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IT'S IN THE BIBLE!
**BIBLICAL FIGURES AND STORIES IN CURRENT ISRAELI MUSIC – TEACHING
HEBREW THROUGH SONGS FOR THE ADVANCED LEVEL (H)**

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The idea for this course came up during conversations with Jewish American students, who thought it was weird that non-religious Israeli knew the biblical stories so well. The course combines biblical and modern Hebrew and comes to show that the bible is very much alive in today's Israeli society, and that many Israeli musicians and lyricists find inspiration in its figures, stories and texts. Each of the course's eight meetings was dedicated to such figure, story or text. We first read selections of the Hebrew biblical text, and then listened to and studied the song. We asked ourselves what was the lyricist's take on the original ancient story, what got emphasized, omitted or added, and why. Among the biblical figures we became intimate with: Noah, Rachel and Lea, Moses, King Saul, King David, Goliath, Ezekiel and others. Among the musicians were some giants such as Kaveret, Arik Einstein, Ehud Banai and Matti Caspi; and some younger ones such as Ariel Horvitz, Eran Tzur and Idan Reichel. The course was taught in Hebrew for a group of advanced adult students at the San Francisco JCC in winter 2004. The presentation will provide an overview of the material prepared for the course, including the biblical excerpts, the lyrics of the songs, and some vocabulary exercises developed to familiarize the students with words and expressions used in the songs. Some of the songs include allusions to children's rhymes, slang words and expressions, and of course, biblical verses. The presenter will share her ideas for teaching these particular texts, as well as tell about the students' reactions to the various songs and the course as a whole. Samples from the songs will be played, time permitting, and the participants will receive a list both of songs and biblical sections used in the course.