



Supporting Jewish communities to align their approach to Israel/Palestine with their Jewish spiritual and social justice values.

## Five Part Workshop Series

### **I. Israel: Sacred Mythology, Ancient History, Modern State**

In the opening workshop, participants will be introduced to Shleimut's foundational approach, drawing from the Jewish values of *hesed* (loving kindness, acceptance) and *gevurah* (strength, boundaries).

As we turn our attention to Israel/Palestine, we will acknowledge the place many of us were raised to love and support, while differentiating between *Eretz Yisrael* (Biblical Israel), and *Medinat Yisrael* (the State of Israel). Drawing from biblical texts and contemporary sources, we'll examine a number of perspectives in relation to the land in our group discussion.

Participants will be invited to trace their own personal, autobiographical narratives and to weave them in with the collective narrative of Am Yisrael, the people of Israel.



Biblical Israel



State of Israel

## II. Healing Jewish Trauma, Addressing Palestinian Liberation

Centuries of years of antisemitism has taken its toll on Jewish people. Many of our ancestors suffered from persecution, displacement and genocide. Today, as we witness a resurgence of white nationalism and spikes in antisemitism, the need for healing remains vital.

We will draw from a well of spiritual technologies centred around compassionate communication and embodied awareness as we delve into some of the patterns and dynamics that we encounter with unresolved trauma. Utilizing the expertly-researched map and guide from [Transcending Jewish Trauma](#), we will explore ways Jewish trauma affects our relationship to Israel, and how we hear the call for Palestinian liberation.





### **III. Progressive Movement Analysis: Equal rights for Women. Racial Justice. LGBTQ inclusion. End antisemitism? Free Palestine?**

Drawing from our pre-existing Jewish social justice values, we'll embark on a dynamic exploration of movements, comparing and contrasting similarities and differences across issues, strategies, power and privilege. In recent years, this poster (pictured below) became prominent in many liberal and progressive communities.

How does the movement for Jewish liberation fit in?  
How does the movement for Palestinian liberation fit in?



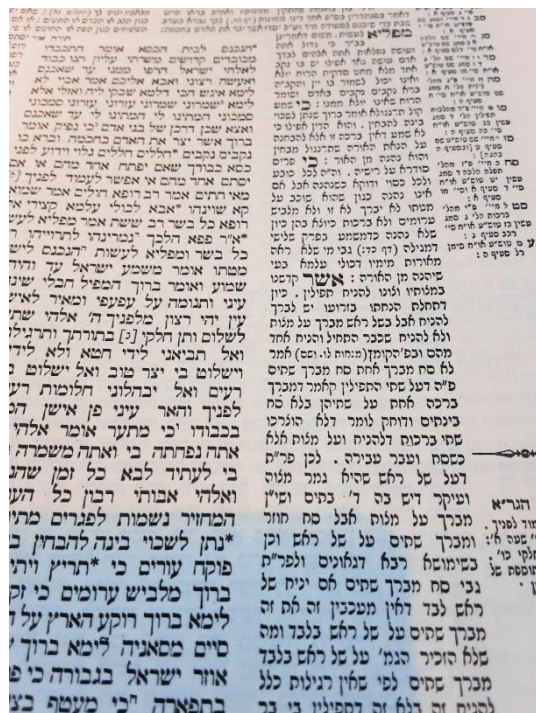


#### IV. Councils of Discernment: Letting go of Redlines

Stepping into the context of Israel/Palestine quickly brings us in contact with an array of controversial issues, including Zionism and anti-Zionism; Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS); One-State, Two-State, Confederation solutions; Kahanists, Hamas, apartheid and more. These topics are often considered so contentious that they – and the people who dare to address them – are redlined from Jewish communal life.

Yet the Talmudic tradition itself is one in which all opinions are preserved on the page, including debate and dissent. *Mahloket l'shem Shamayim*, Disagreement for the sake of Heaven, is an ancient Jewish concept.

Participants will form Councils of Discernment to sit in thoughtful, considered reflection around topics of their choosing. There are no redlines for discussion and there is no expectation of agreement.



## V. Lech Lecha: Where do we go from here?

In Bereishet chapter 12, יהוה says to Avram (before his name changes to Avraham) לֶךְ-לְךָ – ‘Go forth’, or, ‘Go to yourself,’ as Avram is sent on a journey to the land that will become Eretz Yisrael.

In a classic Talmudic debate between Rabbi Tarfon and Rabbi Avkia, the question is posed: which is greater, action or learning? In our final workshop, we will study this passage and reflect on and integrate the journey we’ve been on to this point. Based on new awareness and new learning, what does going forth look like? For us as individuals, for us as a community?

What learning is still needed? What action are we ready to take?



לֶךְ-לְךָ

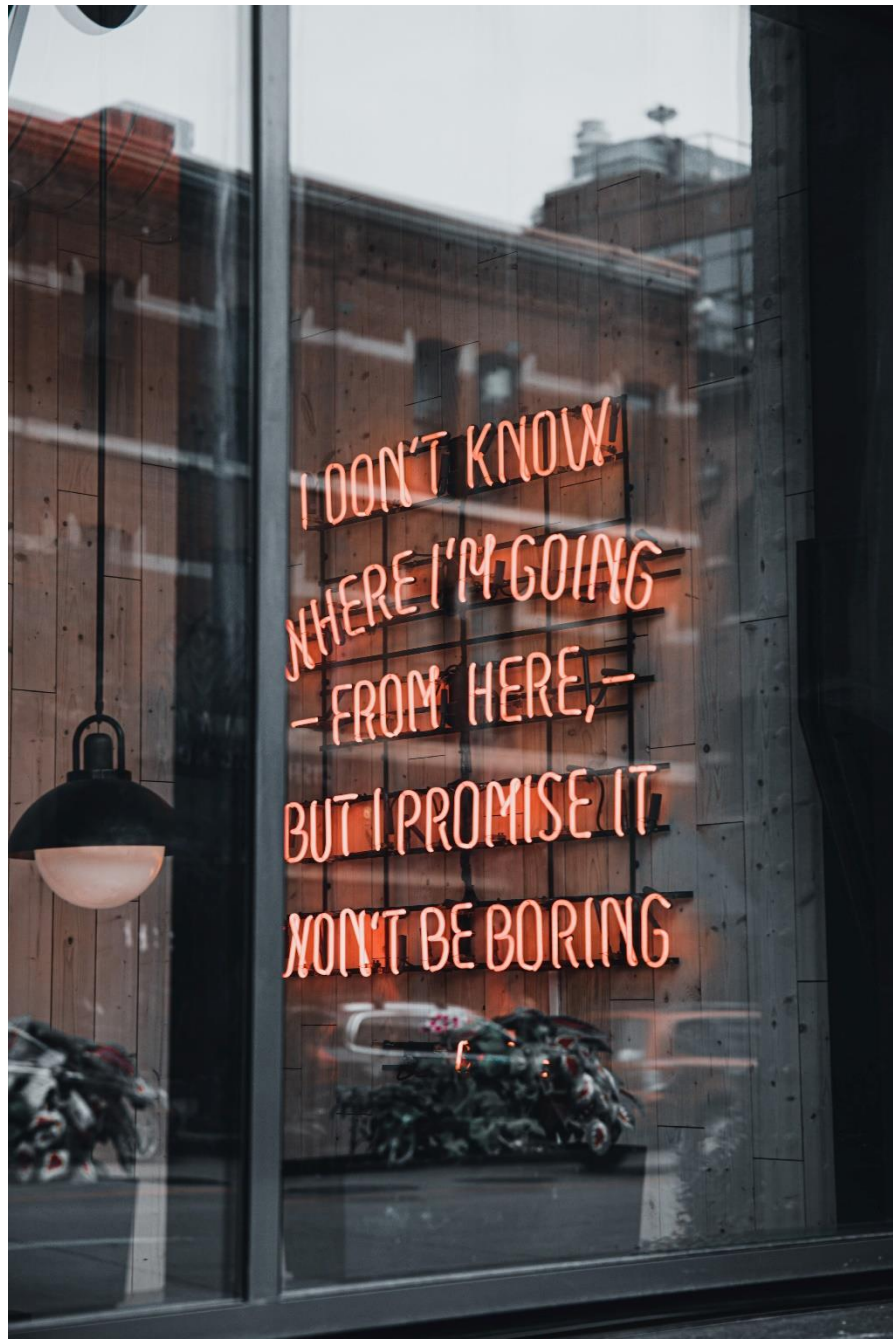
*Lech Lecha*

“On your journey I will bless you  
And you shall be a blessing”

[Debbie Freedman](#), z'l



PS: When it comes to Israel/Palestine, it's unwise to make many promises, but here is one that (for better and for worse!) is all but guaranteed:



Thank you for your presence, your time, and your commitment.

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