



## Ketubot.

### Jewish Family Traditions And Traditional Families

The discovery of nine ketubot (Jewish wedding contracts), drawn up in Italy during the 17-19th centuries, and the research done into these artifacts became the stimuli for discussing marriage and family. The [Center for Urban History](#) in partnership with the [Borys Voznytskyi Lviv National Art Gallery](#) introduces a lecture series to accompany the exhibition "Jewish Wedding Contracts."



Центр міської історії



Львівська галерея мистецтв

*The topics will include: What is marriage and family in traditional Jewish and Ukrainian societies? Why did marriage contracts become a facet of Jewish culture? What do we know about Jewish marriage ceremonies and family customs? Which notions of the traditional Ukrainian family are overly romanticized? The series will culminate with a discussion on what marriage and family mean today and what challenges does the institution of family faces in modern society.*

The following individuals have confirmed their participation in the lecture series: architectural historian **Sergiy Kravtsov** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), historians **Oksana Kis** (The Ethnology Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), **Vladyslava Moskalets** (UCU/Jagiellonian University), **Tomasz Jankowski** (a specialist in genealogy and historical demography), Rabbi **Moshe Leib Kolesnik** (Ivano-Frankivsk), Father **Tykhon (Serhiy) Kulbaka** (UGCC, Donetsk-Lviv), and psychoanalyst and lawyer **Bohdan Yaskevych**.

**The series of lectures will take place at the Borys Voznytskyi Lviv National Art Gallery (Stefanika str., 3). Free entry!**

**Thursday, October 15, 4.00 pm**

**Inaugural talk by Serhiy Kravtsov "Marek Reichenstein: the doctor who saved art "**

*Opening of the "Jewish Marriage Contracts" exhibition*



Marek Reichenstein was a physician and researcher in the field of hematology, but also a collector, bibliophile and art historian. Born to a suburban Jewish family his respected medical career provided him recognition and independence which in turn allowed him to collect works of art. Reichenstein collected Jewish and gentile art. His professional approach to everything he undertook, allowed Reichenstein to develop an iconographic approach to studying book illustrations, which was highly regarded by his contemporary art historians. The Museum of Lviv's Jewish Community grew out of Reichenstein's Jewish collection, particularly from the collection of Italian marriage contracts. The recent discovery of this collection gives us the fantastic opportunity to return Marek Reichenstein's name to the mental map of the city.

**Sergey Kravtsov** as a researcher works at the Center for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He studied Architecture at the Lviv Polytechnic. He obtained his PhD in Architecture at the Research Institute of the Theory and History of Architecture in Moscow (1993); since 1994 he has lived and worked in Jerusalem. He has published over 60 articles on the history of architecture and urban planning, and adapted or jointly adapted four books.

**Sunday, October 25, 4.00 pm**

**Tea with the Rebbetzin: a conversation with Sarah Bald about the Jewish family and marriage**



How were marriage proposals traditionally made among Jews and what changes has modernity made to the notion of the modern Jewish family? What roles do the parents of the bride and groom play in the formation of a new family unit and what roles are played by the pair? What are Jewish wedding traditions and what meanings do these rites and rituals have? Why do the husband and wife sign a ketubah – the Jewish marriage contract? What roles are assigned to men and women in traditional Jewish families and what are the functions of those roles? We will get answers to these and other questions during our informal meeting with Rebbetzin Sarah Bald.

**Sarah Bald** - President of the Lviv Jewish school "Brothers of Israel," Rebbetzin (wife of Chief Rabbi Mordechai Shlomo Bald).

**Sunday, November 1, 4.00 pm**

**Lecture by Oksana Kis on "Patriarchal Matriarchy: head, neck and other organs of power in the traditional Ukrainian family "**



It is acceptable to consider Ukrainian culture as matriarchal. Men and women, writers and artists, journalists and even scholars together with politicians of various ideological orientations confidently repeat this thesis. The list of arguments used to support the claim of Ukrainian matriarchy were formulated by well-known Ukrainian historians, ethnographers and folklorists in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Since then, few have dared to question the claim and folk wisdom: "The man is the head, the woman the neck: and she can turn him at will." We will attempt to look at the traditional notions of marriage among Ukrainians, critically and without sentiment (how partners are chosen, wedding customs and established practices of family relations) in order to illustrate the double standards, inequality, and the real patriarchal nature of gender relations in rural families.

**Oksana Kis** – Historian and anthropologist, chief editor of the website "Modern Ukraine," PhD student in History, and senior staffer Ethnology Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Her research interests include women's history and feminist anthropology, and oral history and gender transformation in post-socialist countries.

**Sunday, November 8, 4.00 pm**

**Presentation by Vladyslava Moskalets: "Networks and Relationships: the marriage strategy of the Jewish elite"**



How did wealthy Jews pick a marriage partner in modern times? How did marriage politics influence the creation of networks and lead to greater influence in the business sector? How does marriage allow the creation of global commercial networks? What is yikhes (Hebrew yikhus)? How did marriage strategies change over the generations and what role in this process was played by marriages entered into with gentiles? These are the questions that will be explored during Vladyslava Moskalets's talk.

**Vladyslava Moskalets** – Program coordinator of Jewish Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Obtained her Doctorate from the Jagiellonian University. Writes dissertation "The Jewish Industrial elite of Drohobych and Borislav 1860-1900"). Translates from Yiddish.

**Sunday, November 15 at 4.00 pm**

## **Lecture by Tomasz Jankowski: "Love and Money: the social function of marriage in a historical perspective "**



Is marriage really a union between just two people? In the past matchmakers, parents, and the family's financial status influenced the choice of a marriage partner; love was the final consideration. Jewish or Christian marriages, in the past, were not only the beginning of a new family. During the lecture the historic social role of the family will be presented as well as its transformation during the last two hundred years - when romantic interest began playing a dominant role.

**Tomasz Jankowski** – Ph.D., member of the Polish Association of Jewish Studies, conducts research on family history and patterns of residence in Poland and Ukraine. His interests include the demographic history of the Jewish community.

**Sunday, November 22 at 4.00 pm**

## **Discssion: "Together to the end? How modernity challenges the contemporary family?"**



British philosopher Zygmunt Bauman argues that we live in a "liquid times" as opposed to in "hard times" - when values, principles and processes were clear and enduring. Today, every moment is a moment of irrevocable change. Change and uncertainty are the only constants in today's world. In such an environment, what are the challenges posed to the union of two people? Is it true that during "fluid times" the family transforms itself from a stable institution to a temporary coincidence? What will be the future of the traditional family?

Rabbi **Moishe Leib Kolesnik** and Ukrainian Greek Catholic priest **Fr. Tikhon (Sergey) Kulbaka** will ponder this issue. Psychoanalyst and lawyer **Bohdan Yaskevych** will moderate.

*A program for children and adolescents will be held simultaneously with the adult program at the Lviv National Art Gallery (advance registration is required: [kh.boyko@lvivcenter.org](mailto:kh.boyko@lvivcenter.org)). During six sessions children will play games that allow them to delve into the unique phenomenon of traditional marriage. The nine showcased ketubah's, will illustrate the symbols, fonts, styles, texts, emblems, patterns and ornaments, that will enable the children to learn about the history of Jewish wedding and family traditions.*

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