the Seminar. This session will be a combination of foundational curriculum and further grounding in the Seminar program schedule, program content and possible course selections.

Congregation and Day School
Laura Bellows



Gazebo

Leadership and Activism
Yoshi Silverstein



Lounge

Camp and Wilderness
Daniel Kieval and Noah Slovin



Firepit

Farm and Garden
Nati Passow



Arts & Crafts

2:00-3:15pm

Nili's Bombproof Method for Lesson Planning
Nili Simhai



Beit Knesset

Have you been wondering why you just can't capture your students' attention? Or why your lessons seem to be getting the point across but lack some extra zest? In this class, Nili Simhai will reveal the methods to her madness and offer you a framework for creating incredible experiential lesson plans in Jewish education. Drawing on pedagogy and methodology from Joseph Cornell and others, Nili will send you home with a bombproof method of lesson planning for diverse groups and ages.

Trail Time (2:00-4:45)
Jason Long and Daniel Kieval



meet at Firepit

Join us as we head out on the trail for an extended time to experience the joy and mystery of the forest. We'll learn tools for enhancing sensory awareness, safety tips such as lostproofing and tick protocol, and lots of fun games to help you facilitate a creative exploration with a group. We may also cover topics such as bird language, plant identification and animal tracking. We will also explore some facets of coyote mentoring - an awesome way to engage your campers and push them to make new and exciting discoveries! **Note: This class will go straight from 2:00-4:45pm and will not return to the main building area until 4:45pm.**



Update from Capitol Hill

Sara Levinson & Zachary Rosenberg

Beige Yurt

We know that advocating for just environmental public policy is a critical aspect of our responsibility as stewards of God's creation. Come hear a legislative update from Capitol Hill, discussing what policy issues are currently the highest priorities for Congress and the advocacy community, and Jewish responses to these issues.



The Field Of Infinite Possibilities: A Farm and Garden Tour

Nati Passow & Adamah Staff

Kaplan Family Farm entrance

Join us as we take a tour of the Kaplan Family Farm on Beebe Hill. We will explore one of the largest Jewish agricultural projects in the country, and get inspired by the range of plants and techniques we will see on the farm.

3:30-4:45pm

How To Develop Earth-Based Jewish Teachings

Sarah Chandler



Gazebo

In this interactive session, participants will explore ancient texts connected to the Jewish calendar applying them to modern agriculture and sustainability. We will discuss creative ways to gather in community to take part in earth-based Jewish ritual in all seasons. Whether you're looking to gather in community on a monthly basis or connected to a holiday, you will learn skills to craft Jewish rituals that align with any season or climate.

Community By Design - Reflecting Values & Kavannah In Jewish Spaces

Yoshi Silverstein



Beit Kneset

Shortly after Hashem delivered the central tenets of our faith as a Jewish people through Moshe and the Ten Commandments, we received instructions for constructing the Mishkan – a sacred space in which we could reflect our communal faith and intention. Since then, Jews have constructed beautiful synagogues and communal spaces that reflect similarly. But have we brought the same level intention to the design of the landscapes our buildings inhabit? In this session we'll think critically about how our values are or are not reflected in the Jewish landscapes at home and away, and explore how intentionally designed spaces can better augment experiential Jewish learning, ecological resilience and expression of Jewish environmental ethics

L'Ovdah UL'Shomra: A Planting Project

Nati Passow & Adamah Staff



Kaplan Family Farm entrance

After the farm tour, we will stay on the farm for a work project and planting. Learn how to facilitate a similar experience for your students or participants.

7:15-8:45pm

Keynote

Rabbi Arthur Waskow & Yigal Deutscher

Great Hall & Lounge

“Speak with the earth and it will teach you” (Job 12:8). What does it mean to speak with the earth? How does the earth communicate with us, how can we be in conversation with it, and what might it be trying to teach us? Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Yigal Deutscher will lead us in an exploration of some of the profound and diverse ways we can be in conscious and intimate conversation with the earth. Through group dialogue and *chevrutah* (traditional method of learning in pairs), we will engage with spiritual, mythic and cultural facets of these questions and construct a framework through which to integrate our personal and collective experiences at the Teva Seminar.

9:00-9:45pm

Campfire

Firepit

Bring your instruments, songs, stories, poems, laughter and whatever other campfire favorites you've got!

Nighttime Sensory Activities for All Ages

Laura Bellows

meet outside Arts & Crafts

Come experience the magic of nighttime and learn distinct tools to expand your sensory awareness. We will learn from the creatures of the night as well as our own bodies how to more fully engage with nature during the darker hours. Some games and exercises will include usage of candles and lights; Shabbat friendly activities will also be covered.

Soil & Soul Meditation

Sarah Chandler

Beige Yurt

As we move through springtime and notice the trees bloom with flowers and green, we may miss out on the life force of activity within the soil below us. The interconnectedness of organisms, ions, roots, water and air within the soil can be a window into a lifestyle of balance and cooperation. Combining soil science with mystical teachings, this session will enter universe of organic soil, allowing you to align your breath cycle with a complex source of our sustenance.

WEDNESDAY

9:15-10:30am

Pesach: Modern Day Plagues & Pharaohs

Rabbi Arthur Waskow



Lounge

“Lo, I will send you Elijah the prophet...lest I come and smite the earth with utter destruction.” (Malachi, 3:23-24) What does this last parsha of the prophets tell us about Pesach and the source of the ten plagues? In this session, we will explore the story of the exodus and consider the idea that the plagues were an expectable result of an “arrogant ruler.” We will then ask, who are these arrogant rulers today and what do modern day plagues look like? How can we use this perspective on Pesach to inspire and invigorate our communities towards redemption and freedom from our environmental predicament?



Gazebo

Rainstorms into Rainbows: Transforming Tough Situations Into Awesome Jewish Rituals: Sarah Chandler

A blessing for courage before a steep climb. A ceremony for a dying bird. An appreciation circle under an Eastern Hemlock during a rainstorm. Meditating with the river. Whether you're leading a group on a short hike or a camping trip, this session will review key Jewish texts and rituals for the context of wilderness education.



Beit Knesset

Garden Design Workshop 1: Basic Garden Design Nati Passow

It takes a lot of work to turn a good idea into a thriving garden project, but luckily, manifestation skills can be learned. In this hands on garden design workshop, we'll be introduced to the Permaculture design process. We'll also develop effective goals and objectives for our projects that are appropriate for our own site and educational context. This workshop is intended for those with little to no garden design experience.



Gan

M'Chayei Hameitim 1: Small Scale Educational Composting Daniel Kieval

Join Teva's Lead Educator Daniel Kieval in the Gan for some hands on activities that you can replicate with your own participants. Learn the basics of setting up a small scale composting system, and how to turn this amazing natural process into a profound educational experience.

10:45am-12:15pm



Lounge

Re-Membering Our Childhood Rabbi Katy Allen

This workshop will bring together nature journaling and sacred texts in the context of *t'shuvah*. After beginning with a text related to *t'shuvah* and an introduction to nature journaling, participants will go outdoors and take time to allow a current experience of nature to bring up a childhood or adolescent nature memory. They will record a chosen nature memory with words and/or drawings and then connect it to a Jewish text. Volunteers will be invited to share their journaling.



Arts & Crafts

Super Seeds! Recycled Paper Making & Gan Adventures Laura Bellows & Daniel Kieval

Wondering what to do with all that scrap paper in your arts and crafts building? We will learn from expert paper maker Laura Bellows how to make beautiful recycled paper with seeds in it that you can plant right in your garden! We will also take a trip to the gan and greenhouse with Daniel Kieval, who will share with us fun and simple activities you can do with seeds to nurture your campers' or students' experiences of helping plants grow.



Energy Ethics: Policy, Action & Kabbalah

Rabbi David Seidenberg

Beige Yurt

From fracking to the Keystone pipeline, from natural gas to tar sands to renewable energy sources, to why CFL bulbs are dangerous, to biodiesel v. electric hybrids, here are the basics you need to know about energy issues, along with what Judaism has to say about them. Beyond standard views of environmental ethics, we will also explore cutting edge Kabbalistic ethics about how we use water and petroleum and other substances. Finally, we will explore both advocacy and real-life choices and changes that we can make in order to treat energy and water and the atmosphere, and all the building blocks of life, with the respect they deserve.



Garden Design Workshop 2: Advanced Principles in Garden Design

Nati Passow

Beit Knesset

In part 2 of our Garden Design workshop, we'll explore some of the more advanced design tools that will allow you to take your project to the next level. Integrating the principles of ecological design with Jewish agricultural practices, we'll learn how to plan and implement a full season Jewish educational garden from the ground up.

1:45-3:00pm



Why Were The Talmudic Sages Experts on Flora & Fauna?

Rabbi Arthur Kurzweil

Beit Knesset

The newest edition of the Talmud, with commentary by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, includes color photographs of dozens of plants and animals. This reflects the interest of the Talmudic sages in the most minute details of the natural world. An examination of some eye-opening parts of the Talmud—translated into English—allows us to enter a Rabbinic world that is in love with the natural world and its Source.



Outdoor & Rainy Day Singing Games

Chana Rothman

Gan

Music makes the world go 'round...and 'round...in a hora, or a Celtic circle dance, or a West African chant. In this session we'll learn earth-based songs, games, and dances that work together to build community, musicality, and cultural respect. We will draw from Jewish tradition with circle songs, as well as songs from other musical traditions. We'll also use our surroundings (ie, trees, sticks, rocks, roots) to help us make music and dance, in a translatable way – so you can take the games, songs, and tools home in your back pocket. Rain plan will also give you lots of tools for rainy days with the campers. You will walk away with song sheets, dance diagrams, and mp3 downloads for easy replicability at your camp, youth group, or outdoor program. This class is great for songleaders looking to add to their toolboxes as well as for those who don't consider themselves to be dancers or singers!



The Relationship of Food, Faith and Poverty

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

Beige Yurt

The question of how human poverty and environmental stewardship are related touches on social, political, cultural and religious factors. A religious response of advocacy and action centers on the place of relationships: between people and people, people and the earth, and people and God. This is a conversation on religious principles of food justice from various faith traditions. We will also touch upon how to use religious principles and personal story to be an effective political advocate on this critical and timely issue.



M'Chayei Hameitim 2: Large Scale Compost Magic

Nati Passow & Shamu Sadeh

Kaplan Family Farm entrance

This is a down and dirty lesson in re-incarnation starring the FBI (fungi, bacteria, and invertebrates). We'll explore the magic of compost through a Jewish and ecological lens. Learn how to use compost as an educational tool, and how to create and care for your own community scale compost systems. This session will be focused on Adamah's large scale, certified organic compost system. For those interested in smaller scale operations, we will be covering that in Wednesday's session from 9:15-10:30am.

3:15-4:45pm

Jewish Rites of Passage

Abrah Jordan Dresdale



Gazebo

Together we will create a medicine wheel with objects from the natural world and use it to map cycles of nature, cycles of human development, and pivotal moments of transition in our lives. Finally, we will look to examples of wilderness rites of passage from the Torah and explore how to craft Jewish nature-based rites of passage for ourselves and our communities.

Packing Out a Camping Trip... And Camping Out!

Noah Slovin & Jason Long



Tennis Court

When the Israelites had to rush out of Egypt, they brought bread that hadn't had time to rise, and piles of riches given to them by their terrified neighbors. Before heading out for our own wander-in-the-wilderness, we'll spend some time thinking about what's important to pack, what isn't, how to pack for a trip with students, and where to stash all the gold. Then we'll head into the woods for our overnight! While we're out, we'll talk about some great ways to get students excited about nature by exploring a number of different outdoor-cooking techniques. We'll discuss projects including mud-oven building, campfire-cooking, pita-making, hot-rock cooking, and even making your own utensils from what we find around us. And, of course, we'll do some cooking of our own! We'll make camp in the mountains and experience the forest at night.

Try Stories For a Change

David Arfa



Lounge

This workshop will introduce participants to the power of creating and using short personal/public stories for social action. First, we will learn the power of story to inspire and motivate. We will then enter into collaborative story circles where we will begin to build our individual stories. This workshop is for anyone who would like to encourage others to join in volunteering, enrolling in classes, fundraising or citizen advocacy.

Abra Cadabra: Manifesting Your Vision for a Jewish Educational Garden Project

Nati Passow



Arts & Crafts

This resource share workshop will focus on practical steps towards long term success of our garden and farm projects, from small grants for tools and supplies, to tips for creating an engaging educational space, to enticing community members into leadership roles. This is an important workshop for gardeners, administrators and educators looking to bring an educational garden to their camp, school or synagogue, and actually have it used, and for anyone who wants to strategize about how to turn our dreams into sustainable and sustaining realities.



Farm-To-Table - Lacto-Fermentation: Vegetable Pickling

Adamah Staff

Cultural Center

At Isabella Freedman, Adamah makes organic kosher lacto-fermented products, including pickles, sauerkraut, kimchi and more. Learn about the magic and nutritional importance of fermentation as you follow each step of the fermentation process. Participants will ferment their own jar of seasonal vegetables to take home.

7:15-8:45pm

Bread and Torah

Rabbis Linda Motzkin & Jonathan Rubenstein

Great Hall & Lounge

Join Rabbi Linda- a *soferet*, or scribe- and Rabbi Jonathan, a baker, to learn about and share in making a Torah scroll and baking delicious sweet bread. *Participants can chose EITHER to bake OR to work on stretching the animal hides that become parchment for a Torah.* Everyone will gain insight into both the technical and spiritual foundations as well as the hands-on processes of these two ancient and sacred crafts. ***Bread participants will meet in the Great Hall. Torah participants will meet in the Lounge.***

Cheesemaking

meet at Barnyard

We honor the biblical shepherds in our past as we practice *tzar ba'alei chayim* (kindness to animals) in our organic goat dairy. Meet our friendly herd, learn about the artisanal organic kosher goat cheese we make at Isabella Freedman, gain a new understanding of the historic similarities between Jews and goats, and learn hands-on how to make goat cheese!

9:00-9:45pm

Late Night Magic Show

Beit Kneset

Prepare to be amazed! Rabbi Arthur Kurzweil will perform his world-renowned magic show. You won't want to miss it!

10:00pm

Community Circle: Embodying Our Values, Living What We Teach

Yigal Deutscher

Firepit

Do you find yourself sitting behind a computer for days at a time in order to help others get out and garden or rally? Do you struggle to practice the tenets that you teach in your daily life? In this quiet campfire, we will have space to share and listen to stories of struggle and success in our journeys towards embodying our values. We may not find answers, but hopefully we will find inspiration and support.

THURSDAY

Day-Long Option: 9:15am – 3:00pm

Activating Radical Hope

Maggid David Arfa & Rabbi Katy Allen

Red Yurt

This workshop will explore elements of deep and radical hope. What is its role in our activism and in our personal lives? Hope is a spark we carry in our hearts, nurtured by elements of gratitude, wonder, interconnectedness, acknowledged grief, and imagining future possibilities. Together we will learn from our ancient mythic story of being released from slavery; we will re-imagine traditional words like Redemption and Messiah; and our prayerbook will help us open the prayers of our heart. This workshop will combine sharing circles, personal reflection, text study, being outdoors, art and storytelling, as we explore the process and tools for activating radical hope.

"Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It's not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." (Vaclav Havel, artist, dissident, world leader.)

"The Talmud teaches that when we reach the heavenly realms we will be asked the question: 'Were you able to keep hope alive throughout your life?'" Shabbat 31a

THIS COURSE REQUIRES PRE-REGISTRATION. PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE COFFEE BAR IN THE MAIN BUILDING BY WEDNESDAY DINNER.

9:15-10:30am

Tefillah B'Teva: Meaningful Prayer In Nature

Laura Bellows



meet at Gazebo

Let the power of the outdoors bring your prayer to life! Join us for a spirited and songful stroll through the morning service. Explore your own prayer practice and develop your toolbox as an educator to bring *tefillah b'teva* (prayer in nature) home to your school or shul. Please bring with you any ritual items you like and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Pizza Box Solar Ovens

Noah Slovin



Lounge

The sun is the source of energy for all living things. On a large scale, our society harnesses that energy in a multitude of ways. We'll talk about the many methods of turning sun energy into electricity or transportation energy, and we'll see how we can harness the sun ourselves by building solar ovens. The pizza box solar oven activity is a simple project that can be done with students of all ages.



History and Future in the Trees: Ecological Stories Of The Landscape

Shamu Sadeh

meet at Barnyard

What does the forest around us tell us of human history? How did the forests around Isabella Freedman fuel the industrial revolution a century ago? What is the future of sugar maple trees? Invasive plants? Ecological restoration? How can we steward our own backyard forests and meadows? We will hike through the forests searching for signs of the human past on the land, looking at current impact and considering what the future might be for the trees, plants, birds and bees. This class will be outdoors and will involve walking but not strenuous hiking.



The Giving Tree: How to Plant, Care for, and Celebrate Fruit Trees

Year Round in Jewish Education

Nati Passow & Adamah Staff

Kaplan Family Farm entrance

Throughout our history, trees have occupied a central role in Jewish thought, but often only get remembered on their birthday, Tu b'Shvat. But trees are actually amazing all year round! In this hands on learning session, we'll discover how easy it is to plant and care for fruit trees in your own community and how to use them as a Jewish learning site throughout the year. We'll take a tour of the Kaplan Family Farm orchard, and then plant some perennials while discussing the rich history of trees in Jewish lore.

10:45am-12:15pm

Every Shabbat Is Earth Day

Sarah Chandler



Beige Yurt

How can I adapt all these Teva activities to connect to the weekly *parsha*? How do I incorporate environmental themes into various Shabbat rituals? What are some suggestions for *shomer Shabbat* programming? In this session, participants will discover the building blocks for planning Jewish environmental programming for Shabbat, whether for a one-hour Saturday afternoon hike or a full weekend *shabbaton*.

Cordage & Weaving

Jessica Rubin



Gazebo

In this class we will share our experience working with plant, tree, and animal fibers to make rope, bags, and clothing. While we explore different techniques to harvest, prepare, and work with these fibers, we may brainstorm about which ones our ancestors most likely practiced. Finally we will twine a small bag and review helpful knots, which often provide a practical bridge to weaving ancient and modern living skills together.

Strategic Fundraising & Organizational Development

Deborah Stern



Beit Knesset

Leverage the 2020 Line of Sight. Learn a proven framework for mission-based fundraising and organizational success...use intuitive tools for mining your inner wisdom for accelerated impact. Walk away with fresh perspective for building your vision, project, or organization's strategic pathway forward. Work with 2020 Strategies' founder, Deborah Stern, a seasoned social change strategist, fundraising and organization consultant, and coach to mission leaders.



Mushroom Primer for Jewish Educators

Philippe Amstislavski

meet at Greenhouse

Workshop participants will learn how the Jewish sources connect us to the forest ecology concept that mushrooms as a key medium through which the nutrients of the forest are recycled. We will discuss the Jewish connections to the mushrooms in the Talmud (focusing on Brachot 40b) and in other Jewish sources. In the second part of the workshop we will delve into hands-on mushroom cultivation. We will learn how to set up and cultivate a productive mushroom patch on logs and on compost piles as part of permaculture design. We will inoculate logs with a native fungus and discuss how to use mushroom cultivation as a fun and effective way to teach Jewish ecologic values while growing a tasty, nutritious food.

1:45-3:00pm

Ten Ways To Green Our Schools & Shuls

Mirele Goldsmith & Shamu Sadeh



Arts & Crafts

Looking for some simple ways to get a green revolution started in your institution? Join us for a scavenger hunt around the Isabella Freedman campus to learn about some ways the retreat center has manifested its values in greening projects. We will then come back together to discuss how we can implement similar initiatives in our own communities. You will hear inspiring and informative stories about the projects implemented by synagogues and schools in the Jewish Greening Fellowship.

Weed Walk & Solar Snack

Jason Long



Gazebo

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered." Come make friends with some of the most common weeds in our ecological community and learn about their unique botanical, edible and medicinal attributes. We will play some simple games to help you learn to observe and identify these common plants. We will then make sun tea out of some of the plants and harvest a snack from the solar ovens built in the morning class.

Building Your Advocacy Toolbox

Sarah Levinson & Zachary Rosenberg



Beige Yurt

Learn effective environmental advocacy strategies and ways to cultivate awareness of the public policy decisions that impact your community and our country. We'll talk about best practices of effectively integrating advocacy into existing Jewish educational and programmatic work on issues such as clean water, energy conservation, and food justice. You'll have a chance to participate in a hands-on simulation and you'll leave with the knowledge and tools necessary to strengthen environmental advocacy in your Jewish community and beyond.

Garden Curriculum Round Robin

Ellie Brown, Jonathan Billig & Daniel Kieval



Gan

Are you looking to learn some tangible, fun, and effective garden-based activities that you can run with a wide range of participants? Join us for this round robin where you will be trained in three different pieces of curriculum that have been developed at some of the most exciting and inspiring Jewish educational farms around the country.

3:15-4:45pm



Gaia Theory, Eco-spirituality and Maimonides

Rabbi David Seidenberg

Gazebo

If you've gone down to the Dead Sea from Jerusalem, you've probably seen the graffiti'd sign, "Kaved et Ima Adamah" – "Honor Mother Earth." Is it "Jewish" to think of the Earth as our mother, or even to think of the Earth as a living "person"? In fact, seeing the Earth as a single living organism closely parallels Maimonides' idea that the universe is "one living being" of ultimate value, beyond the value of any species, even of humanity. Moreover, the idea of the Earth as mother is already part of the Kabbalistic interpretation of Shekhinah. We'll explore a range of scientific, ecofeminist and neo-pagan ways of looking at Gaia, compare them to aspects of Maimonides and Kabbalah, and discuss what they might mean in a Jewish context. Participants will also gain an understanding of the science of Gaia theory and an awareness of how Gaia theory is used in eco-spirituality.



Firebuilding & Coal Burned Kiddush Cups

Noah Slovin

Kfar

Come develop your fire building skills while also honing the art of making coal burned *kiddish* cups. This is a great activity that campers can work on over the course of a whole camp session or during a campout. It also lends well to learning about fire safety and sharing stories around the fire.



Film Screening - Queen of the Sun: What Are The Bees Telling Us?

Lounge

"QUEEN OF THE SUN: What Are the Bees Telling Us? is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis from Taggart Siegel, director of THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN. Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this engaging and ultimately uplifting film weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heartfelt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world including Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva. Together they reveal both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature." (<http://www.queenofthesun.com>)



Lessons from the Field: Sharing Best Practices For Successful Educational Garden Programs

Nati Passow and Sarah Brown

Arts & Crafts

In our final session we will share some lessons from the field that we've learned over the past four years establishing and running the Farm at Eden Village. Sarah Brown, current Farm Director, and Nati Passow, JFS Executive Director and one of the founding designers of the farm, will share stories and valuable tips that will save you time, money, and energy as you work on your own projects. We will also be available to answer specific questions and to assist you in thinking about your next steps.

7:15-8:45pm

Program Showcase & Shuk

Lounge

Come network and share tools and ideas with our broad community of partner organizations, teachers, and friends: This is a unique chance to discover the great variety of people and communities that make up the Teva Learning Alliance and its family. As if that weren't enough, some of the farmers and artisans among us will also be selling special products and gifts!

8:45pm-whenever

Open Mic Café & Performance with Chana Rothman

Great Hall

Celebrated musician, educator and Teva alumna Chana Rothman will share some of her original music as well as host an Open Mic Cafe with all Seminar participants. Bring your songs, stories, jokes, dances, poetry, magic tricks, or whatever else you would like to share! There will also be a tasty **ice cream bar** with all the fixin's!

FRIDAY

9:00 – 11:30am

How Shmitta Could Change the World

“*Shmita* is the Biblically mandated ‘Sabbatical Year’ of rest and release, when agriculture and commerce were simultaneously re-adjusted to enable a more equitable, just and healthy society, economy and environment. During this period of time, debts would be forgiven, agricultural land would lie fallow, private land holdings would become open to the commons, and staples such as food storage and perennial harvests would be redistributed and accessible to all. The central message is that the *Shmita* paradigm structured all economic and agricultural activity so that it served the wellbeing of citizens and society, not the other way around.”

(from <http://www.hazon.org/resource/shmita-project>)

What would it look like to enact *shmita* in our communities today? How could embodiment of *shmita* principles transform our relationships with ourselves, each other and with the earth? Nili Simhai and Yigal Deutscher will open up an exploration of some of the principles and laws of *shmita*, and then participants will have an opportunity to engage in unique, hands-on workshops to explore these principles and their implications in more depth.

Re-imagine what culture and community can look like!