


## WINTER PLS 2025 ONLINE Class Descriptions and Links

Important Links	Evaluations	Winter PLS 2025 Whatsapp Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Faculty Bios</a></li> <li><a href="#">Participant Bios</a></li> <li><a href="#">Graphic Schedule</a></li> <li><a href="#">Folder with PDF Source Sheets For Those Who Prefer PDFs</a></li> <li><a href="#">PLS Favorite Prayers</a></li> <li><a href="#">Participant Contact Sheet</a></li> </ul>	<a href="#">2 Min Class Evaluations</a>  <a href="#">Full Seminar Evaluation</a>	  <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/l1hxUTyS4oc3sq33ntBOYE">https://chat.whatsapp.com/l1hxUTyS4oc3sq33ntBOYE</a>

### Sunday, January 19 - Day 1

Session Slot	Class Title	Teacher	Class Description	Source Sheet and Zoom Link
<b>Sunday, January 19, Opening</b>	Introduction and Orientation	PLS Team	Introduction to PLS and the learning we will be doing over the next few days.	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: \$Ds5fPjD
<b>Sunday, January 19, 1st Slot</b>	What if my Siddur was a Saxophone?	Mike Feuer	As people of the book we have been taught to relate to our liturgy as a text, with all the challenges that present to prayer. What if you engaged the siddur as an instrument instead, whose structure and content are meant to give voice to your deepest self? It would still require a commitment to practice, and developing precision of means, but what came out when you prayed would then be the music of your soul - rather than someone else's words. Join me for a look at the siddur and some spiritual texts which can help reframe your relationship to our most precious instrument.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: 9^r%3r6G
<b>Sunday, January 19, 1st Slot</b>	Prayer as a Journey:	Yiscah Smith	Through the lens of experiencing prayer as a journey we shall explore the Piaseczner Rebbe's idea of dedicating time to being in conversation with the	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>



	Exploring Jewish Spiritual Practices		Divine in solitude. He recognizes that many times the fixed communal prayer times do not always align with the soul's inner tug to speak with God. Hence, as we honor communal based prayer, the prayer journey may also include time to simply be alone with God when the soul prompts us to. Our tradition refers to this spiritual practice as <i>Hitbodedut</i> .	<a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: 3JKV0+P9
<b>Sunday, January 19, Open Table Slot</b>	Open Table: Shared Space for Connection (Optional)	Nechama Goldman Barash, Facilitator	<b>Optional</b> Join us at the Open Table for an informal, come-as-you-are opportunity to connect with fellow participants. Whether you want to share insights, ask questions, or simply enjoy the company of others, this facilitated space is designed to foster meaningful conversations and connections. Bring your own breakfast, lunch or dinner.	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>
<b>Sunday, January 19, 2nd Slot</b>	Royal Love: Kabbalat Shabbat and Lecha Dodi	Meesh Hammer Kossoy	A close look at Lecha Dodi in the context of the Kabbalat Shabbat liturgy as a whole. Inspiration for praying and living every Shabbat and during the week, too!	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a> <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: =wF6dj*.
<b>Sunday, January 19, 2nd Slot</b>	If a Secular Jew Prays, Does it Make a Sound?	Elliot Vaisrub Glassenberg	What does it mean to pray if one does not necessarily believe in God? Join us on a journey into the prayer of secular Jews from the past and present.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Elliot's Updated Source Sheet with Additions</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: p0MZ4!ji
<b>Sunday, January 19, 3rd Slot</b>	The Hostile Prophet: Mah Tovu and Prayer as	Rabbi Ben Spratt (Senior Rabbi)	Our morning liturgy begins with the words of Bilam, one who sought the destruction of the ancient Israelites. In this class we will analyze the composition of Mah Tovu, the radical liturgical moves of the prayer,	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>



	Transformation	Congregation Rodeph Shalom)	and how we may come to see the entire framework of prayer through the lens of Bilam, the hostile prophet.	<a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: %9N3LX*U
<b>Sunday, January 19, 3rd Slot</b>	Between Saying Too Much and Saying Too Little: Rabbis Grappling with Psalms	Rafael Jonathan Polisuk	The book of psalms is the base for Jewish prayer for generations. Yet the Rabbis of the Talmud find themselves grappling again and again with its content. In this class we will explore the Pesukei d'Zimra of the daily prayer and the Talmudic sayings that discuss them and their philosophical messages and problems.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: 6B&P!j!@

## Monday, January 20 - Day 2

Session Slot	Class Title	Teacher	Class Description	
<b>Monday, January 20, Opening</b>	Homeroom - Reflections and Intentions for the Day	PLS Team	Begin your day with a moment of reflection and connection in this optional morning session. Homeroom offers a space to revisit key ideas, themes, and insights from the previous day's learning while setting intentions for the day ahead. Through guided reflection and shared thoughts, we'll build on our collective experiences and start the day with focus and inspiration.	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>
<b>Monday, January 20, 1st Slot</b>	Job's Critique: Blasphemy or Prayer?	Judy Klitsner	In this session, we will explore the harsh, sometimes startlingly critical, words spoken by Job against God. In our analysis of his statements, we will compare Job to Abraham, while considering the possibility that Job's words may be considered a type of prayer-- both in the book of Job and within the context of today's difficult realities.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: A9AKU.@f

<b>Monday, January 20, 1st Slot</b>	Nineteen Ways to Speak to God	David Levin-Kruss	The quintessential Jewish prayer, the Amida, is carefully crafted and gives insight into the character of the worshipper, the nature of G-d, and the role of prayer. This class will take us on a roller coaster tour of some of the lesser known aspects of the Amida and will be filled with anthropological, theological and psychological revelations.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Participant Responses</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: e8Tr=5Td
<b>Monday, January 20, Open Table Slot</b>	Open Table: Exploring the Origins of Aleinu (Optional)	Nechama Goldman Barash	<b>Optional</b>  Pull up a seat at the Open Table as Nechama Goldman Barash delves into the fascinating origins and enduring significance of Aleinu. This session offers a chance to learn, reflect, and engage in dialogue about this central prayer in Jewish tradition. Bring your own breakfast, lunch or dinner.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: =sFw2QWj
<b>Monday, January 20, 2nd Slot</b>	Paytanut (Jewish Liturgical Poetry) Workshop	Yahala Lachmish	Join us for a <i>paytanut</i> workshop, hearing stories and learning to sing different melodies of Jewish Sephardi communities from East and West. Our special meeting is going to focus on the coming-up Shabbat Shira and different ways of celebrating it through song, so we'll be learning by practicing singing!	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: 3#X.iNWH
<b>Monday, January 20, 2nd Slot</b>	Crafting Prayer: Biblical Roots and Modern Voices in 'Az Nashir'	Rachel Sharansky Danziger	Prayer comes in many forms and styles. Some prayers are bold while others are remorseful. Some demand while others beg. But underneath these seemingly opposing emotional impulses, even vastly different prayers draw upon one fundamental story. In this class Rachel Sharansky Danziger, co-editor of the modern-day prayers book "Az Nashir - We Will Sing Again: Women's Prayers for Our Time of Need", will share what working with fifty five different authors to create Az Nashir taught her about prayer and about biblical Adam, Channa, and King David.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: i^s@5yY.



<b>Monday, January 20, 3rd Slot</b>	The Earlier Temple Roots of Rabbinic Prayers and Their Simple Humanity	Elisha Anselovits	In this class, we start by seeing that rabbinic prayer – daily and Shabbat – is already found in Second Temple sources. That reminds us that these prayers give voice to basic human experiences and emotions. And we, in turn, will examine how these prayers develop our resilience by drawing us both to hope and to ground ourselves in life by noticing positive aspects of reality.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a> <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: ?a^4q3Vf
<b>Monday, January 20, 3rd Slot</b>	How Prayer has the Power to Unite Us and Divide Us	Zvi Hirschfield	The formalized structured prayers developed by the Sages after the destruction of the Temple were designed to create unity and shared ideology for Jews spread throughout the world. Together, we will explore how those structures form a central element in the denominational divisions between Jews today. Can prayer again be a vehicle for bringing us together?	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a> <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: J*G*vh67

## Tuesday, January 21 - Day 3

Session Slot	Class Title	Teacher	Class Description	
<b>Tuesday, January 21, Opening</b>	Homeroom - Reflections and Intentions for the Day	PLS Team	Begin your day with a moment of reflection and connection in this optional morning session. Homeroom offers a space to revisit key ideas, themes, and insights from the previous day's learning while setting intentions for the day ahead. Through guided reflection and shared thoughts, we'll build on our collective experiences and start the day with focus and inspiration.	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 1st Slot</b>	The Language of Prayer: A Talmudic Debate	Leah Rosenthal	In an intriguing, and sometimes overlooked, passage on prayer in Masechet Sotah of the Talmud, the Rabbis debate the question of whether prayer must be in Hebrew (the "Holy Language"), or may be conducted in other languages. We will consider the	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a> <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> <a href="#">Recording</a>





			context in which this debate occurs in the Talmudic discussion, and through this, as well as through the content of this debate, attempt to deepen our understanding of the Talmud's various approaches to the act of prayer, its power and its limitations.	Passcode: r@mCC1gA
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 1st Slot</b>	Rav Kook's Approach to Tefila	Aryeh Ben David	What is the goal of prayer - to change God or to change us? How can we hope to change God's role in the world?	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: 45&Tvfp+
<b>Tuesday, January 21, Open Table Slot</b>	Open Table: Share Your Favorite Prayer (Optional)	Nechama Goldman Barash, Facilitator	<b>Optional</b>  Bring your voice and your heart to the Open Table as we share and explore our favorite prayers. This session invites participants to reflect on what moves them personally, creating a space for connection, learning, and inspiration through shared expressions of spirituality. Bring your own breakfast, lunch or dinner.	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a>
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 2nd Slot</b>	When Heaven Opens: Rain, Prayer, and Divine Connection	Michal Kohane	Ever since the creation of the world in Genesis, rain and prayer go together. Rain didn't even come down as long as there were no humans to pray for it. And why should it? There are other ways to water the fields! But rain reflects our relationship with Gd and therefore is present throughout Scripture in various ways.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: \$f168RnW
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 2nd Slot</b>	The Many Different Messages of Shema	Dov Berkovits	Reciting "shema" twice a day is the most explicit enunciation of "Emunah". For generations in time of crisis and tragedy – and in dramatic encounters in the present war between soldiers and trapped civilians that saved lives– the six words of the "shma" are the deepest expression of one's identity as part of the People of Israel. Strangely enough it is not completely	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a>  <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>  <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: G!C70&&4



			clear what we are actually saying. What do these powerful words really mean? In our study and discussion we will discover how the answers to these questions reveal the richness of our inner life.	
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 3rd Slot</b>	Innovations in Liturgy and Ritual on Passover 2024: Why was this night different than all other nights?	Levi Cooper	In this session we will explore creative liturgy and rituals that emerged in the leadup to Passover 2024, following the October 7 attack and subsequent war. We will analyse how these innovations reflect the intricate dialogue between tradition, trauma, and resilience. Why was the Seder an ideal backdrop for such innovation? What can this tell us about the profound ways personal experience can infuse time-honoured practices?	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a> <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: Fi7.&H#J
<b>Tuesday, January 21, 3rd Slot</b>	The Calves of Our Lips: The Connection Between Prayer and Sacrifice	Leon A. Morris	The notion of sacrificial offerings was an anathema in the shaping of a modern Jewish life. These most ancient forms of divine service were understood as primitive and outmoded. Although the classic, traditional liturgy continued to reference the ancient sacrificial service that predated it, the very first nineteenth-century liturgical reforms removed most of the references to the Temple, and to the sacrifices that had been offered there, and discouraged those rituals most directly connected to the memory of the Temple service. To the sensibilities of modern Jews attempting to shape a modern Judaism, the primitive nature of animal and grain sacrifices seemed to offer little by way of inspiration or critical ideas. The burning of animals in service to God seemed cruel. The idea that God was to be found in one central place, and most closely served by one select group of people, was highly objectionable. Our age opens us up to new possibilities of meaning that such connections can provide for us. Texts and prayers about sacrifices present us with opportunities to explore the notions of relationship, closeness and distance, gift giving, the sublimation of violence and mystery.	<a href="#">Source Sheet</a> <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> <a href="#">Recording</a> Passcode: U@HVmN*5
<b>Tuesday, January 21, Closing Session</b>	Closing Session	Nechama Goldman Barash	We will close out the Seminar and say <i>l'hitraot</i> until next time when we meet in person this summer, July 6-10, 2025 in Jerusalem for the Summer Pardes Learning Seminar! <a href="http://www.pardes.org.il/seminar">www.pardes.org.il/seminar</a>	<a href="#">Zoom Link</a> <a href="#">Song Lyrics</a>



## **With Gratitude**

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Rachele Goldman, Elaine Hochberg, Bob Karasov,  
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