

Friends Forever: Ruth and Naomi, Jonathan and David



Shira Eliaser
LifeCenter Torah Network
Summer 2013

Class Schedule: Summer 2013

“Love that depends on certain conditions—infatuation or beauty or even romance—will not endure once the romance is gone, but love that depends on nothing, that asks nothing but acceptance and demands nothing but trust, that love will endure forever.”

Naomi: Left Alone **Mon. June 10**

פרק א
ותשאַר האַשה משני ילדיה ימאישָה.
Naomi’s life spins out of control as decisions made by others leave her behind. Forced to act as a decision-maker and provider, she is too weighed down with guilt to truly appreciate the support that Ruth is offering to her.

Voices in Bethlehem **Mon. June 17**

פרק ב
למי הנַעֲרָה הַזֹּאת?
Different commentators throughout history contrast the “welcome” received by the refugees in Beit Lechem. Are Naomi and Ruth welcomed as sisters in suffering or are they shunned as gold-diggers and aliens?

Rekindling the Romance **Mon. June 24**

פרק ג
היטבת חסדך האַחרון מן-הַראשון.
When Boaz fears to take advantage of a stranger and Ruth is too shy to explain how she feels, Naomi takes matters into her own hands.

The Child **Mon. July 1**

פרק ד
אֲשֶׁר-הִיא טוֹבָה לְךָ מִשִּׁבְעָה בָּנִים.
“This child,” the other women tell Naomi, “will restore your soul and redeem your old age, but your daughter-in-law who loves you is better than seven sons!”

Jonathan and Goliath **Mon. July 8**

הַיּוֹנָתָן יָמוּת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה הַשׁוּעָה הַגְּדוּלָה הַזֹּאת בַּיִשְׂרָאֵל:
Long before David ben Yishai appeared on the scene, a military hero arose to save Israel from the Philistines. His name was Yehonatan, and his heroism was repaid with royal indifference.

Two Princes **Sun. July 14**

וַיִּגָּשׁ יְהוֹנָתָן וַיִּקְשָׁרָה בְּנֶפֶשׁ דָּוִד; וַיִּנְאָהְבֵהוּ יְהוֹנָתָן בְּנֶפֶשׁוֹ.
In David, Jonathan sees a true hero who can do for Israel everything that he, the true prince cannot. So why does David keep him at arm’s length?

Machar Chodesh **Mon. July 22**

אִם-גַּשְׁ-בִּי עוֹן הַמִּיתָנִי אֶתְּךָ, וְעַד-אֶבִּיד לְמִתָּה-זֶה תְּבִיאֵנִי.
As the madness of King Saul places him in increasing danger, David finally reciprocates Jonathan’s affection and shares with him the incredible secret he has been hiding.

In Death Not Divided **Mon. July 29**

הַנְּאֻהָבִים וְהַנְּעִימִים בְּחַיֵּיהֶם, וּבְמוֹתָם לֹא נִפְרְדוּ.
Through years of exile, flight, and danger, the covenant the two best friends have made endures. David has already stolen his friend’s throne. But he cannot and will not turn Jonathan against his own father.

All classes take place from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m., and meet on Mondays 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.



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. 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 2013 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 10 will receive a discounted rate of \$10 per session. Register for the entire series and pay only \$75! To reserve your spot, email 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 Monday 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!

Registration Form: LifeCenter Torah Network

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Dates: Jun 10 Jun 17 Jun 24 Jul 1 Jul 8 Jul 14 Jul 22 Jul 29 Early bird Teen rate Total Course fees: _____

Payment information: Check enclosed 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.

