



The Elyachar Center Annual Report – Matanel Foundation

Academic Year 2014-2015

Introduction:

The Elyachar Center today, (headed by Professor Haviva Pedaya since 2010), is a wellspring of diverse activities, providing the intellectual breadth for scholars of different periods to explore and deepen the investigation of Jewish mysticism and Zoharic Literature. Scholars and intellectuals come together to empower and enliven the diverse academic fields that come into this research activity, often coming across borders and social spheres.

Over the past year, the Elyachar Center was a hotbed of activities thanks to the Matanel Foundation's support. Courses, seminars, workshops and open-to-the public discussions were produced and created by the Elyachar center members and especially the Matanel Fellows.

The following activities took place in the Elyachar Center, facilitated and run by the Matanel Fellows:

- Flagship Research Seminar – Prof. Haviva Pedaya, together with Dr Tomer Peresico, Dr Ruth Kara-Ivaniv Kaniel (Matanel Postdoctoral fellows). The seminar centered on mystical traditions in transition and transformation – from the Writings of the Zohar to Current spirituality and mysticism. The participants – graduate students from diverse fields – were encouraged and guided to contribute to the ongoing scholarly discussion of the various impacts of Zoharic literature in Jewish history and current culture.
- Weekly meeting for Doctoral and Postdoctoral researchers and select graduate students – study analysis and discussion of Zoharic Literature in the Elyachar Center.



- An International Conference centered on the Zohar and Zoharic Literature 'Zoharic literature and its Generation', unique in its topical focus and scholarly breadth, with participants comprising the top of the field as well as young and rising scholars. The conference is organized by Roee Horen and will take place in December 2015.
- "Memory Remembering and Forgetting – Roaming the Fields of the Inaccessible and Traumatic", Ben Gurion University, June 21st; Keynote: Prof. Eli Vakil (Bar Ilan Brain Sciences Center). Speakers: Ynon Haimi (Yad vashem), Moriya Rachmani (BGU), Haviva Pedaya (BGU).
- Summer Conference and Workshop on Kaballah and Psychoanalysis, Ben Gurion University, July 12-13. Keynote Speaker: Biti Roi, Yolanda Gampel. Speakers: Melila Helner Eshed, Chani Biran, Naomi Ben-Assa, Michal Shamai, David Peretz, Bracha Zack, Dina Garver, Naama Zifroni, Leor Zacks-Shmueli, Rina Dudai, Morya Rachmani.
- Meetings series of a research group dedicated to Safed, organized by Uri Safrai and Asaf Tamari : "Our Brothers in the Kingdom of Togarmah – Where is Safed?"

Budget Report:

In the academic Year 2014-2015, the following expenditures were spent on activities of the Elyachar Center pursuant to the Matanel Foundation support mandate:

Postdoctoral Fellowships:	\$40,000
Doctoral Fellowships:	\$20,000
'Zoharic literature and its Generation' Conference (2015):	\$10,000
Research Seminar (academic year 2014-2015):	\$25,000
General Public activities – Zoharic Literature:	\$5,000