

15th Consultation
European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy
Belgium, Blankenberge, 15-19 June 2018



PAPERS

Nurturing Spirituality in Healthcare Chaplaincy



Inspiring new tunes for ancient Biblical verses

Valerie Stessin

Rabbi, Israël

The goal of this presentation is to introduce the participants to Hebrew Nigunim as a form of spiritual connection and meditation. Nigunim, meaning in Hebrew "tunes" or "melodies, is a form of [Jewish religious](#) song or tune sung by groups. It is [vocal music](#), often with repetitive sounds instead of formal lyrics. The words are Bible verses or quotes from other classical Jewish texts, are sung repetitively to form a Nigun. Nigunim are central to worship in [Hasidic Judaism](#), which evolved its own soulful forms to reflect the mystical joy of intense prayer. The Renewal Jewish praying communities adopted this kind of Chanting or “Jewish Spirituals” and created new tunes. This workshop will be an opportunity to discover some spiritual Nigunim and learn their meaning and tunes. We will experience and discuss how those may be a meaningful way for chaplains from various backgrounds to nourish their soul and stay attuned with their own spirituality.