



From the Office of Hillcrest Jewish Center

Dear Friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

We are pleased to announce a joint Selichot program, on Saturday night, August 28, with special guest speaker Shira Hecht-Koller.

The program will take place online and in-person at the Israel Center of Conservative Judaism.

Please see below for details!

Israel Center of Conservative Judaism, Hillcrest Jewish Center, and the Jewish Center of Kew Garden Hills are proud to invite you to

Selichot 2021

The Value of Truth: Jonah, *Les Miserables* and Kafka

With Special Guest Speaker

Shira Hecht-Koller



Saturday Night, August 28, 2021

The book of Jonah is a narrative work that invites interpretation from its first scene to its last. It is, in many ways, a book of constant tensions: between the cities Ninveh and Tarshish, the land and the sea, sleep and wakefulness, up and down, an embracing of mission

and an evasion of mission, good and bad, compassion and detestation, Jews and non-Jews.

In our learning and discussion together we will explore the central theme of the book of Jonah, and reflect upon what it teaches us about how we should live our lives, and negotiate our realities. We will examine the concept of *teshuva* as it is raised in the narrative and explore the different possibilities for why we read it as the *haftarah* for *mincha* on *Yom Kippur*.

**Join us in person at the
Israel Center of Conservative Judaism**

167-11 73rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11366

[And virtually by clicking here](#)

Or dial +1 929 205 6099 followed by the Meeting ID: 898 6750 4156 and the
Passcode: 677860

8:45 PM Gathering and Schmoozing

9:00 PM Selichot Program with Shira Hecht-Koller

10:00 PM Noshing and Schmoozing

10:15 PM Selichot Service

We look forward to seeing you!

About Our Guest Speaker Shira Hecht-Koller

Shira Hecht-Koller, is a teacher, writer, attorney and educational entrepreneur, currently the Director of Education for 929 English, the global platform for the study of *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Bible.

She brings with her over fifteen years of experience teaching Jewish Studies and designing interdisciplinary curricula in the classroom and immersive learning environments. She has taught at North Shore Hebrew Academy, SARHS, and at Drisha Institute, where she directed the Dr. Beth Samuels Talmud Fellowship Program, and she has practiced corporate IP law at Debevoise and Plimpton LLP.

Passionate about both the written word and the photographic image, her popular writing has appeared in Tablet, The Forward, The Lehrhaus, The Jewish Week, Times of Israel and *ejewishphilanthropy* and her photography illustrates *The Jewish Journey Haggadah*. She is currently at work on a children's book with artist Hanoch Piven.

She was a Paradigm Fellow at the Paideia Institute of Jewish Studies in Stockholm where she is now global ambassador, and sits on the advisory board of Shazur/Interwoven, an organization designed to rebuild the relationship between Israeli and American Jewry. She is currently a Fellow in the Jewish Pedagogies Circle at M²: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education and an educator for Moishe House's Jewish Learning Collaborative. She holds a JD from Cardozo School of Law, and is a graduate of the Bruriah Scholars advanced Talmud program at Midreshet Lindenbaum. Moved by the competitive and spirit of adventure, she is also an avid

tennis fan and loves hiking and exploring the world with her husband Aaron and children Dalya, Shachar, Amitai and Aiden.

Hillcrest Jewish Center
18302 Union Turnpike
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366
info@hillcrestjc.org
www.hillcrestjc.org
718-380-4145