



מכון ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

معهد فان لير في القدس

Excellence • Innovation • Involvement



## Opening the Week

### **Public Lectures on the Weekly Torah Portion**

***A popular public lecture series which, by enabling access to the Torah portions, re-establishes the Bible as an inspiration and common heritage of all Jews.***

Celebrating its eighteenth year, the "Opening the Week" series is an ongoing flagship project aimed at improving the accessibility of canonical Jewish texts to the wider public. Men and women from all walks of life and religious affiliations are chosen to present their unique interpretation of the weekly Torah portion. Speakers include leading scholars, Rabbis and intellectuals from various fields - philosophy, literature, social sciences and natural science, as well as writers and artists - representing a cross section of approaches.

More than 400 people physically attend the weekly lectures in Jerusalem, with thousands more streaming them live or accessing them from the Van Leer website.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then it is evident that this lecture series has had a genuine impact. When first established, the idea to transport the weekly Torah portion to the public sphere was no less than revolutionary; today we see that it has inspired others to adopt this model.

With the growing popularity of the concept nationwide, VLJI has preserved and enhanced the uniqueness of its project by including dialogue between the biblical stories and issues such as cultural endeavours, psychosocial analysis, man and the meaning of life, and society and social justice.

To continue our important work and the wide-ranging impact of this program worldwide, we invite you to sponsor a lecture or series in honor or in memory of a loved one.

**A VLJI Project**

# Background

In establishing the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (VLJI), its founders gave voice to their solidarity with the Jewish people and their commitment to ensuring its future. The Institute creates and implements projects that reinforce a connection to Jewish heritage, and supports research and activities that promote Jewish identity and culture in Israel and worldwide.

The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute bridges the gap between academic research and social involvement, addressing major challenges in the areas of Israeli Civil Society and Democracy; Jewish Culture and Identity; Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Social Sciences; Regional Peace and Dialogue; Education; Economic Development; and Social and Gender Equality.



Be our partner in this important enterprise.

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