



CREATION

# NISSIM V'NIFLA'OT נסים ונפלאות

Seventh Annual  
Early Childhood Jewish Education Conference

*Hebrew College  
Newton Centre, Massachusetts  
December 12-13, 2016*

M  
I  
R  
A  
C  
L  
E  
S  
&  
W  
O  
N  
D  
E  
R  
S

## The Early Childhood Institute

Leader and innovator in early childhood  
Jewish Education since 1987



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rachel Raz, MEd'06  
Director, Early Childhood Institute  
rraz@hebrewcollege.edu  
617-559-8629

Linna Ettinger, MEd'12  
Assistant Director, Early Childhood Institute  
lettinger@hebrewcollege.edu  
617-559-8813

Through its academic and professional development programs, the Early Childhood Institute (ECI) has trained hundreds of educators, influencing thousands of children and their families. Starting in 2004 all academic programs were made available online, reaching and servicing Jewish communities nationally and internationally.

As a pluralistic Institution, students in the ECI represent all Jewish affiliations and levels of religious observance, including many not of the Jewish faith who work in the Jewish community. In addition, the ECI designs and offers educational programs tailored for specific communities around the country.

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Masters in Jewish Education with concentration in:
  - ◆ Early Childhood Education, or
  - ◆ Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement, or
  - ◆ Jewish Special Education
- ◆ Certificate Programs
  - ◆ Early Childhood Jewish Education
  - ◆ Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement
  - ◆ Jewish Special Education
- ◆ Annual Conferences
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ Local and international seminars

### See where some of our alumni are today:

**Heidi Baker -MEd'08** (also pictured above)  
Director, Early Learning Center and Director of Education at Temple Beth Avodah; Founding member and president, Early Childhood Educators of Union for Reform Judaism (ECE-RJ)



**Ellen Agulnick—MEd'12**  
Lower Division Principal, Solomon Schechter Day School; Founding Director, Gan Shelanu Preschool; Past conference chair of ECE-RJ.



**Vivian Newman Cet. ECJE'06** serves as an Educational Consultant to The PJ Library®, helping to select books and develop educational materials for schools and families that encourage deeper explorations of contemporary Jewish values. She is also the author of three Jewish children's books: *Ella's Trip to Israel*, *Tikkun Olam Ted*, and *Moti the Mitzvah Mouse* (Kar Ben, forthcoming).



**Founding Director:**  
Ina Regosin

**Current Director:**  
Rachel Raz

# WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR: RACHEL RAZ



Welcome to the 7th Annual Early Childhood Jewish Education Conference.

Nissim v'Nifla'ot, Miracles and Wonders, is our theme this year in the spirit of Hanukkah. Together we will remember the past, celebrate the present and imagine the future.

At this time of year we remember how the Maccabees fought for the right to be different, how they fought for freedom of religion. At this conference we will also explore the right of the educator, child and family to be different today. At the *Gisha* sessions, (“access” in Hebrew) we will explore tools and educational approaches that will help you embrace the diversity of our learners and celebrate the uniqueness of each one of us.

At this time of year, we remember the miracle of the oil that brought light to the world, we remember the presence of God, and the many miracles that happened in the past and are taking place today. Through many of the sessions that we offer today you will have the opportunity to explore spiritual teaching (Torah Godly Play), wonder and miracles all around us through nature, music, art, technology, text study and meditation.

Miracles and Wonders are all around us; we just need to pause, look around, listen and get inspired. We designed the conference to create this opportunity for you. I encourage you to join sessions that will inspire you personally – and not necessarily those that will give you immediate ideas and activities to share with your students. This is time for you to strengthen the light within you. Only if you are lit will you be able to light others and share warmth and joy.

At this dark time of winter and this dark time of international social revolution and uncertainty, more than ever we need to spread light into our world. I would like to personally thank you for taking time away from your everyday routines to invest in yourself. You will have the opportunity to learn with many local and national master educators but please join the conversation and share your unique voice.

A note about the art in the program and on the flyer: Nira Raz, an Israeli artist who resides and creates in Haifa, is my mother-in-law. Her artwork has inspired me over the years and I am proud to share with you a small selection within this program. The art on the cover captures the impact the world has on the child and the child's impact on the world. I hope that this image will guide you each day as you inspire, guide and influence many young souls.

So let's dive into learning, exploration, reflection and wonder.

Please join us again soon and find ways to stay connected with us and invest in your growth.

Happy Festival of Lights and Miracles!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Raz' with a stylized flourish.

Rachel Raz  
Director, Early Childhood Institute

# WELCOME FROM THE DEAN



Welcome to the 7th ECE Conference!!

How do we help nurture the innate sense of wonder and awe in our children? This was the question I was exploring when I came across a pedagogic method called Godly Play that is designed to do exactly that. Drawing upon the sacred stories of the Bible, Godly Play invites children into the entrancement of the narrative while leaving room for wonder, creativity and imagination as the child builds their own picture of a spiritual search and a Divine presence in their lives. It enables the very youngest children to make these sacred stories their own and live within them as they imagine their own notions of God, Covenant, Promise, Joy, Sadness and Love.

Our Early Childhood Conference this year presents us all with a myriad of opportunities to begin to answer this fundamental question in our educational settings. With five separate tracks and scores of workshop choices, we each have an opportunity to really delve into the inner life of the child within our tradition.

Grateful appreciation goes to our ECI Director Rachel Raz and assistant director Linna Ettinger, both graduates of our MJEd program. I warmly encourage you to talk to them and our other students and alumni with regard to the exciting program of graduate study here at the College. Rachel and Linna have made a nationwide contribution to the field of Early Childhood Education this year through their published writings and advocacy of a national network for all those working in the field. Hebrew College is definitely on the map! Recently added to our staff, Debbie Ron has been of invaluable assistance as we plan for our conference.

In Torah Godly Play we ask, 'I wonder where you are in the story or where the story is in you'? Let me offer that as a guiding question for you as you travel through this conference devoted to our contribution to the miracle and wonder of childhood.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Shire".

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



# WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2016

**3:00pm to 3:30pm** Registration, Ted Cutler Atrium (outside Berenson Hall, Lower Level)

**3:30pm to 4:45pm** **Workshop Session 1**

- ☐ Music Is Magical, Music Is Wonderful, Music Is Miraculous (Ellen Allard)  
Berenson Hall, Lower Level
- ☐ "I Can Be a Maccabee!" (Lorraine Posner Arcus)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 1-2, Conference Center
- ☐ Miracles of Creation – Light (אור *ohr*) and Water (מים *mayim*) (Sigalit Davis)  
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ Introduction to Torah Godly Play (Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire)  
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ What Can Educators Do When Young Children's Social Development Unfolds in Atypical Ways? (Double session) (Emily Kieval and Sherry Grossman)  
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level
- ☐ Gender, Influence and Power in Jewish Institutions (Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 4-5, Conference Center

**4:45pm to 5:45pm** Dinner, Berenson Hall, Lower Level  
Greetings and Learning: Rachel Raz, Director, Early Childhood Institute  
Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer

**5:45pm to 7:00pm** **Workshop Session 2**

- ☐ Sensory Storytelling: Creating Opportunities to Explore and Wonder (Jacqueline Serebrani-Kesner)  
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ The Miracles of Technology - In Your School (Raz Wasserstein)  
Executive Dining Room, Lower Level
- ☐ Responding to Parents' Questions by Revealing the Miracle of Childhood (Sandy Gold)  
Classroom 105, Lower Level
- ☐ What Can Educators Do When Young Children's Social Development Unfolds in Atypical Ways? (Double session) (Emily Kieval and Sherry Grossman)  
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level
- ☐ Collaboration, Communication and Coordination:  
Crash Course in EdTech for Early Childhood Education (Smadar Goldstein)  
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2016

**8:30am to 9:00am**

**Registration and Breakfast, Ted Cutler Atrium**  
**Welcome and Learning: Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer**  
**Jodi Jarvis, Director, Families with Young Children**

**9:45am to 11am**

### **Workshop Session 3**

- ☐ **The Miracle of Yoga For Young Children** (Ellen Allard)  
Berenson Hall, Lower Level
- ☐ **Chanukah Crafts, Cooking, and Science...Oh My!** (Lorraine Posner Arcus)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 4-5, Conference Center
- ☐ **Advanced Torah Godly Play Track** (triple session)  
(Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, The Rev. Cheryl Minor, PhD, and Jacqueline Serebrani-Kresner)  
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ **Reflective Practice/Supervision** (triple session) (Diana Ganger)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 1-2, Conference Center
- ☐ **Social Thinking® in Action during the Jewish holidays**  
(Nancy Mager and Rebecca Redner)  
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level

**11:15am to 12:30pm**

### **Workshop Session 4**

- ☐ **The Miracles of Technology - In Your School** (Raz Wasserstein)  
Tichnor Conference Room 3, Conference Center
- ☐ **Taking it Out and Bringing it In** (Johanna Perlin and Lisa Kritz)  
Executive Dining Room, Lower Level
- ☐ **Exploring the Values, Miracles, and Wonders in the Classroom through Books**  
(Lisa Litman and Sarah Wilensky)  
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ **A Tree for All Seasons! Extending the Values of Tu B'Shevat throughout the Year**  
(Sharon Cores and Wendy Damsky)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 4-5, Conference Center
- ☐ **Advanced Torah Godly Play Track** (continued)  
(Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, The Rev. Cheryl Minor, PhD, and Jacqueline Serebrani-Kresner)  
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ **Reflective Practice/Supervision** (continued) (Diana Ganger)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 1-2, Conference Center
- ☐ **Developing Social Thinking® among Preschoolers: What does Perspective Taking mean in a preschool classroom?** (Amy Freedman)  
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level

**12:30pm to 1:30pm**

**Lunch, Berenson Hall**

**Welcome and Learning: Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, President of Hebrew College  
Rachel Raz, Director, Early Childhood Institute**

**1:45pm to 3:00pm**

**Workshop Session 5**

- ☐ **The Magical World of Flutes** (Amir Milstein)  
Berenson Hall, Lower Level
- ☐ **Radical Amazement: Miracles and Wonder in Hasidism and the Writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel** (Rabbi Dr. Ariel Evan Mayse)  
Executive Dining Room, Lower Level
- ☐ **The Birth of Israeli Culture** (Marion Gribetz)  
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ **Nurturing The Young, The Restless, The Bold and The Beautiful** (Jeanine Fitzgerald)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 1-2, Conference Center
- ☐ **The Wonder of Outdoor Play: Goals and Process of Creating an Outdoor Playspace** (Ronit BenShir and Malgosha Szlempo)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 4-5, Conference Center
- ☐ **Advanced Torah Godly Play Track** (continued)  
(Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, The Rev. Cheryl Minor, PhD, and Jacqueline Serebrani-Kresner)  
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ **Developing Social Thinking® among Preschoolers: Three Pivotal Social Skills for Developing Peer Connection** (Mia Hyman)  
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level

**3:30pm to 5:30pm**

**Workshop Session 6**

- ☐ **Reflective Practice/Supervision** (continued)(Diana Ganger)  
Tichnor Conference Rooms 1-2, Conference Center

**CREATION**



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2016

## Workshop Session 1 (6 concurrent sessions)

3:30 - 4:45pm

### **Music Is Magical, Music Is Wonderful, Music Is Miraculous**

*Ellen Allard, Recording Artist, Composer, Performer, and Educator*

Join multi-award winning recording artist Ellen Allard as she shares her creative repertoire of developmentally-appropriate songs, chants, fingerplays and singing games, all guaranteed to engage you and your students in the magic of music! Learn interactive songs that will support every aspect of your early childhood program while nurturing Jewish traditions and adding “ruach” to your program. Includes Judaic and secular content. Lots of participation!

---

### **“I Can Be a Maccabee!”**

*Lorraine Posner Arcus, Jewish Education Consultant and Author*

Experience the miracle of Chanukah. What was it like for a small band of Maccabees to outwit the huge Syrian Greek army? Create this event by fashioning your own scenery, props and costumes. Transform your classroom to the Judean Hills as you experience this miraculous event with your students.

---

### **Miracles of Creation – Light (אור *ohr*) and Water (מים *mayim*)**

*Sigalit Davis, Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Language; Specialist in Curriculum Development and Instruction of Hebrew; and Coordinator of Hebrew Language-M'korot Program*

This workshop will explore techniques to teach about the themes of Water (מים *mayim*) and Light (אור *ohr*) using Hebrew books and songs and related vocabulary. During the workshop, we will discuss how this particular set of Hebrew vocabulary, songs and books can be repetitively used in connection with diverse curriculum units in order to reinforce the acquisition of the language. Furthermore, we will explore Hebrew vocabulary related to the season – winter and the miracle of lights during Hanukkah.

Please note that Hebrew skills are not required; all translations and transliterations will be provided.

---

### **Introduction to Torah Godly Play**

*Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College, and Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education*

This session will introduce you to the Godly Play, an accredited Torah-telling practice used in religious education throughout the world designed to enhance the spiritual lives of children. Its application to Jewish education has been pioneered by the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education at Hebrew College and a community of practice led by Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire.



## **What Can Educators Do When Young Children's Social Development Unfolds in Atypical Ways? I (Double session)**

*Emily Kieval, Developmental Specialist and Consultant*

*Sherry Grossman, Gateways Director of Community Services*

Designed for Toddlers to Grade 2 teachers who seek to understand child development further.

The workshop will delve into the foundations of Social Thinking® and explore keys to understanding social development. In particular, we will focus on how delays impact behavior to understand why one student may manage peer relationships successfully and his/her friend struggles to interact. We will use The Building Blocks of Social Development, as developed by the Social Thinking® curriculum, to provide an overview of concepts and pivotal skills. As we explore how to balance the varying needs of children in the classroom, we will investigate the zone of proximal development, address participant questions and recommend strategies that strengthen life skills.

---

## **Gender, Influence and Power in Jewish Institutions**

*Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, Associate Dean for Academic Development and Assistant Professor, Shoolman Graduate School, Hebrew College*

Together, we will explore contemporary sources – from poetry to statistics – to shape a discussion about the role of gender in our educational institutions. To what extent has gender been a factor in compensation, in the relative weight of early childhood education, and in our own sense of the value of this work? We will grapple with these questions together, leaving the session with action items that can be taken locally to help create institutional change and transformation.

## **Workshop Session 2 (6 concurrent sessions)**

**5:45 – 7:00pm**

### **Sensory Storytelling: Creating Opportunities to Explore and Wonder**

*Jacqueline Serebrani-Kesner, Interdisciplinary and Expressive Arts Educator*

This participatory workshop will engage the senses through enchanting storytelling and age appropriate creative exploration that support a child's physical, emotional and intellectual needs. Participants will journey through a Sensory Story about the earth and all of its wonders. Educators are encouraged to bring a favorite story that they use in their classroom. Led by Creative Arts Enrichment's Artistic Director Jacqueline Serebrani-Kesner, this workshop is perfect for educators and administrators who already implement arts in the classroom, or those who think it is nearly impossible to do so. We share innovative ideas and approaches for all. Come join us.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

## **The Miracles of Technology- In Your School**

*Raz Wasserstein, Founder of 'Remini'*

Come and explore the startup that originated in the same place where the Maccabees used to live, that is bringing technology and innovation to each school. Remini is a mobile and web platform that answers the question of how to make the best use of our technology to document and communicate with preschool families the miracles that happen each day in our school.

During this session, interesting statistics will be shown about educators and parents' preferences and behaviors in this field, and a comparison between Israel and US educators will be presented. Privacy issues will be discussed, and the process of receiving approval for privacy/security will be reviewed. A live demonstration of Remini on a school that currently uses Remini will be shown, and also a live tutorial on how to open your school and classes in Remini and make use of its features will be included.

Remini has official approval from the Israeli Ministry of Education and has strategic partnerships with national preschool organizations in Israel such as WIZO and NAAMAT and in the United States with ECERJ, URJ, Jewish Education Project.

---

## **Exploring Nature through a Jewish Lens with Young Toddlers**

*Katrine Horion, Toddler Teacher, Temple Shalom Nursery School (Newton)*

Explore ways in which toddlers can engage with nature. Explore how our school integrates natural elements through a Jewish lens through our curriculum. Review and discuss safety and risk management, receive tips for communicating with parents and explore ways to integrate nature and outdoor play in all kinds of weather.

---

## **Responding to Parents' Questions by Revealing the Miracle of Childhood**

*Sandy Gold, Director, Temple Shir Tikva Early Learning Center*

Early childhood is an incredible and unique time in a child's life. Every day is full of wonder and new discoveries. Yet parents don't always understand play based practices. Part of the job of an early childhood educator is to help parents understand how special this time in life is and to help them understand the reasons behind developmentally appropriate practices.

---

## **What Can Educators Do When Young Children's Social Development Unfolds in Atypical Ways? II (Double session – see Monday 3:30pm)**

*Emily Kieval, Developmental Specialist and Consultant*

*Sherry Grossman, Gateways Director of Community Services*

---

## **Collaboration, Communication and Coordination:**

### **Crash Course in EdTech for Early Childhood Education**

*Smadar Goldstein, Founder and co-Director, JETS - Jerusalem EdTech Solutions*

The development of the internet and social networking in the 21st century has changed the way in which students learn, and potentially the way in which teachers teach. The internet, ipad, and apps have opened up a vast resource of possibilities to more effectively engage with colleagues and community members. This session is designed to familiarize teachers with online tools, skills, and methodologies that can empower them to collaborate online or to utilize online tools to maximize collaboration, communication and coordination in their communities and classrooms.

★ Please bring a laptop or iPad to this interactive session

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2016

### Workshop Session 3 (5 concurrent sessions)

9:45 – 11:00am

#### **The Miracle of Yoga For Young Children**

*Ellen Allard, Recording Artist, Composer, Performer, and Educator*

Since becoming certified to teach Yoga Yeladim, a yoga program for young Jewish children created by Haris Lender, Ellen has begun weaving elements of yoga into all of her music presentations, including concerts, music classes, and worship services. You are invited to participate in a sample interactive Yoga Yeladim class that includes asanas (poses), pranayama (breathing), and dhayana (meditation). We will explore the why, when and how to integrate components of yoga into your own teaching. If possible, please bring a yoga mat.

---

#### **Chanukah Crafts, Cooking, and Science ...Oh My!**

*Lorraine Posner Arcus, Jewish Education Consultant and Author*

Celebrate the joy of Chanukah through the creative arts! Spin like a dreidel! Melt like a candle! Be strong like a Maccabee! Learn new dances for young children and bring the dance steps and music to your classroom (music and dance notes supplied.) Fashion a set of hand-dipped candles for the first night of Chanukah while reinforcing your favorite Chanukah tunes. Watch what happens as the wax melts and transforms from a solid to liquid state. As the candle dries, the wax becomes become solid again! We can do that through movement too!

---

#### **Advanced Torah Godly Play I: (It is a prerequisite for participants to have already attended a previous Torah Godly Play workshop in order to be eligible for the advanced track.**

**Participants must participate in all three sessions on Tuesday, December 13th.)\***

*Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College, and Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education*

*The Rev. Cheryl Minor, PhD, Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood*

*Jacqueline Serebrani-Kresner, Interdisciplinary and Expressive Arts Educator*

Drawing upon experience of leading Torah Godly Play, participants will

- be introduced to the curriculum of stories and creative explorations for the K-2 Jewish Classroom. These will include Jewish adaptations of the Berryman stories as well as newly written stories focused on the Haggim (Jewish holidays).
- develop their story-leading skills and be asked to present stories in the workshops.
- explore the design for the proposed Torah Godly Play classroom with consideration of the newly developed resources for the room and for creative exploration.
- be introduced to the recent research conducted on the impact of Godly Play on children and adolescents.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

## Reflective Practice/Supervision I

*Diana Ganger, National Coach and Consultant in Jewish Early Childhood Education  
(Triple Session) Tuesday 9:45-11am & 11:15am-12:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm*

High quality programs can be identified by their approach to reflective practice. The implementation of a culture of Reflective Practice/Supervision is an important marker of excellence that is animated by staff who are self-aware and intentional, engaged with their students and families, and constantly improving themselves professionally.

Reflective Supervision is widely recognized as an effective approach that supports working with young children and their families by providing time for the leadership and/or peers to partner in dialogue around the work with families and children with the professional staff on an individual basis. Participants will learn why it is important for professional staff to share ideas and discuss the very real challenges of their work. We will learn how to incorporate the concepts of culture, vision and shared values as we set up a reflective supervisory environment. We will work in large and small groups and will role-play difficult conversations and critical incidents.

Reflective supervision is competency-based professional development that embodies collaboration, reflection, regularity, thoughtfulness and value-based relationships, that ultimately model for and support families and children.

Recommended Book: A Practical Guide to Reflective Supervision by Sherryl Scott Heller and Linda Wilkerson

---

## Social Thinking® in Action during the Jewish holidays

*Nancy Mager, Gateways Director of Jewish Education Programs  
Rebecca Redner, Teacher and Program Associate and Author*

Designed for Pre-K and K teachers who seek to incorporate Jewish curriculum into the classrooms

What does following a Group Plan have to do with Shabbat? How can you teach students about Whole Body Listening during a lesson about Hanukkah or Purim? This workshop will teach how to creatively embed the instruction of specific social concepts into lessons about Jewish holidays, stories, and values. You will learn how to use and teach Social Thinking® vocabulary effectively, and incorporate this vocabulary into the flow of your school's curriculum. We will illustrate how you can put Social Thinking® into action with examples from Gateways' own pre-school program, so you can easily envision how to bring what you have learned into your own classrooms.

## AND THERE WAS LIGHT



THE GREATER LIGHT

## Workshop Session 4 (7 concurrent sessions)

11:15am – 12:30pm

### **The Miracles of Technology- In Your School**

*Raz Wasserstein, Founder of 'Remini'*

Come and explore the startup that originated in the same place where the Maccabees used to live, that is bringing technology and innovation to each school. Remini is a mobile and web platform that answers the question of how to make the best use of our technology to document and communicate with preschool families the miracles that happen each day in our school.

During this session, interesting statistics will be shown about educators and parents' preferences and behaviors in this field, and a comparison between Israel and US educators will be presented. Privacy issues will be discussed, and the process of receiving approval for privacy/security will be reviewed. A live demonstration of Remini on a school that currently uses Remini will be shown, and also a live tutorial on how to open your school and classes in Remini and make use of its features will be included.

Remini has official approval from the Israeli Ministry of Education and has strategic partnerships with national preschool organizations in Israel such as WIZO and NAAMAT and in the United States with ECERJ, URJ, Jewish Education Project.

---

### **“Taking it Out and Bringing it In”**

*Johanna Perlin, Director of Temple Shalom Nursery School (Newton)*

*Lisa Kritz, Director, Hertz Nursery School (Sharon)*

Nature is bountiful! There are shapes and sizes, colors and textures, smells and tastes; an enormous variety of substances. In a world of catalogs and consumable objects, designed spaces and programmed areas, sometime it helps to remember that the natural world is full of multi-dimensional, unavailing educational experiences for children.

Nature nourishes and heals. Human beings evolved outdoors. Our Judaic texts are based in nature. Our bodies need sunlight and fresh air. Our minds need the experience and challenges that nature presents. Our souls need the day-to-day appreciation for the miracle of the world.

Investigate basic elements of nature inspired/outdoor Classrooms and “Jewish Outside.” Join this workshop and get started with Nature.

---

### **Exploring the Values, Miracles, and Wonders in the Classroom through Books**

*Lisa Litman, Director, PJ Goes to School and Sara Ruderman Wilensky, PJ Goes to School Educator*

The Jewish people are called The People of the Book, so what better way into teaching and learning than through excellent Jewish children's books? PJ Library and PJ Goes to School are excellent resources that are available for bringing Jewish values into the classroom. Through this session with master educators Lisa Litman and Sarah Ruderman Wilensky you will learn techniques to bring books alive to awaken the wonder of learning in young children. By exploring the values that are deeply embedded in the books we present you will be better able to provide provocations and learning opportunities for all types of learners in a multitude of learning environments.



## **A Tree For All Seasons! Extending the Values of Tu B'Shevat Throughout the Year**

*Sharon Cores, Teacher, Jewish Preschool of Lexington*

*Wendy Damsky, Teacher, Jewish Preschool of Lexington*

Tu B'Shevat: It's more than planting parsley for Pesach! Join us for an interactive workshop to develop lesson plans and activities to link the values of Tu B'shevat to the rest of the school year and reinforce our relationship with Torah and Israel. How can we think about trees during the long, cold winter? Do you know what the connection between fire fighters and trees is both in the United States and in Israel? What can artists teach us about trees? Are there STEM activities relating to trees? You will leave with a curriculum web, ideas for brainstorming with the teachers at your school, and resources for secular, holiday, and Israeli books.

---

## **Advanced Torah Godly Play II: (See session 3)**

*Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College, and Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education*

*The Rev. Cheryl Minor, PhD, Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood*

*Jacqueline Serebrani-Kresner, Interdisciplinary and Expressive Arts Educator*

---

## **Reflective Practice/Supervision II (see session 3)**

*Diana Ganger, National Coach and Consultant in Jewish Early Childhood Education*

*Tuesday 9:45-11am & 11:15am-12:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm*

---

## **Developing Social Thinking Among Preschoolers:**

### **What does Perspective-Taking mean in a Preschool Classroom?**

*Amy Freedman, SLP-CCC Gateways Specialist for Preschools and Day Schools*

Designed for Preschool, K-2 teachers who seek to understand child development further

Are you wondering why a student cannot grasp another person's perspective? How can we teach children to shift their points of view, share space, and demonstrate healthy behavior (self-regulate, cooperate, negotiate, collaborate and learn) in a group setting? These important life skills can be addressed through the integration of the building blocks of social development designed for the Social Thinking® curriculum. Through a variety of hands-on activities, we will engage actively with these core concepts and learn how to build opportunities within the classroom routine.

## **Workshop Session 5 (7 concurrent sessions)**

**1:45 – 3:00pm**

### **The Magical World of Flutes**

*Amir Milstein, Flutist, Composer and Music Educator*

The flute, one of the world's most ancient instruments, has played a major role in Jewish life throughout the ages. Played at the Temple in Jerusalem, during the coronation of King Solomon, or while bringing the harvest to Jerusalem in Shavuot, the flute is mentioned numerous times in the bible. The flute has also been a common instrument in our music since the early days of the Canaanite shepherds until today's popular Israeli songs.

Join an enchanting and inspiring musical journey through history and tradition. Amir Milstein, who has collected over 100 different woodwind instruments from all around the world, will play many of them during this encounter. Together we will explore the unifying power that the universal language of music can have on society.

## **Radical Amazement: Miracles and Wonder in Hasidism and the Writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel**

*Rabbi Ariel Evan Mayse, Director of Jewish Studies and  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Thought, Hebrew College*

This session will explore the teachings of several key Hasidic masters on the nature of miracles and the idea of cultivating an attitude of wonder and sacred attunement toward the world around us. We will then examine how these teachings were translated and recast in the theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel, of the greatest twentieth-century Jewish thinker and heir to the legacy of Hasidism. Goals of the session, which will focus on close readings of primary sources, include exposing participants to new materials, ideas, and historical figures, as well as exploring how these teachings might be used to nurture the spiritual lives and maturation of young children.

---

## **The Birth of Israeli Culture**

*Marion Gribetz, Director of Educational Initiatives at Hebrew College*

Miracles are about creating something from nothing. We will explore the miracle of creating a new culture in modern Israel. How did the early Zionists implement their vision of creating a new Jewish/Israeli culture? What did they borrow from ancient times? What did they learn from other 'modern' revolutions? We will explore these questions through the history of Zionism in the 19th and 20th centuries through today with examples from art, literature and popular culture.

---

## **Nurturing The Young, The Restless, The Bold and The Beautiful**

*Jeanine Fitzgerald, Early Childhood Education Consultant and Author*

When our children are not honored and respected for who they are, then they are going to grow up disenfranchised from their authentic selves and are going to seek to connect in many afflicted ways. One key to preventing negative outcomes is not to pretend the differences do not exist, but to learn about, appreciate and honor the differences we encounter. We are shaped by those we love and refuse to love, and by those who love us or refuse to love us. And while most children are being loved, they do not feel loved. This session ensures that from this day forward, all children feel loved by us.

---

## **The Wonder of Outdoor Play: Goals and Process of Creating an Outdoor Playspace**

*Ronit BenShir, Director at the JCC Learning Center in Newton  
Malgosha Szlempo, Assistant Director of the Godine Early Learning Center, JCC of Greater Boston*

Playgrounds are among the most important environments for children. Evidence demonstrates that the benefits of outdoor play are extensive, reaching beyond the goals of letting children expend excess energy and develop gross motor skills. Come and learn how to build and how to use your outdoor space; and learn the research that supports how it can benefit the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social well-being of your students.

---

## **Advanced Torah Godly Play III (See session 3)**

*Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College, and Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education  
The Rev. Cheryl Minor, PhD, Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood  
Jacqueline Serebrani-Kresner, Interdisciplinary and Expressive Arts Educator*

## **Developing Social Thinking Among Preschoolers: Three Pivotal Social Skills for Developing Peer Connection**

*Mia Hyman, Gateways Educational and Behavioral Specialist*

Designed for Toddler to Grade 2 teachers who seek to understand child development further

We will use The Building Blocks of Social Development as illustrated by the Social Thinking® curriculum, to delve into three pivotal skills for building social connections: Theory of Mind, joint attention and imitation. We will define each skill and explore strategies and supports that you can weave into your daily curriculum.

## **Workshop Session 6**

**3:30 – 5:30pm**

### **Reflective Practice/Supervision III (See session 3)**

*Diana Ganger, National Coach and Consultant in Jewish Early Childhood Education*

*Tuesday 9:45-11am & 11:15am-12:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm*

## **CREATION'S GLORY**



## **MAN OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND (BRONZE)**



# PRESENTER BIOS

## ELLEN ALLARD

Ellen Allard is a multi-award winning Recording Artist, Composer, Performer, and Educator with over 30 years experience performing and teaching music for all ages. She has released 14 recordings and 7 songbooks, has composed over 250 songs, and her music has been published by other singer-songwriters on 31 recordings and in 11 books. A former Elementary School Vocal Music teacher and Early Childhood classroom and music teacher, she is a classically trained pianist, and also plays flute, piccolo, acoustic guitar, djembe, banjo, ukulele, autoharp, recorder, and spoons! Ellen has a Bachelor's degree in Music from Boston University, a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Arcadia University, and is a Certified Holistic Health Coach trained at the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in NYC. Ellen is trained to teach Baby/Toddler Yoga and Kidding Around Yoga and Yoga Yeladim for children. Learn more at [www.ellenallard.com](http://www.ellenallard.com).

## LORRAINE POSNER ARCUS

Lorraine Posner Arcus is a 2001 recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award for Outstanding Creative Jewish Educators, is nationally recognized for her work in the fields of Early Childhood Education as well as Israeli Dance for children and teens. A veteran kindergarten teacher, Lorraine is proud to share her innovative lessons which integrate Judaic values with science, nature, culture, the world's children, and Torah study. Lorraine's book, "Torah Alive! An Experiential Approach to Teaching Torah to Young Children," was published by URJ Press, and is reflective of her innovative and original curricular programs. Lorraine is an Early Childhood Curriculum consultant conducting teacher training programs both locally and nationally.

## RONIT BENSHIR, MJED'16

Ronit BenShir was director at the JCC Early Learning Center in Acton for nine years and is now in her sixth year serving as Director at the JCC Learning Center in Newton. She is a seasoned early childhood educator, with more than 15 years of experience. She has a BA in Art History and Israeli Studies from Haifa University and an MJEd with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education and Special Needs in a Jewish Setting from Hebrew College.

## SHARON CORES, ECE CERT.'02

Sharon Cores is celebrating her 16th year as a teacher at the Jewish Preschool of Lexington, having previously obtained a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and working in a variety of residential and clinical settings for over 20 years. Sharon is the Lead Teacher in the mixed age class and especially loves introducing young children to the natural wonders and artistic representations of the world around them. She proudly represents JPL as the *shagrirah* (representative) to the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Connection.

## WENDY DAMSKY

Wendy Damsky has extensive background working with children. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology and worked for many years as a Speech Therapist with children from birth through Kindergarten. She also completed her Master's degree in Child Development and Family Therapy. Wendy is certified in Massachusetts as an early childhood lead teacher and program director. Wendy has been the lead teacher in the Pre-K class at the Jewish Preschool of Lexington for the past 11 years.

## SIGALIT DAVIS

Sigalit Davis, *Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Language; Specialist in Curriculum Development and Instruction of Hebrew; and Coordinator of Hebrew Language-M'korot Program*, is an expert in the history and development of the Hebrew language. She has developed numerous curricula and approaches to Hebrew teaching while at Hebrew College. Born in Tel Aviv and a native Hebrew speaker, Davis has taught Hebrew and Jewish studies at many levels for more than 20 years in diverse educational settings throughout the United States. She holds a dual degree in education and Hebrew language from Hebrew University.



## PRESENTER BIOS (CONTINUED)

### DR. DEBORAH SKOLNICK EINHORN

Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn is the Associate Dean for Academic Development and an Assistant Professor of Jewish Education in the Shoolman Graduate School at Hebrew College. Within these roles, Deborah recruits, advises and teaches graduate students, while working with faculty and administration to hone and enhance the Jewish Education and Jewish studies programs. Her teaching focuses on Jewish American history education, leadership and students' graduate thesis research. In addition to speaking and writing on Jewish education, Deborah's focuses her scholarship on gender, philanthropy and organizational change in American Jewish life.

### JEANINE FITZGERALD

Jeanine Fitzgerald has 39 years of experience as a certified teacher, nationally recognized expert in the field of human behavior, master trainer, adjunct at colleges, and mother of three grown children. She is federally recognized as an approved trainer in the fields of education, mental health and disabilities. Jeanine has presented for organizations such as The Child Welfare League of America, The National Head Start Program, The Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children, The New York State Department of Early Education and The Family Child Care Network of New York State, and Regions One and Thirteen in Texas. Locally, Jeanine has consulted with and presented for Temple Beth Shalom in Needham, Alef-Bet Child Care in Cambridge, Temple Shalom in Newton, Temple Beth Avodah in Newton and Temple Elohim in Wellesley.

### AMY FREEDMAN

Amy Freedman, *SLP-CCC Gateways Specialist for Preschools and Day Schools*. Amy is a seasoned speech/language pathologist, working in the Boston area for 28 years. Amy earned her BA at the University of Michigan and Master of Science in Communication Disorders from Boston University. Her work experience began in a rehabilitation hospital with brain - injured and young, strong patients. She has also worked with students' Pre-K through 12th grade in school settings. Currently, Amy provides both direct special education support services individually and in small social skills groups along with consultation and coaching to teachers and parents through her work at Gateways Access to Jewish Education. She runs social skills groups and consults with teachers and parents using her training in the Social Thinking® curriculum developed by Michelle Garcia Winner which helps teach preschoolers to adults how to navigate the social world.

### DIANA GANGER

Diana Ganger is a national coach and consultant in Jewish early childhood education. Diana holds degrees in social work from Haifa University and Washington University in St. Louis. For 20 years, Diana was the director of the Moriah Early Childhood Center in Deerfield, IL, where she created a model of a family-centered progressive school that gained recognition throughout the country. She left Moriah to become the founding Program Director at the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI), spearheading efforts to redefine excellence in Early Childhood Jewish education nationwide. Diana is a recipient of the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

### MAN OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND (MAHOGANY)



### MAN OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND (OAK WOOD)





## **SANDY GOLD**

Sandy Gold is currently the director of the Temple Shir Tikva Early Learning Center. She was a full time temporary instructor in the education department at Framingham State University for 9 years where she taught methods classes in both the undergraduate and post baccalaureate programs and supervised early childhood and elementary student teachers in their practicum placements. Sandy currently teaches on line classes for professional development at Framingham State and for the Shoolman Graduate School of Education here at Hebrew College. Dually certified in both general and special education, Sandy has over twenty five years of teaching experience as both a classroom teacher and an inclusion specialist and provides consulting services to schools and parents.

## **SMADAR GOLDSTEIN**

Smadar Goldstein is the founder and co-Director of JETS - Jerusalem Ed Tech Solutions. Today, JETS is a recognized leader in providing online courses relating to Israel, Judaism, and Hebrew; professional development programs on incorporating technology in Jewish Studies and Hebrew language classrooms; and dynamic school partnership programs. Prior to founding JETS in 2009, she served as a classroom teacher at Hillel Torah Day School in Chicago and the Yeshivah of Flatbush in New York before making Aliyah in 1998. Smadar has provided online and face to face professional development sessions to more than 400 educators in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Holland, Australia, England, and Israel, in over 60 schools and organizations.

## **MARION GRIBETZ**

Marion Gribetz is the Director of Educational Initiatives at Hebrew College. She is also on faculty of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education. Her areas of interest include Jewish Art and Education; Teaching Israel in North American settings; Contexts of Jewish Education. She holds a bachelor's degree from Barnard College and a master's degree from Tufts University, was a Jerusalem Fellow and studied Jewish education and Jewish art at Hebrew University.

## **SHERRY GROSSMAN, MJS'02, ECE DIRECTOR CERT.'02**

Sherry Grossman, *Gateways Director of Community Services*. Sherry collaborates with synagogue preschools and religious schools throughout the community and coordinates the *Madrichim* Train the Trainer Program for youth who volunteer their time in synagogues to work with children who have special learning needs. As a senior educator, consultant, coach and program manager, Sherry's career spans more than 35 years in Jewish educational settings. Sherry has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Simmons College, a Master of Education degree in Early Education and Special Needs from Tufts University's Eliot-Pearson School of Child Study, and a Master's degree in Judaic Studies from Hebrew College. She holds Massachusetts certification in Early Education and Care, Director Level II, and State Teachers' certification.

## **KATRINE HORION**

Katrine Horion has been working for Temple Shalom Nursery School for over 10 years as a Toddler program teacher, and has taken an active role in the design and implementation of the nature curriculum into the Toddler curriculum. Kat has a bachelor of fine arts with concentrations in Art history and studio Art, from UMass Amherst/Boston and a Masters in early education from Lesley.

## **MIA HYMAN**

Mia Hyman, *Gateways Educational and Behavioral Specialist*. Mia is involved in many aspects of Gateways' programming, providing services to Jewish Day Schools, synagogues, Jewish preschools and Gateways' own Jewish Education Programs. Mia has many years of experience working with students with behavioral disorders, Autism and other Developmental Disabilities in many different settings. She has taught Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) classes at the college level, provides professional development to both adults and teens, and has had an article published in the Journal of Positive Behavior Intervention focusing on the strategies implemented for a young man with Autism to successfully experience becoming a Bar Mitzvah. She graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Masters in Special Education with a concentration in Autism and Developmental Disabilities and holds a certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

## PRESENTER BIOS (CONTINUED)

### EMILY KIEVAL

Emily Kieval, *Developmental Specialist and Consultant*. Emily Kieval has been supporting children and adults with learning differences for over 15 years in schools, synagogues, hospitals, and camps. She has worked as a special educator in Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. At Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, Emily works as a consultant-coach for preschools, congregations, and day schools. She supports children with reading disabilities in day schools. In addition to her work at Gateways, Emily is the Inclusion Coordinator at Temple Shalom of Newton, works as a Special Education consultant for *Shorashim*: Birthright Israel and is a *Yoetzet* (parent liaison/staff trainer) at Camp Ramah in New England during the summers. Emily has an MA in Applied Linguistics from Columbia University's School of Education, a BA in Linguistics and Psychology from UMass Amherst, and advanced training in neuropsychological assessment and in multi-sensory approaches to teaching reading.

### LISA KRITZ , ECE DIRECTOR CERT.'02

Lisa Kritz, *Director Hertz Nursery School, Sharon, MA since 1988 and co-founder of Second Nature Design*. Lisa has been involved with Jewish Early childhood since 1975. Lisa participated in the Hebrew College Directors council and was a founder of the Boston/Haifa Early Childhood network. Work in outdoor classroom development with a concentration on "Jewish Outside" is a current passion of Lisa's.

### LISA LITMAN

Lisa Litman is the Director of PJ Goes to School, PJ Library's initiative to enhance the Jewish content of the early childhood and complementary school classrooms. Under Lisa's directorship PJ Goes to school has more than tripled in size. Lisa has skills ranging from curriculum writing and music composition to performance and theatre directing. She is a regular keynote speaker around the country, and her video series on the PJ Library or PJ Goes to School is available on the YouTube channel. Lisa joined PJ Library after 10 years as co-creator and Director of An Ethical Start®, a values-based curriculum created for JCC Association. Lisa has a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters in Jewish Education from Gratz College.

### NANCY MAGER

Nancy Mager, *Gateways Director of Jewish Education Programs*. Nancy has worked in the field of special education as a teacher and consultant, providing behavioral support, curricular adaptations and instructional design for schools and families in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Massachusetts. She has additional training in autism spectrum disorders and applied behavior analysis. Nancy holds a Master's in Education from Simmons College through the New England Center for Children's partnership program, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Boston University.

### RABBI ARIEL EVAN MAYSE

Rabbi Ariel Evan Mayse, *Director of Jewish Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at Hebrew College in Newton, MA*. He holds a PhD in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har'el. Ariel taught at Yeshivat Orayta in Jerusalem for four years, and recently served as a Research Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. In addition to several scholarly and popular articles on Jewish mysticism, he is co-editor of the two-volume collection, *Speaking Torah: Spiritual Teachings From Around the Maggid's Table* (Jewish Lights, 2013,) and editor of, *From the Depth of the Well: An Anthology of Jewish Mysticism* (Paulist Press, 2014.)

BUTTERFLY



## AMIR MILSTEIN

Amir Milstein is a flutist, composer and music educator, and a graduate of the “Rubin Academy of Music” in Jerusalem, and the New England Conservatory in Boston. Amir established his career in the world-music scene, founding acknowledged ensembles such as Bustan Abraham and Tucan Trio, among others. His musical background represents a variety of styles and cultures including classical, jazz, Mediterranean and Latin music. He has collaborated with internationally acclaimed artists and has participated in distinguished concert venues and festivals worldwide, both as a player and as a composer. Among his original works are also film tracks and music for various dance companies. For many years, Amir performed in music shows in Israeli television and played and recorded numerous albums with Israel’s leading artists. Amir currently performs with various ensembles, presents educational workshops, teaches flute and directs ensembles at the New England Conservatory.

## THE REV. CHERYL V. MINOR, PH.D.

The Rev. Cheryl V. Minor, Ph.D., is the *Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood, the academic/publishing arm of the Godly Play Foundation*. She serves The Parish of All Saints’ Church in Belmont. Dr. Minor is also a Godly Play Trainer and has been deeply involved in designing the Godly Play Foundation’s training models. Dr. Minor has a degree in Music Education from Boston University, an M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Northcentral University in Scottsdale, Arizona. Her dissertation examined the impact of Godly Play on the spiritual well-being of children. Dr. Minor was the Consulting Editor for volumes of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, the newly revised edition of *Teaching Godly Play*, and is currently working on some volumes of the revised edition of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*.



LIGHT IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN

## JOHANNA PERLIN, ECE CERT.'00, ECE DIRECTOR CERT.'02

Johanna Perlin is the *Director of Temple Shalom Nursery School West Newton, MA*. A thirty-four year veteran to Jewish Early Childhood Education, Johanna is entering her 18th year as director of Temple Shalom Nursery School. She holds a Master’s Degree in Education from Wheelock College, a Bachelor’s Degree from University of Massachusetts, and holds a Certificate in Early Childhood Jewish Education from Hebrew College. She is a trainer for the nature curriculum program “Growing up Wild.” Johanna and her colleague Lisa Kritz recently inaugurated “Second Nature Design,” a consulting business to help other early childhood and assisted living complexes create outdoor spaces that invite participation.

## REBECCA REDNER

Rebecca Redner, *Teacher and Program Associate and Author*. Rebecca began her career in special education as a high school volunteer at Gateways: Access to Jewish Education. After graduating from Boston University with a degree in Special Education, Rebecca returned to Gateways as a teacher. In addition to teaching in the Gateways Jewish Education Program, Rebecca has created the many resources available on the Gateways website, <https://www.jgateways.org>, and is the author of *The Gateways Haggadah* and the *Gateways Shabbat Family Companion*.

## JACQUELINE SEREBRANI-KESNER

Jacqueline Serebrani-Kesner is an interdisciplinary and expressive arts educator, who strives to provide a thoughtfully guided process that ignites an interest in learning and frees participants into a place of imagining and creative expression. Whatever the setting, age or learning style, she creates an intentional rhythm, through color, drama, movement, storytelling and sound, which nurtures the whole “child” from the inside out. In addition to private consultation, Jacqueline provides Creative Arts Enrichment to religious and secular schools and community organizations as part of staff development, teacher training, curriculum design/enrichment, and community and family education.



## RABBI DR. MICHAEL SHIRE

Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire is the *Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College*, where he also serves as Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education and the graduate programs in Jewish studies. In addition, he is the founder of Torah Godly Play, a spiritual-based pedagogy for entering biblical narrative. He has a doctorate in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College and s'micha from Leo Baeck College, London.

## MALGOSHA SZLEMP

Malgosha Szlemp is the *Assistant Director of the Godine Early Learning Center at the JCC of Greater Boston*, working primarily with the three-, four- and five-year-old classrooms. She has been working with children for more than 30 years, first as a Child Psychologist in Poland, and then as the Director of a Jewish Day Care Center in Brighton, Massachusetts. Malgosha holds an MS in Psychology from University of Wroclaw in Poland and passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling exam for the state of Massachusetts. Her passion is empowering families, teachers and children to enjoy the outdoors and explore their surroundings. She inspires her teachers to use the outdoors as an extension of the classroom, where the experiential learning challenges the children to further develop their social, cognitive and motor skills.

## RAZ WASSERSTEIN

Raz Wasserstein is co-founder of Remini, a startup that helps improve communication between preschools and families, and facilitates parental involvement. Raz graduated from Ben Gurion University, and holds B.Sc & M.Sc in Information System Engineering, specializing in information privacy. He has vast experience in technological positions in the Ministry of Defense and the Israel Defense Forces.

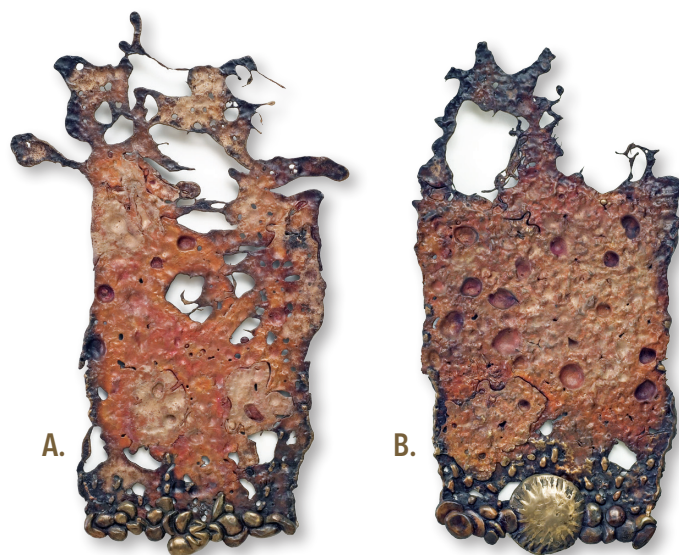
## A. AND THERE WAS LIGHT B. THE GREATER LIGHT

## SARAH RUDERMAN WILENSKY

Sarah Ruderman Wilensky is the PJ Goes to School Educator at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, an experienced Jewish Educator and the founder of *JewFood*, where she specializes in teaching about Jewish identity, holidays and values through cooking and eating. Through JewFood Sarah is the Food Blogger for *Interfaith Family* where she also serves as a member of their Advisory Council. Sarah has worked with students of every age, and most recently was the Jewish Educator at the JCC's of Greater Boston's Early Learning Centers. She is a *Storah Telling* trained educator, is trained in *Torah Godly Play*, has been a member of the 92Y's *Shababa* Network, is a member of Hazon's *Jewish Food Educator's Network* and is active with the *Paradigm Project* where she was a session presenter at their inaugural conference. Sarah has an undergraduate degree in Theater Arts from Muhlenberg College and studied in the MARE program at HUC-JIR in New York.

## DR. DEBORAH SKOLNICK EINHORN

Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn is the Associate Dean for Academic Development and an Assistant Professor of Jewish Education in the Shoolman Graduate School at Hebrew College. Within these roles, Deborah recruits, advises and teaches graduate students, while working with faculty and administration to hone and enhance the Jewish Education and Jewish studies programs. Her teaching focuses on Jewish American history education, leadership and students' graduate thesis research. In addition to speaking and writing on Jewish education, Deborah's focuses her scholarship on gender, philanthropy and organizational change in American Jewish life.



# We hope you enjoyed our Conference!

*Please join us soon and continue your learning and growth.*

*Below are several examples of our course offerings that can be taken as part of MEd or Certificate Programs or independently as a standalone course.*

## **EDUC 502 Creating a Developmentally Appropriate Early Childhood Curriculum**

Using curricular theory as a guide, students will design developmentally appropriate early childhood Jewish curriculum. Skills in planning and implementing curriculum are stressed. The holiday cycle is studied as a basis for integrating art, music, science, mathematics and language arts, as well as Jewish values, customs and symbols into the program.

## **EDUC 503 Families, School and Community**

Examines the relationship between family, school and community, and explores ways to create an environment that supports and educates Jewish families. Students study the role of the family in Jewish tradition and text. Other topics include intake procedures, profiles of preschool families, parent-teacher conferences, handbooks and newsletters. The coursework guides students to develop a vision and plan for building partnerships between families, school and community.

## **EDUC 545 The Jewish Calendar: A Tapestry of Holidays and Celebrations**

This course will explore the Jewish Holidays, across time and space. Participants will study Biblical, Rabbinic and contemporary sources to uncover the central themes and values, symbols, rituals and practices associated with each holiday. Particular attention will be paid to the cycles of nature and the agricultural seasons, the historical milestones of the evolving Jewish People, and the ways in which our celebrations of the holidays enhance our relationships with the Divine.

## **EDUC 504 Bible and Israel for Early Childhood Education | Spring 2017\* Register now!**

This course will explore theory and practice for curricula focusing on Bible and Israel for the early childhood classroom. Bible topics will include selection of choice narratives with an array of supporting activities and resources, practice of adult text study coupled with child-friendly rewrites of selected verses, and creation of Torah-based curricula. Israel topics will focus on the "Israel Connection" — its philosophical base and resources for programmatic application, including our own "Images of Israel," experiential learning and the empowerment of parents in the "Virtual Israel Trip," and teaching Israel through children's literature - highlighting the lives of children in Israel and the centrality of Zion in Jewish thought.

## **EDUC 534 Hebrew for Early Childhood Education**

The Hebrew Language can open a door for cultural and communal connections, both Israeli and Jewish. This course is designed to explore language acquisition and offers an array of vocabulary and ways to share it with young children.

## **EDUC 625 Jewish Life & Values**

The purpose of this course is to engage you as educators with major concepts and values of Jewish life. Topics will include the Jewish life cycle (birth, adoption, bar-bat mitzvah, marriage, conversion, divorce, death); values such as tzedakah, relationship between parents and children, k'vod ha-beriyot, bikkur holim; and Jewish practice (kashrut, tallit and tefillin).

## **EDUC 626 Spiritual Development for Jewish Education**

Too often Jewish education has been primarily concerned with transmission of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and developing Jewish identity in young people. Nurturing the spiritual growth of the child is often missing from Jewish educational practice. This course seeks to explore the spiritual life of the child, and will draw upon the latest research and our own experience, offering a Jewish lens with which to view this spirituality from our traditional sources. We will seek to develop new practices for Jewish education in classrooms, camps, synagogues, community centers that nurture the Jewish spiritual life of our children. The course will offer an educational focus for spiritual development, including the spirit of the child, sacred teaching, spiritual learning and transforming Jewish education.

## **EDUC 710 Seminar in Educational Leadership & Supervision**

This course explores the process of educational supervision, instructional leadership and organizational leadership in Jewish education. Students will consider and practice varied models of supervision and staff development and examine issues of change in Jewish education. In addition, students will practice Jewish educational leadership skills, including public speaking, homiletics and educational planning and problem solving. For advanced students and supervisors.

# נסים ונפלאות

*For more information about programs, contact Rachel Raz, Director, Early Childhood Institute,  
rraz@hebrewcollege.edu, 617-559-8629*



# Acknowledgments

*Thank you to all of our  
sponsors, volunteers, presenters,  
and their institutions.*

## Special thanks to:

Combined Jewish Philanthropies  
and Gateways for their generous support  
of the Early Childhood Jewish Education  
Conference

## Additional gratitude to:

Jodi Jarvis  
*Director, Families with Young Children, CJP*

Arlene Remz  
*Executive Director, Gateways*

Sherry Grossman  
*Director of Community Services, Gateways*

*Cover and program artwork by  
Israeli artist Nira Raz.*



ENCOUNTER



160 Herrick Road  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-559-8600  
[www.hebrewcollege.edu](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu)

