



2018 Hebrew College Conference for Educators

The Multiple Dimensions of Israel

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

<http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/2018-EdConference>



THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

I. Sunday, October 28 (1:30-4:00pm) – Israel and Hebrew: The Environment as a Teacher

Educational visit to the Wonder of Learning Exhibit at Wheelock/Boston University

II. Monday, October 29 (9:00-4:00pm) - The Multiple Dimensions of Israel

For educators and professionals teaching all ages

III. Tuesday, October 30 (8:30am - 3:30pm) - Israel in Early Education

For educators and professionals working with children ages 0-8 and their families

IV. Tuesday and Wednesday, October 30 and 31 - Best Practices: Learning from the Field

Educational site visits - see how Israel and Hebrew can be incorporated into educational settings

WORKSHOP SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28, 2018

Off-site, For All Educators

1:30 to 4:00pm **The Wonder of Learning – Israel and Hebrew: The Environment as a Teacher**
Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development
180 Riverway, Boston, Massachusetts 02215
<https://wonderoflearningboston.org>

MONDAY OCTOBER 29, 2018

For All Educators, on campus of Hebrew College

9:00 to 9:30am **Registration, Main Entrance**
Coffee/Tea, Berenson Hall, Lower Level

9:30 to 10:30am **Welcome, Berenson Hall, Lower Level**
Rachel Raz, Conference Chair

“The Multiple Dimensions of Israel and the re-Branding of Israel “
Amir Grinstein, PhD, Associate Professor of Marketing,
Northeastern University/VU Amsterdam

10:45am to 12:15pm Monday Morning Breakout Sessions

- **Personal Connections to Israel and Israelis: Lessons from the Boston-Haifa Connection** (Marla Olsberg, Panel Facilitator)
Berenson Hall, Lower Level
- **Reimagining Hebrew in our Communities** (Tal Gale, Panel Facilitator)
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level
- **Encountering Israel Through Culture** (Marion Gribetz)
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level
- **A Very Short Introduction to Zionism and Israel** (Rabbi Dr. David Starr)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level

12:15 to 1:30pm Lunch and Limmud

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President, Hebrew College

“Innovation Nation,” Daniel Agranov

1:45 to 3:15pm Monday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

- **Bringing the Multiple Dimensions of Israel to Our Community** (Rabbi David Lerner)
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level
- **The Jewish Relationship to the Land of Israel: Biblical and Ancient Foundations** (Dr. David Bernat)
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level
- **The Mystics on the Hilltop (Torah Godly Play)** (Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center

3:20-4:00pm Communal Reflections and Networking – Berenson Hall

TUESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2018

Israel in Early Education

8:30 to 9:00am Registration, Main Entrance
Coffee/Tea, Berenson Hall, Lower Level

9:00 to 9:30am Welcome and Opening Remarks, Berenson Hall, Lower Level
Rachel Raz, Conference Chair
Marla Olsberg, Program Manager, Boston-Haifa
School to School Partnerships, CJP

9:45 to 11:15am Tuesday Breakout Session 1

- **Look But Don't Touch! How Can a Cactus Connect Our Preschoolers to Israel in a Meaningful Way?** (Sharon Cores)
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level
- **Nobody Puts Israel in the Corner: Creating a Culture of Israel Education in an Early Childhood Classroom** (Rebecca Weiner)
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level
- **Encountering Israel Through Culture** (Marion Gribetz)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- **Israel and Young Families: How do we introduce Families with Young children to the "Concept" of Israel, if they have Never Visited?** (Andrea Shapiro)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- **Using Children's Literature to Teach Young Learners about Israel, Israeli Culture, and Hebrew** (Liat Kadosh and Vered Goldstein)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
- **Rhythm 'n' Ruach: Using Drumming and Singing To Help Kids Fall In Love With Israel** (Ellen Allard)
Berenson Hall, Lower Level

11:30am to 1:00pm Tuesday Breakout Session 2

- **From the Birds and the Bees in Northern Israel to Machane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem: New ways to Bring Israel to your Preschool Classroom** (Heidi Baker, et al)
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level
- **DiverCity: Multi-Cultural is Part of the Israeli DNA** (Tami Lehman-Wilzig)
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level
- **Marrying Israel Education and Philosophy for Young Children: Creative Opportunities and Possibilities** (Dr. Howard Deitcher)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- **Eretz Yisrael Sheli Yaffa!** (Julie Thaler)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- **Dancing With the Stars...In Your Classroom** (Lorraine Posner Arcus)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center

1:15 to 1:45pm **Lunch and Limmud**

2:00 to 3:30pm Tuesday Breakout Session 3

- **Hebrew From a Young Age: Benefits and Strategies** (Arnee Winshall, et al)
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level
- **Land of the Bible, Land of Today: Blueprint for Environmental Protection** (Tami Lehman-Wilzig)
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level

- **Using Stones as a Creative Storytelling Tool to Teach about Israel** (Ronit BenShir)
Room 111, Lower Level
- **Israel through Loose Parts in an Outdoor Setting** (Kat Horion)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- **My Heart is in the East, and I am at the West** (Lorraine Posner Arcus)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
- **Travelin' To Eretz Yisrael: Super Easy Children's Songs About Israel** (Ellen Allard)
Berenson Hall, Lower Level

OFF-SITE SCHOOL VISITS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2018

7:00 to 8:30pm **Congregation Beth El Sudbury**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2018

8:00 to 10:00am **Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center, Temple Israel - Boston**

8:30 to 11:30am **The Rashi School –Dedham**

10:00am to 12noon **Jewish Community Day School - Waltham**

10:15am to 12noon **Gann Academy - Waltham**

TBD **Solomon Schechter Day School – Newton**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Monday, October 29, 2018

For All Educators

10:45am to 12:15pm Monday Morning Breakout Sessions

Personal Connections to Israel and Israelis: Lessons from the Boston-Haifa Connection

Marla Olsberg, Boston-Haifa School to School Connection Program Manager, Panel Facilitator; **Shoni Aronovich**, HiBur Program Coordinator, Congregation Beth El Sudbury; **Dr. Jonathan Golden**, History Teacher, Gann Academy; **Iris Schor**; **Rabbi Sharon Clevenger**, Middle School Rabbi, The Rashi School; **Me'ir Sherer**, Director of Congregational Learning, Temple Emunah; **Andrea Shapiro**, Young Family Programming Coordinator, Temple Emanuel
Berenson Hall, Lower Level

When the Boston-Haifa Connection began 30 years ago with the vision to connect Israelis and Jewish Americans, no one fully understood then the personal and professional impact that this partnership would have on its participants and our communities. In this session, panelists representing our School to School Connections from day schools and supplementary schools (Elementary through High School), preschools and other educational settings will share the value that this partnership has added for them, their students, families and communities. We

will also explore the challenges and opportunities of these connections and how other communities can benefit from this model.

Reimagining Hebrew in our Communities

***Tal Gale**, HATC Senior Program Director, Panel Facilitator; **Dr. Shiri Katz Gershon**, Hebrew Language Acquisition Specialist; **Dr. Scott Goldberg**, Yeshiva University, Associate Professor of Jewish Education; **David Dolev**, MIT MISTI Program, Managing Director – Middle East, **Liat Kadosh**, Hebrew at the Center, Lead Advisor
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level*

Hebrew can strengthen our community's connection to Israel, the Jewish tradition, and the Jewish people. Join this interactive panel discussion to hear different perspectives on the role of Hebrew. Following the panel presentation, participants will also have the opportunity to reflect on their current thinking and approaches to Hebrew language teaching.

Encountering Israel Through Culture

***Marion Gribetz**, Director of Pardes Educators Program of Hebrew College
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level*

Contemporary Israeli culture is influenced by general culture, centuries of Jewish traditions (from all over the world) and current realities. We'll delve into art, music, and poetry to explore how these various influences manifest themselves. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and experience how these media can help bring connection and meaning to us, our students and communities.

A Very Short Introduction to Zionism and Israel

***Rabbi Dr. David Starr**, Executive Director of Tzion
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level*

How did Zionism transform a community of twenty-thousand poor Orthodox Jews living in Palestine in 1880 into a vigorous secular proto-state, Hebrew-speaking society and culture in 1948? How did the 1967 war change Israel? How has Israel evolved regarding three core Zionist commitments: the political idea of a Jewish and democratic state; the social idea of a mixed socialist/capitalist economy; the cultural idea of the social contract between religious and secular Judaism? Rabbi Starr will address these questions as well as others regarding the impact of Zionism on Israel, and suggest ways to incorporate these ideas into the classroom.

1:45 to 3:15pm Monday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Bringing the Multiple Dimensions of Israel to Our Community

Rabbi David Lerner, Senior Rabbi, Temple Emunah

Rooms 102-103, Lower Level

There are many ways to connect to and engage with Israel. Rabbi Lerner will share the many opportunities that Temple Emunah in Lexington has created for the community and beyond to engage with Israel. Through family trips to Israel, deep learning about history and current affairs, movies, cooking, team nights, *shishi* Israeli celebrations with the Israeli-American community, a series of facilitated “Constructive Conversations about Israel,” *Yom Hazikaron* commemoration, *Yom Ha’Atzmaut* celebration and much more. In this session participants will also have the opportunity to share their programs, challenges, and success as we work together to create meaningful and lasting engagement and connection with Israel wherever people are.

The Jewish Relationship to the Land of Israel: Biblical and Ancient Foundations

Dr. David Bernat, Executive Director of Synagogue Council of Massachusetts

Rooms 106-107, Lower Level

The session will look at Biblical and other foundational texts, as well as historical and archaeological data, that speak to the origins of the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel. Arguably, this ancient framework set the tone for the Jewish tie to the land for millennia, and laid the cornerstone for the modern Zionist movement and for the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

The Mystics on the Hilltop (Torah Godly Play)

Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer, Hebrew College, and Dean, Shoolman Graduate School and Jewish Studies Program

Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center

The town of Safed (Sefat) is one of the most spiritual and alluring of all the special places in Israel. It also is the highest town in Israel perched on a mountain top. It is no wonder mystics came and found extraordinary spiritual power there and through their quest, created a new relationship with time and space that illuminates and colours every Shabbat of every Jew today! Through a Torah Godly Play story, we will explore this fascinating experience of the mystics and the resonance that this special place has for us in our time.

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Israel in Early Education

9:45 to 11:15am Tuesday Breakout Session 1

Look But Don't Touch! How Can a Cactus Connect Our Preschoolers to Israel in a Meaningful Way?

*Sharon Cores, Teacher, Jewish Preschool of Lexington
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level*

A simple cactus from the local store is just one example of a provocation that can be used to stimulate exploration and connect to Israel. Join us for an interactive workshop retracing the emergent curriculum that unfolded as the result of our classroom's interaction with a cactus. Hear how the children responded to the 'cactus art' work of Israeli artist Ron Gang with their curiosity and desire to correspond with him, and how he taught the children about many things including the relationship between a Sabra cactus and the people of Israel. Learn how the children's questions and curiosity helped inspire further connections between the Sabra cactus and the senses (including taste), the desert, the Torah, Passover, and the balance of nature.

Nobody Puts Israel in the Corner: Creating a Culture of Israel Education in an Early Childhood Classroom

*Rebecca Weiner, Judaica Specialist, Charlotte Jewish Preschool
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level*

Israel education for young children should not be relegated to a single space in the classroom; rather, Israel can be integrated into each learning center in an authentic way. In this session, participants will look beyond flags and falafel to engage students ages 1-6 in Israel education through a learner-centered environment. We will observe how Israeli arts and culture can create an environment for preliterate students to connect to Israel from an American classroom so we can bring fresh ideas for engagement back to our preschools.

Encountering Israel Through Culture

*Marion Gribetz, Director of Pardes Educators Program of Hebrew College
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level*

Contemporary Israeli culture is influenced by general culture, centuries of Jewish traditions (from all over the world) and current realities. We'll delve into art, music, and poetry to explore how these various influences manifest themselves. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and experience how these media can help bring connection and meaning to us, our students and communities.

Israel and Young Families: How do we introduce Families with Young children to the "Concept" of Israel, if they have Never Visited?

Andrea Shapiro, *Director of Young Family Programming, Temple Emanuel
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center*

For families who have never visited Israel and have no personal connection, it can be a difficult concept and idea to grasp. Israel is so much more than hummus, falafel, and war. Ranked as the 11th happiest country in the world by the UN World Happiness Report, Israel has been the focus of yearning and dreams of Jews all over the world for 2,000 years, and now is a nation at the forefront of technology and innovation, as well as one of the first to arrive to provide hi-tech disaster relief assistance in other countries. How do we share this with our families? What should people know about Israel? What can we do in the classroom and what can families do at home to encourage learning, questioning and a deepening thirst for knowledge?

Using Children's Literature to Teach Young Learners about Israel, Israeli Culture, and Hebrew

Liat Kadosh, *Senior Advisor, Hebrew at the Center*, and **Vered Goldstein**, *Milton Gottesman JDS, Hebrew Instructional Leader for Early Childhood; Hebrew at the Center, Coach
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center*

There are many ways to connect children to Hebrew, Israel, and Israeli culture. We will explore how children's literature can be used both inside and outside of the classroom to increase these connections as well as Hebrew language acquisition. Participants will leave the session with multiple examples of literature and tools to maximize their student's learning. Please come prepared to share some of your favorite stories and books.

Rhythm 'n' Ruach: Using Drumming and Singing To Help Kids Fall In Love With Israel

Ellen Allard, *Musician
Berenson Hall, Lower Level*

Open a magical door to the world of Rhythm'n' Ruach. Drumming, singing, rhythm instruments, dancing, scarves and ribbons, learning hebrew words and values, yoga, stories and meditation all combine to take learning about Israel for young children to a whole new level. Come and see what the excitement is all about! P.S. Guitar & drum skills are not a prerequisite though it is helpful

11:30am to 1:00pm Tuesday Breakout Session 2

From the Birds and the Bees in Northern Israel to Machane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem: New ways to Bring Israel to your Preschool Classroom

Heidi Baker, Director, Beth Avodah preschool; Juliette Landesman, Teacher; Stacey Gabriel, Teacher; Amy Blotner, Art Specialist

Rooms 102-103, Lower Level

Can you dance the Hora? Can you wave an Israeli flag? Let's move beyond that and experience the real Israel!

Did you know that the Hula Valley in northern Israel is a central bird migration area that attracts thousands of birds every year?

We will use interactive activities to bring you some of following: the Science Center of Haifa, the marketplace of Jerusalem, archaeology in the south.

Come share in the adventure of Israel as we provide ideas for your classroom.

DiverCity: Multi-Cultural is Part of the Israeli DNA

Tami Lehman-Wilzig, American-Israeli Author

Rooms 106-107, Lower Level

Like America, Israel is a melting pot of cultures with Jews from all over the world living in every Israeli city. American-Israeli author Tami Lehman-Wilzig will show how she used Israel as her laboratory to find unique customs for celebrating Shabbat and all the Jewish holidays. Many fun and engaging customs can be incorporated into the classroom and Tami will show you how to do so through her books "Hanukkah Around the World," "Passover Around the World" and her unique, digital-story/lesson-plan series "Shabbat Around the World."

Marrying Israel Education and Philosophy for Young Children: Creative Opportunities and Possibilities

Dr. Howard Deitcher, Director, Florence Melton Institute, Hebrew University

Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level

Philosophy for Children (P4C) is an educational approach that engages children in critical and creative thinking. It builds upon young children's sense of wonder and curiosity about ideas that are vitally important to them. This interactive workshop on Israel Education will invite early childhood educators to explore innovative and stimulating ways to present Bible stories that touch on themes of Israel in engaging and meaningful ways. We will study a Biblical text about Israel that examines the following themes and their impact on the lives of young children:

differences between a house and a home, the process of moving to a new home, and the importance of names in shaping our identity.

Eretz Yisrael Sheli Yaffa!

Julie Thaler, Kindergarten Teacher, Westchester Day School Mamaroneck

Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center

Make Israel an everyday part of your classroom life! During Ma'agal time, we will sit around a giant floor map of Israel and learn about key places. Using loose parts to fill in the map and learn about key topographical aspects such as Har (mountain) Hermon in the north down to coral reefs in Eilat. Using a large array of art materials, we will fill in and enhance our floor map creating a 3D map.

Dancing With the Stars...In Your Classroom

Lorraine Posner Arcus, Educational Consultant

Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center

Celebrate Israel's 70th birthday with your students by including Israeli Dance in your Early Childhood classroom. Participants will learn approximately 10 age-appropriate folk dances that may be easily taught in the classroom space. Children will love the opportunity to move around to the Israeli beat! Previous folk dance experience is not necessary. Instructions and music will be made available.

2:00 to 3:30pm Tuesday Breakout Session 3

Hebrew From a Young Age: Benefits and Strategies

Arnee Winshall, Founder, Hebrew at the Center; Vicky Benedek, Director, Jewish Preschool of Lexington; Dr. Shiri Katz Gershon, Hebrew Language Acquisition Specialist; Vered Goldstein, Milton Gottesman JDS, Hebrew Instructional Leader for Early Childhood; Hebrew at the Center, Coach; Shira Rubin, Hebrew Play, Temple Kl, Ruhama Shitrit, Solomon Schechter Day School

Rooms 102-103, Lower Level

Research shows the cognitive and cultural benefit of teaching second language starting at a young age. Including Hebrew in Jewish education also helps strengthen Jewish identity and connection to Jewish people and stories. In this session, panelists will share strategies to bring more Hebrew to our communities even if the community has limited access to native Hebrew speakers.

Land of the Bible, Land of Today: Blueprint for Environmental Protection

Tami Lehman-Wilzig, American-Israeli Author

Rooms 106-107, Lower Level

The world's "Start-Up Nation" has been at the cutting edge of innovation ever since its inception over 3,500 years ago. How can we incorporate this message into our classroom? Using her book, *Green Bible Stories for Children*, American-Israeli author Tami Lehman-Wilzig will demonstrate the trailblazing power of the bible and its land, that provided the blueprint for environmental protection – from sustainable herding, to reduce, reuse and recycle, to harnessing the sun for solar power. Through her book, *Stork's Landing* and other stories, she will show how modern-day Israel is true to its ecological roots.

Using Stones as a Creative Storytelling Tool to Teach about Israel

Ronit BenShir, Educational Consultant

Room 111, Lower Level

Stories and storytelling have a significant place in the Jewish tradition and have a powerful impact on children and adults. In this session, Ronit will introduce a creative technique using stones to tell stories, and in particular, stories about Israel. This approach will help connect participants on a personal level and explore ways to share it with children and their families. This session is open to all educators no matter their level of connection or familiarity with Israel.

Israel through Loose Parts in an Outdoor Setting

Kat Horion, Teacher, Jewish Creative Preschool

Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center

Explore the use of loose parts both large and small, in an outdoor setting, gain concrete ideas to use Reggio inspired practices outdoors that will allow children to explore the concept of Israel through child led and open-ended experiences in nature. We will share successful strategies for introducing the concept of Israel as a real place, which exists both as a modern country as well as a historical setting. We will show how loose parts can create a sense of wonder and give strategies to allow children a way to explore a dessert, the Mediterranean Sea, the Dead Sea, Tall Mountains, and even a bustling kibbutz from within our own New England outdoor spaces. We will discuss risk assessment strategies for choosing appropriate, engaging, and challenging materials that will create a sense of being in another climate, another culture and even another time.

My Heart is in the East, and I am at the West

Lorraine Posner Arcus, Educational Consultant
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center

For thousands of years, Jews, such as the poet, Yehudah Halevi, have yearned for Jerusalem in the East. Tradition tells us to place beautiful artwork on the Eastern wall of our homes and prayer spaces. Learn about this Jewish custom of "Mizrach" and view artwork of ancient and contemporary styles. Where do Jews in varying hemispheres place their "Mizrach?" Explore other ritual items in our home and school. How do customs differ among Jews from various backgrounds? What new ritual items might we create? Fashion your own "Mizrach" from readily available materials. Share today's experiences with your young students.

Travelin' To Eretz Yisrael: Super Easy Children's Songs About Israel

Ellen Allard, Musician
Berenson Hall, Lower Level

"We're travelin' along, we're travelin' along, we're travelin' along to Israel!". Join Ellen Allard for a high energy musical journey to Eretz Yisrael featuring mostly-English songs that Ellen composed specifically for music and non-music teachers who want to weave Israel into their early childhood classrooms. Return to your programs ready to invite your students on their own musical journey to Israel.

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For additional information please contact Linna Ettinger, Conference coordinator
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