






**“PARALLELS”**  
**ESHKOLOT’S JEWISH TEXTS & IDEAS FESTIVAL**  
*November 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> 2012*

*Up to 100 participants (ages 25 to 45) from Moscow and the FSU spend four days at a retreat center near Moscow involved in text-based study. Eshkolot’s November Festival focuses on **comparative reading of classical Jewish books alongside their non-Jewish counterparts**. With lectures and master classes by leading international and local scholars, study groups, and a strong focus on continuing to strengthen a well-educated Jewish community and follow-up activities.*

**FESTIVAL TRACKS**

<b>“AXIAL TIME”</b>	Life of Moses according to Josephus Flavius	
Founders of Religions	Life of Buddha (Buddhacarita) by Ásvaghoṣa	
<b>LATE ANTIQUITY</b>	Talmud Narratives	
Feasts and Sages	“Satyricon” by Petronius	
<b>MIDDLE AGES</b>	“Guide for the Perplexed” by Maimonides	
Plato, Aristotle and Creation	“Six Days of Creation” by Thierry of Chartres	
<b>XX CENTURY</b>	Stories by Isaac Babel	
Tales of Violence and Fantasy	Stories by J. L. Borges	
<b>RUSSIA AND ISRAEL</b>	Plays by Hanoch Levin	
Absurd, Grotesque & New Theater	Plays by Daniel Kharms	

**FESTIVAL PROGRAM**

	<b>AXIAL TIME</b> <u>LIFE OF MOSES</u> <u>LIFE OF BUDDHA</u>	<b>LATE ANTIQUITY</b> <u>TALMUD</u> <u>PETRONIUS</u>	<b>MIDDLE AGES</b> <u>MAIMONIDES</u> <u>THIERRY OF CHARTRES</u>	<b>XX CENTURY</b> <u>BABEL</u> <u>BORGES</u>	<b>RUSSIA &amp; ISRAEL</b> <u>HANOCH LEVIN</u> <u>KHARMS</u>
Thu	Opening and orientation				
	Plenary Lecture “Essays in Comparative Literature”: Arkady Kovelman				
	<b>Buddha</b> Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Petronius</b> Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Thierry</b> Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Babel</b> Valery Dymshitz	<b>Levin</b> Asya Waisman
	Small Group Study Sessions				
	<b>Buddha</b> Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Petronius</b> Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Thierry</b> Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Borges</b> Boris Dubin	<b>Kharms</b> Valery Shubinsky
Edutainment event: CINE-MIDRASH Peter Greenway & Midrashic Narratives					
Fri	<b>Moses</b> Dimitri Bratkin	<b>Talmud</b> Reuven Kiperwasser	<b>Maimonides</b> Uri Gershovitch	<b>Babel</b> Valery Dymshitz	<b>Levin</b> Asya Waisman
	Small Group Study Sessions				
	<b>Moses</b> Dimitri Bratkin	<b>Talmud</b> Reuven Kiperwasser	<b>Maimonides</b> Uri Gershovitch	<b>Borges</b> Boris Dubin	<b>Kharms</b> Valery Shubinsky
	<b>Moses/Buddha</b> Dimitri Bratkin Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Talmud/Petronius</b> Reuven Kiperwasser Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Maimonides/Thierry</b> Uri Gershovitch Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Babel/Borges</b> Valery Dymshitz Boris Dubin	<b>Levin/Kharms</b> Asya Waisman Valery Shubinsky
	Kabbalat Shabbat Program				

Sat	<b>Buddha</b> Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Talmud</b> Reuven Kiperwasser	<b>Thierry</b> Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Babel</b> Valery Dymshitz	<b>Levin</b> Asya Waisman
	<b>SHABBAT PROGRAM</b>				
	<b>Moses</b> Dimitri Bratkin	<b>Petronius</b> Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Maimonides</b> Uri Gershovitch	<b>Borges</b> Boris Dubin	<b>Kharms</b> Valery Shubinsky
	<b>Buddha</b> Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Talmud</b> Reuven Kiperwasser	<b>Thierry</b> Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Babel</b> Valery Dymshitz	<b>Levin</b> Asya Waisman
	<b>Moses</b> Dimitri Bratkin	<b>Petronius</b> Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Maimonides</b> Uri Gershovitch	<b>Borges</b> Boris Dubin	<b>Kharms</b> Valery Shubinsky
	<b>MOTZEI SHABBAT EDUTAINMENT PROGRAM: COMPARATIVE DANCE WORKSHOPS (Jewish /Ukrainian)</b>				
Sun	<b>Buddha</b> Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Talmud</b> Reuven Kiperwasser	<b>Thierry</b> Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Babel</b> Valery Dymshitz	<b>Levin</b> Asya Waisman
	<b>Moses</b> Dimitri Bratkin	<b>Petronius</b> Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Maimonides</b> Uri Gershovitch	<b>Borges</b> Boris Dubin	<b>Kharms</b> Valery Shubinsky
	<b>Moses/Buddha</b> Dimitri Bratkin	<b>Talmud/Petronius</b> Reuven Kiperwasser	<b>Maimonides/Thierry</b> Uri Gershovitch	<b>Babel/Borges</b> Valery Dymshitz	<b>Levin/Kharms</b> Asya Waisman
	<b>Moses/Buddha</b> Alexei Kirichenko	<b>Talmud/Petronius</b> Vsevolod Zelchenko	<b>Maimonides/Thierry</b> Oleg Voskoboinikov	<b>Babel/Borges</b> Boris Dubin	<b>Levin/Kharms</b> Valery Shubinsky
	Plenary lecture: Dr. Aminadav Dykman (to be confirmed), head of the Department of Literature, Hebrew University				
Conclusion					

## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

12:00	Departure from Moscow
14:00	Lunch
15:00-15.30	Opening and orientation
15:30-17.00	Plenary Lecture
17:00-17:30	Coffee break
17:30-19:00	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
19.00-19.30	Small Group Study Sessions
19:30	Dinner
20.30-22.00	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
22:30-24:00	Evening event

### Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00	Breakfast
10:00-11.30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
11:30-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-13:15	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
13:15-14:00	Small Group Study Sessions
14.00	Lunch
15:00-16:30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
17:00	Kabbalat Shabbat

### Saturday/Shabbat, November 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00	Breakfast
11:00-12:30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
12.30-13.00	Small Group Study Sessions
13:00-14:00	Shabbat lunch/Shabbat Program
14:00-15:30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
15:30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
17:30-18:00	Havdala
18.00-19.30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
20.00	Dinner
21.00-23.00	Evening event

## Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00	Breakfast
10:00-11.30	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
11:45-13:15	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
13:15-13:30	Coffee break
13:30-15:00	Textual sessions (5 parallel groups)
15:00	Lunch
16:00-17:30	Plenary lecture
17.30-18.00	Concluding session and departure for Moscow

## FACULTY



### **PROF. ARKADY KOVELMAN**

Arkady Kovelman heads the Department of Jewish Studies at the Institute of Asian and African Studies of Moscow State University. On the Executive Committee of The European Association for Jewish Studies and the editorial board *The Review of Rabbinic Judaism*, among Arkady Kovelman's books: *Between Alexandria and Jerusalem: The Dynamic of Jewish and Hellenistic Culture* (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2005); *Talmud, Plato and Reflections of Glory* (Knizhniki, 2011) and *The Hermeneutics of Jewish Texts* (Knizhniki, 2012)



### **Dr. ALEXEI KIRICHENKO**

Scholar of Buddhism, professor at the Department of South-East Asia Studies of the Institute of Asian and African Studies of Moscow State University.



### **Dr. DIMITRI BRATKIN**

Historian of religion, scholar of Hellenistic Judaism, professor at the Department of Religious Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of St. Petersburg State University, graduate of Cambridge University (M.Phil).



### **Dr. REUVEN KIPPERWASSER**

Doctorate from the Department of Talmud, Bar Ilan University, Israel, with a particular focus on the study of Midrashim on Ecclesiastes (Kohelet). Currently in a post-doctoral track, Dr. Kipperwasser is preparing critical editions of *Kohelet Rabbah* and *Kohelet Zuta*. His academic research also includes Iranian mythological knowledge in Babylonian Talmud, cultural and anthropological patterns of Rabbinic Thought.



**Dr. VSEVOLOD ZELCHENKO**

Department of Classical Philology, St. Petersburg State University, scholar and teacher of Greek and Latin, research fellow at Bibliotheca Classica Petropolitana, head of The Russian Association for Teaching Ancient Languages. Poet, published in *Znamya*, *Vavilon* and other journals, author of three collections of poems.



**Dr. URI GERSHOVITCH**

Scholar of Jewish Thought. PhD in the History of Jewish Philosophy from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Assistant Professor at the Open University of Israel and Chais Center of Jewish Studies in Russian at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.



**Dr. OLEG VOSKOBOINIKOV**

PhD in Medieval History, professor at the Department of Social History and Senior Research Fellow at the Laboratory of Medieval Studies of the Higher School of Economics (Moscow), translator and author of articles and books, including: *The Soul of the World: Science, Art and Politics at the Court of Frederick II, 1200-1250 (M., 2008)*.



**Dr. VALERY DYMSHITZ**

Valery Dymshitz is a scholar of Jewish folklore, anthropology and literature. Research focus: cultural anthropology of Eastern European Jews (folklore, art, literature) and heads the "Petersburg Judaica" Research Center at the European University of St. Petersburg, Russia. He has translated into Russian and published numerous poetry and prose from Yiddish, English and German.



**Dr. BORIS DUBIN**

Translator of English, French, Spanish and Latin American literature, essayist and sociologist, head of the Department of Social and Political Research at Russia's Independent Levada Research Center, professor in Sociology of Culture at the Russian State University for Humanities and the Higher School of Economics. In 2008 awarded The National Order of Merit (France). Major editor and translator of J. L. Borges' works into Russian.



**ASYA WAISMAN**

Scholar of Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah), contemporary Jewish and Israeli literature, graduate of and assistant professor at the Department of Jewish Studies at the Institute of Asian and African Studies of Moscow State University. Editor of Booknik.



**VALERY SHUBINSKY**

Valery is an author, translator and scholar of literature (lives in St. Petersburg, Russia). His poems have been published in many journals and anthologies; Valery is also the author of a literary biography of Daniel Kharms (*Life of a Man in the Wind*, 2008) and Vladislav Khodasevich (*Hope and Speech*, 2012).