

# Saul and David, Samuel and the Psalms



Shira Eliaser

LifeCenter Torah Network

Summer 2012

## Class Schedule: Summer 2012

Two great kings of Israel find themselves locked in mortal combat for the destiny of their people. One is a charismatic populist whose dreams of security are never to be realized, the other a warrior poet who uses his words to express the deepest frustrations of his soul. Between the two of them, they not only shape the history of Israel, but its very soul.

### A Leader Arises **Mon., June 11**

In the days of the Judges, libertarian principles give way to anarchy and injustice. In all of Israel, only one young man is prepared to lead the way to a better future.

### The Temptations of Power **Mon., June 18**

When King Shaul fails the critical test of leadership, the country must learn to cope with an irremovable leader who is bitterly aware that his time has passed.

### David's Mother **Mon., June 25**

In the fields of Beit Lechem, a motherless boy all but abandoned by his family searched for his place in the cosmos. We will examine Psalms 22 and 8 for clues to David's early years and the life that was his before destiny claimed him.

### The Giant and the Princess **Thu., July 5**

Young David is thrust into the spotlight as he defies the giant Goliath and is claimed by the princess as her husband. But David's rise to power is no fairy tale: surrounded by intrigues and treachery, David's survival depends on his friends and his God.

### On the Run **Thu., July 12**

David's meteoric rise to power ends in the depths of despair as he spends years on the run as a wanted man. Psalms 53-57 provide a unique window into David's struggle with faith and despair.

### David, Michal, and Avner **Thu., July 19**

Two years of civil war take their toll on the nation before King David can sit upon his throne. Even then, the two views of Jewish kingship clash in a final rift between Shaul's daughter Michal and her husband David.

### "You Are That Man." **Thu., July 26**

David betrays his ideals, his men, and his God in his struggle to possess the lovely Bathsheba wife of a longtime senior officer. He is guilty of murder and adultery: why does he not die?

### In David's Archives **Thu., August 2**

In rare moments of peace, King David amasses a collection of poetry and oral tradition that will later become the book of Psalms. Which of these 150 masterpieces did David not write himself?

### David's Deathbed **Mon, August 13**

Beleaguered by illness and family strife David's final poems express his pain, his faith, and his last hopes for inner peace. Psalms 20, 28, and 6 provide a rare window into the trials of age and the king blessed in everything whose last wish is to return to the life whence he came.

All classes take place from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. and meet on Thursdays at the Women's LifeCenter, 118 Skokie Blvd. in Wilmette. Classes are open both to women and men. Bring your own Hebrew-English Tanakh for study.

## Registration Form: LifeCenter Torah Network

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Early bird  Teen rate

Dates:  Jun 11  Jun 18  Jun 25  Jul 5  Jul 12  Jul 19  Jul 26  Aug 2  Aug 13  Aug 20  Aug 27  Total Course fees: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment information:  Check enclosed  Credit card upon arrival  Check upon arrival  Cash upon arrival

Make checks payable to Shira Eliaser. Mail to Women's LifeCenter 118 Skokie Blvd., Wilmette, 60091. For questions or to reserve a spot online, contact Shira Eliaser at [shira@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:shira@stanfordalumni.org).

## LifeCenter Torah Network

Shira Eliaser of the LifeCenter Torah Network teaches at Chicagoland Jewish High School. She is known for her animated blend of traditional commentaries with contemporary sociology and midrash. Drawing heavily on the influences of Dr. Esther Shkop and Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky, her fresh, dynamic approach to Torah study brings the text alive with meaning and drama.

The Women's LifeCenter is proud to host the LifeCenter Torah Network, an independent association for communal study under the directorship of Dr. Elysa Fisher and Chaya Klein. The Women's LifeCenter advances the interests of spiritual growth and physical wellbeing within the greater community, and we are grateful for their support.



The Women's LifeCenter is located at [118 Skokie Blvd.](#), in the Wilmette Commons shopping plaza. The Wilmette Commons is on the east side of Skokie Blvd just south of Old Glenview Road, one block north of Old Orchard.

## About the Series

Summer Session 2012 classes are independent one-hour learning sessions on the featured text of the week. Drop ins are welcome. Individual classes are \$12 each. Drop by when you are in town or sign up for the sessions that interest you most! Advance registration is not required, so treat yourself to an evening of Torah and come on over!

## Early Bird Special

Students who register before June 14 will receive a discounted rate of \$10 per session. Register for the entire series and pay only \$90! To reserve your spot, email [shira@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:shira@stanfordalumni.org) or return the attached form to the Women's LifeCenter at 118 Skokie Blvd, in Wilmette.

## Teen Rate

Summer camp hasn't started yet! Morning shift at the coffee house bringing you down? Come on over to LifeCenter for a Thursday night workout! We'll challenge your mind and inspire your soul as we go through the texts of our tradition. Enjoy a special teen rate of only \$8 a session, or bring a friend with you for an additional 25% discount!