



PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Eighth Annual
Early Childhood
Jewish Education Conference

AM HA'SEFER
עם הספר

Hebrew College • Newton Centre, Massachusetts • December 11-12, 2017

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR: RACHEL RAZ



בן בג בג אומר, הפך בָּהּ וְהִפָּךְ בָּהּ, דָּכְלָא בָּהּ.

Ben Bag Bag would say:

*turn it (the Torah) and turn it again, for all is in it;
see through it; grow old and worn in it; do not budge from it,
for there is nothing that works better than it.*

משנה פרקי אבות ה' כ"ב Pirkei Avot, Ethics of the Fathers 5:22

Shalom and welcome to the Eighth Annual Early Childhood Jewish Education Conference.

Are you a director, or aspiring leader, looking for leadership strategies and models to emulate? Or are you a parent or an educator working with parents, looking for advice about raising children in our digital era? Maybe you are working with atypical learners and looking for tools to share the wisdom of the Torah with them? Are you an Israeli-American, feeling like Abraham, who left his father, his country and his land, and are trying to make meaning out of this journey, developing a new life in a new land? Or maybe the families in your school feel that way. "Everything is in it", no matter where you are coming from, you can find guidance in the Torah and start to examine some of it today.

"The Book" or, the Bible, has inspired humanity for generations and it still does. Ben Bag Bag advises us to continue to "turn" the Torah since everything is in it. In Proverbs 3:18 the Torah is referred to as a tree of life to those who follow it (עֵץ חַיִּים הִיא לַמַּחְזִיקִים בָּהּ, וְתִמְכֶּינָהּ מֵאֲשֹׁר). We designed this conference to offer you a taste of the possibilities that are in the Torah no matter where you are on your personal and professional journey. We hope you will enjoy your experience and return to us in the future for additional learning.

We would like to thank all our presenters this year who are dedicated to sharing Torah in many ways and are a source of inspiration: Dr. Jeff Hoffman, the first astronaut to take a Torah scroll to space in 1996 on Space Shuttle Colombia in order to "make space special"; The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, sharing wisdom and stories inspired by The Book with young children and their families all around the world through PJ Library, PJ Goes to School, and other initiatives; Gateways, Access to Jewish Education, helping individuals with special needs access Torah and Jewish tradition; Hebrew at the Center, teaching the Hebrew language so people can read The Book in the original, opening the door not only to the book but to connections with Israel and the Jewish people; The Israeli American Council (IAC) who developed the Keshet Sfarim program for young children and their families, and a Learning Torah Together initiative for adults to delve into Torah learning each week; Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) who support many community learning programs; Shalom-Learning, Torah Alive, Torah scholars and many others who are taking part in this year's conference.

And to all the schools and educators who have joined us today; thank you for taking the time to learn and grow in order to become more knowledgeable and intentional educators. We hope this conference will inspire and help you wherever you are on your journey, deepen your knowledge and appreciation of text, and help you find ways to share this learning with your communities.

We invite you to "turn it and turn it again...."

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 8th ECE Conference!!

The People of the Book (*Ahl al kitab*) is an Arabic expression found in the Quran to describe the Jewish People. It is the first time that the Jewish People are described this way and is reflective of the reverence and respect that Jews place on the Torah and its study as perceived by the People of the Quran. For thousands of years, Jews have held the Torah close to them just as they wrote many interpretations and stories about that Torah. It has been a centering thread in all the lands and ages in which Jews have lived and flourished. How can a young child understand the value of the Torah and its many meanings with the values of life that it expresses for all generations? Only by coming close to the book and its meaning. We read in Deuteronomy 30:12, "[The Torah] is not up in the heavens that you should say, 'Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?' No, [the Torah] is always close to you – in your mouth and in your heart." For us to nurture our children and their families in the ways of Torah is to make it close to their hearts and readily on their lips. It means telling our stories, living our values through action and speech, finding our place in our long tradition. It seems the People of the Quran, so many years ago, recognized the distinctive characteristic of the Jew and what a Jew holds close. May our children learn from us how to be seen as the People of the Book once again.

We welcome you to this special Early Childhood Education conference dedicated to this sacred work as educators in the Jewish community. We invite you to enjoy, be stimulated by the sessions today, and review the online learning opportunities that are available to you. We are especially encouraging our educators to consider one class this coming semester to try and experience. For a heavily subsidized cost, we are excited to welcome you to some fabulous learning opportunities that will enrich your teaching and the experiences in your classroom. For further details, look in this conference brochure and chat with one of our faculty members. I look forward to welcoming you all.

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 11TH, 2017

3:00pm to 3:30pm

Registration, Main Entrance

3:30pm to 4:30pm

Workshop Session 1

- ☐ Big Book of Chanukah (Itty Prus)
Rooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ Lions, Mosaics and *Tzedakah*, Oh My!
Creating Photo Books to Enhance Classroom Learning (Andrea Shapiro)
Rooms 106-107, Lower Level
- ☐ Demystifying Dyslexia: How Teaching a Second Language at an Early Age is a Resilient Factor in Learning to Read (In Any Language) (Dr. Shiri Katz-Gershon)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ PJ Goes to School and Jewish Values
(Lisa Litman, Sarah Ruderman Wilensky, and Vivian Newman)
(For PJ Goes to School Cohort only)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ Sing, Sing, Sing: Sweet Songs for Teaching Torah (Ellen Allard)
Berenson Hall, Lower Level

4:45pm to 5:45pm

Dinner, Berenson Hall, Lower Level

Welcome and *Limmud*: Rachel Raz, Director, Early Childhood Institute

Lisa Litman, Director, PJ Goes to School

6:00pm to 7:00pm

Workshop Session 2

- ☐ “Forgiveness.” Dramatizing the Torah Lesson of Esav’s Expression of Forgiveness to Ya’akov (Lorraine Arcus)
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level
- ☐ An Introduction to Early Literacy (Sandy Gold)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ What we Learn from the Four Children at Our Seder (Dr. Sandy Miller-Jacobs)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ A Taste of Parenting Through a Jewish Lens (Dena Glasgow)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ Teaching in a Rapidly Changing World (Adva Schneider)
(In Hebrew for Hebrew Speakers)
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2017

8:00am to 8:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music and <i>Tefillah</i> with Devora Rohr, Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center • Torah Godly Play Story with Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
8:30am to 9:00am	Registration – Main Entrance Breakfast, Ted Cutler Atrium and Berenson Hall
9:00am to 9:45am	Welcome and <i>Limmud</i>, Berenson Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Raz, Director of the Early Childhood Institute • Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire, Chief Academic Officer of Hebrew College

10:00am to 11am

Workshop Session 3

- ☐ Taking “Torah” Outside – The Three Pilgrimage Festivals (*Shalosh Regalim*) (Johanna Perlin and Lisa Kritz)
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ Seeing Ourselves in the Stories of the Jewish People (Rabbi Julie Zupan)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ Find Out All You Need to Know About Social Stories and How to Create Them (Sherry Grossman)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ Innovative Leadership Models from Ancient Jewish Texts (Dr. David Bernat)
Executive Dining Room, Lower Level
- ☐ “Dance With Your Timbrel!” Dramatizing the story of *Yetziat Mitzrayim* (Exodus from Egypt) (Lorraine Arcus)
Berenson Hall
- ☐ Provocation and Jewish Identity (Lisa Litman and Sarah Wilensky)
(For PJ Goes to School Cohort Only)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ More than Just a Language: The Significance of Bringing Hebrew to the Early Childhood Classroom (Tal Gale) (*In Hebrew for Hebrew Speakers*)
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level

11:15am to 12:15pm

Workshop Session 4

- ☐ Taking Torah Outside – Using Big Body Play (Johanna Perlin and Kat Horion)
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ Explore The Gateways Haggadah And Find Out How To Make It Come To Life! (Rebecca Redner)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ What Does the Siddur Have to Do With It?
Transmitting Traditional Jewish Liturgy to Young Children (Devora Rohr)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ Walking Israel Through the Bible with Hebrew Stories and Songs (Sigalit Davis)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ People of the Book in the Digital Era
(Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, Joshua Troderman and Andrea Shapiro)
ShalomLearning Office, Lower Level
- ☐ Using Imagination and Enactment of Israeli Literature as a Way to Enhance Communication Skills and Self Confidence for Children (Dana Albert-Proos) (*In Hebrew for Hebrew speakers*)
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level
- ☐ The Joy of Sharing Rabbinic Stories with Young Children (Rabbi Elliot Goldberg)
Classroom 111, Lower Level

12:15pm to 2:00pm **Lunch, Berenson Hall**
Dr. Jeff Hoffman, American Astronaut and MIT Professor
Hebrew College President Rabbi Danny Lehmann

2:15pm to 3:15pm Workshop Session 5

- ☐ **Beyond Teaching Hebrew as the Language of the Book: Major Debates about Second Language Acquisition and Teaching** (Dr. Shiri Katz-Gershon)
Classrooms 102-103, Lower Level
- ☐ **“The World is Built on Loving Kindness” (Psalm 89:3): The Book of Ruth** (Ina Regosin)
Elovitz Board Room, Upper Level
- ☐ **From Building Blocks to Building Community: Fostering a Sense of Belonging** (Avital Fux, Vicky Benedek and Lindsay Harvey)
Executive Dining Room, Lower Level
- ☐ **Jewish Storytelling Comes Alive** (Lisa Litman and Sarah Wilensky)
Rooms 1-2, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ **Holding Torah in Our Hand: Using Puppets and Props to Engage Young Children in the Weekly Torah Story** (Sharon Cores and Martha Deitsch)
Rooms 4-5, Tichnor Conference Center
- ☐ **Children’s Israeli Songs and the Kodály Method**
(Dr. Mary Epstein and Martha Sandman Holmes)
Berenson Hall, Lower Level
- ☐ **In the Beginning...Creating a Solid Foundation** (Liat Kadosh and Frieda Robins)
(In Hebrew for Hebrew Speakers)
Classrooms 106-107, Lower Level

3:30pm to 3:45pm Hanukkah candle lighting and singing

3:45pm to 4:30pm Optional Reflection Session



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2017

Workshop Session 1 (5 concurrent sessions)

3:30 – 4:30pm

Big Book of Chanukah

Itty Prus, Founder and Director of Jewish Creative Preschool

This session will introduce a one of a kind Chanukah big book called, “If the Candles Could Speak.” This is an exceptional visual tool to bring the Chanukah story to life in the classroom. The book will be presented along with practical tips and activities for an educational, fun and interactive Chanukah lesson.

www.chanukahbigbook.com.

Lions, Mosaics and Tzedakah, Oh My!

Creating Photo Books to Enhance Classroom Learning

Andrea Shapiro, Educational Consultant

Take learning in your classroom a step further by creating your own photo books to deepen the learning experience. In this workshop, you will see how simple it can be to take something you may already have and turn it into a richer experience for your children. One page of photographs showing the Tunisian synagogue in the city of Akko, Israel, inspired an entire mosaic curriculum. A book showing The Lions in Israel grew an entire curriculum around Tzedakah and more. This workshop can help show you how to combine secular and Jewish items/themes into activities in the preschool classroom.

Demystifying Dyslexia: How Teaching a Second Language at an Early Age is a Resilient Factor in Learning to Read (In any Language)

Dr. Shiri Katz-Gershon, Adjunct Faculty of the Shoolman Graduate School of Hebrew College

What is Dyslexia? Why should we and how can we teach Hebrew to children with different language-based learning difficulties? How can teaching a second language help a child learn to read in their first language? We will present principles and strategies in teaching Hebrew that strengthen pre-literacy skills in any language.

PJ Goes to School and Jewish Values (For PJ Goes to School Cohort only)

Lisa Litman, Director of PJ Goes to School, Sarah Ruderman Wilensky, PJ Goes to School Educator, and Vivian Newman, Educational Consultant, PJ Library

Participants will discover and explore the Jewish values that are embedded in both secular and Jewish children's books. We will learn why we focus on Jewish values, how we uncover those values in books and what tools we need to bring these Jewish values into the Jewish early childhood classroom.

Sing, Sing, Sing: Sweet Songs for Teaching Torah

Ellen Allard, Recording Artist, Composer and Performer

Join multi award winning performer, recording artist, and educator Ellen Allard as she shares her easy-to-learn songs for teaching Torah. Discover how easy it is to use music to teach about the importance of welcoming, being made in the image of God, protecting and loving animals, being stewards of our beautiful world, the joy of gathering together with friends, loving Shabbat, taking care of ourselves and so much more.

Workshop Session 2 (5 concurrent sessions)

6:00 – 7:00pm

“Forgiveness.” Dramatizing the Torah Lesson of Esav’s Expression of Forgiveness to Ya’akov

Lorraine Arcus, Educational Consultant

Forgiveness is an important yet difficult value. Using the “Torah Alive!” method, learn how to help children experience the moment when Esav expresses forgiveness to Ya’akov. We will incorporate dramatic play, costumes, props, scenery, movement and art in the experience.

An Introduction to Early Literacy

Sandy Gold, Director of the Temple Shir Tikva Early Learning Center and Faculty of Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education at Hebrew College

We know that high quality early learning experiences with strong literacy components are linked to positive academic and social emotional learning in later years. But exactly what programming and expectations are developmentally appropriate with regard to language and literacy for preschool age children? What literacy experiences do we want to see in our early learning classrooms to set our students up for success?

What We Learn from the Four Children at our Seder

Dr. Sandy Miller-Jacobs

This interactive workshop will explore the meaning of the four children who appear at our Pesach Seder year after year. How have our views of these children changed over the years? How have they impacted our understanding of children and the ways in which we conduct our seders? Are there more than four children whom we need to address? How do we create seders that are inclusive of all the participants?

A Taste of Parenting Through a Jewish Lens

Dena Glasgow, Director of Faculty and Curriculum Development in the Adult Learning division of Hebrew College

Parenting through a Jewish Lens (PTJL), a program of Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies, provides a forum for parents to encounter Jewish texts that offer important parenting insights and practices. In PTJL, parents grapple with a wide range of issues from how to bring joy and meaning into parenting to how to raise caring and resilient children. Over the years, many hundreds of parents have enjoyed the PTJL experience which builds Jewish knowledge, community, and practical know-how. This session offers a taste of PTJL that can be taken back to your institutions in the work you do with parents.

Teaching in a Rapidly Changing World (In Hebrew for Hebrew speakers)

Adva Schneider - Learning Disabilities Specialist

The world changes at an ever-increasing rate, but are we as teachers keeping up with all the changes that impact our children in their everyday lives? Adva will show examples of how we can create experiential environments that promote the best of children intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.

הוראה בעולם שונה ומשתנה
אדוה שניידר - מומחית לליקויי למידה

העולם משתנה בקצב הולך וגדל, אבל האם אנחנו כמורים מצליחים לשמור על כל השינויים המשפיעים על הילדים שלנו בחיי היומיום שלהם בתהליך הלמידה?

אדוה תציג דוגמאות כיצד נוכל ליצור סביבות חווייתיות המקדמות את מיטב הילדים מבחינה אינטלקטואלית, רגשית, חברתית ופיזית.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2017

Workshop Session 3 (7 concurrent sessions)

10:00 – 11:00am

Taking “Torah” Outside – The Three Pilgrimage Festivals (Shalosh Regalim)

Lisa Kritz, Director Hertz Nursery School, Sharon, MA and co-founder of Second Nature Design and Johanna Perlin, Judaic and Curriculum Specialist, Temple Ohabei Shalom Trust Center for Early Education and co-founder of Second Nature Design

Explore how to take Torah stories outside. The Shalosh Regalim (3 Pilgrimage festivals) will be presented. Learn how you can create teaching and explorative opportunities that can integrate parent engagement outside. If the weather permits, participants will go outdoors; please wear outdoor shoes.

Seeing Ourselves in the Stories of the Jewish People

Rabbi Julie Zupan, Director of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Reform Jewish Outreach Boston.

This session is especially for colleagues without strong Jewish educational backgrounds, including those who come from different faiths, family, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and/or identities.

Every day in our classrooms, we can weave essential Jewish values into how we interrelate with children and their families, and with each other. We will take a close look at several classic Jewish stories from the Torah and values they teach.

All are welcome to attend this session.

Find Out All You Need to Know About Social Stories and How to Create Them

Sherry Grossman, Director of Coaching and Consultation, Gateways: Access to Jewish Education

Social Stories provide the ingredients for children to pick up the hidden messages of social cues, especially for those whose executive functioning or social detective skills are lagging. A social story prepares a child or class for an upcoming event, ongoing situation or specific problem by describing the skill, concept or situation, and frames the relevant social cues effectively. The goal of the workshop is to help participants unpack the what, why, where, when and how to see the world through the eyes of the child or children with whom you are working.

Innovative Leadership Models from Ancient Jewish Texts

Dr. David Bernat, Executive Director of Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, Lecturer in Judaic Studies at University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and Me'ah Instructor at Hebrew College.

What are the essential qualities of effective leaders? This question has long consumed those in government, the private sector, and the Jewish community. Of late, the importance of collaboration, empowerment, trust-building, and humility have been emphasized in favor of ego-driven, charismatic or authoritarian leadership styles. Recent and notable articulations of this ethos could include Jim Collins' business classic, "Good to Great," and General Stanley McChrystal's TED Talk, where he notes " ... a leader isn't good because they're right; they're good because they're willing to learn and to trust." This presentation will highlight Biblical and Rabbinic texts that grapple with the same issues and propound the same values, anticipating contemporary thinkers by 2 millennia.

“Dance With Your Timbrel!”

Dramatizing the Story of Yetziat Mitzrayim (Exodus from Egypt)

Lorraine Arcus, Educational Consultant.

“And the women danced with their timbrels and followed Miriam as she sang her song.” (Exodus 15:20)
Using the “Torah Alive!” approach, learn to help young children experience “Yetziat Mitzrayim” (“Exodus from Egypt”) through dramatic play, scenery, costumes, props, music and dance.

Provocation and Jewish Identity (For PJ Goes to School Cohort Only)

Sarah Ruderman Wilensky, PJ Goes to School Educator, and Lisa Litman, Director of PJ Goes to School

We will create the physical, emotional, and spiritual space for telling stories that help children develop their Jewish identity and/or their relationship to the Jewish people. Participants will learn storytelling techniques for before, during, and after stories, including provocations that invite curiosity about Jewish values. Several PJ Library books will be on hand for reference.

More than Just a Language: The Significance of Bringing Hebrew to the Early Childhood Classroom (In Hebrew for Hebrew Speakers)

Tal Gale, Senior Program Director, Hebrew At The Center

This interactive session will encourage Hebrew teachers to explore “why” they teach Hebrew. The session will shed light on current perceptions of the role of Hebrew amongst North American Jews and specifically within the world of Jewish education. Finally, this session will challenge participants to consider how they, individually and collectively, can help inform the critical role of Hebrew in Jewish identity building.

יותר משפה: חשיבות העברית בגיל הרך

טל גייל

מפגש אינטראקטיבי זה יעודד מורים לעברית לחקור "למה" ללמד עברית.

נגלה כיצד נתפס כיום תפקידה של העברית בקרב יהדות צפון אמריקה ובמיוחד בעולם החינוך היהודי.

לבסוף, המשתתפים ידונו כיצד הם, באופן אישי וקולקטיבי, יכולים לתרום לחשיבותה של השפה

העברית ולתפקידה בבניית זהות יהודית חזקה.



Space Torah

Photo by Anne Perlmutter

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Workshop Session 4 (7 concurrent sessions)

11:15am – 12:15pm

Taking Torah Outside – Using Big Body Play

Johanna Perlin, Judaic and Curriculum Specialist, Temple Ohabei Shalom Trust Center for Early Education and co-founder of Second Nature Design; and Kat Horion, Lead Teacher, Jewish Creative Preschool and Associate of Second Nature Design

Learn how to integrate components taken from Torah stories, blessings and Jewish values through open-ended, big body, explorative play in an outdoor setting.

Explore The Gateways Haggadah And Find Out How To Make It Come To Life!

Rebecca Redner, Author of the Gateways Haggadah; Educational Specialist, Gateways

Passover can be accessible to all learners! Take a tour of the universally accessible features of the Gateways Haggadah, including social stories, task analyses, and symbol prayers, with author and educator Rebecca Redner. You will not only learn how to use the Gateways Haggadah to educate your students and their families, but also how to create your own classroom materials and activities in the user-friendly style of the Gateways Haggadah. In addition, the author will share the relevant development of the newly released Shabbat Companion Guide.

What Does the Siddur Have to Do With It?

Transmitting Traditional Jewish Liturgy to Young Children

Devora Rohr, Shabbat Educator at Temple Aliyah in Needham and Hebrew College Rabbinical Student

The first siddur, or Jewish liturgical prayer book, was published in the 9th century BCE. Though it now exists in innumerable editions, there are shared key elements to any Jewish prayer service. In this session, Devora will present ways she has created (and adopted and modified) for young children and families services that introduce children to the liturgical framework of the siddur. Time will be provided to explore various siddurim (prayer books) created for children and to share methods and content that you have used successfully.

Walking Israel Through the Bible with Hebrew Stories and Songs

Sigalit Davis, Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Language, Specialist in Curriculum Development and instruction of Hebrew. Coordinator: Hebrew Language & Culture program of Hebrew College.

In this session, we will go “camping” with our Biblical heroes and heroines. We will explore where they lived, walked and traveled: in the country, the cities, the mountains and valleys of Israel, all locations that were mentioned in the Bible and exist in Israel today. We will sing Hebrew songs and sample modern Israeli children’s literature in the context of “trips” we take. Come and get ideas of how to share the experience with children through Hebrew songs and literature.

People of the Book in the Digital Era

Dr. Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, Associate Dean for Academic Development and Assistant Professor of Jewish Education in the Shoolman Graduate School at Hebrew College, Joshua Troderman, CEO of ShalomLearning, and Andrea Shapiro, Educational Consultant

How can we use technology to bring Jewish learning and texts to people anywhere in the world? Hear how on-line technology is expanding the reach of Jewish education from Joshua Troderman of ShalomLearning, Deborah Skolnick Einhorn of Hebrew College, and Andrea Shapiro.

Using Imagination and Enactment of Israeli Literature as a Way to Enhance Communication Skills and Self-Confidence for Children (In Hebrew For Hebrew Speakers)

Dr. Dana Albert-Proos, Expressive Arts Therapist and Educator

This experiential workshop will provide practical tools for enhancing children's imagination through classical and modern Israeli children stories, dramatic play, and movement. The workshop will put an emphasis on how this kind of work can improve one's social skills, develop better communication skills and improve children's self-esteem and sense of self. The workshop will be led in Hebrew and designed for educators working with children 5-8 years old.

סיפורת עברית עם דגש רגשי/חברתי- שימוש בדמיון וביטוי יצירתי של סיפורים כדרך לשיפור יכולות חברתיות וביטחון עצמי אצל ילדים.

ד"ר דנה אלברט-פרוס, תרפיסטית באומנויות, מרצה ואשת חינוך.

סדנה חווייתית בה תוכלו להתנסות ולקבל כלים פרקטיים לעבודה עם ילדים (בהתמקדות לגילאי 5-8) דרך סיפורת עברית עם דגש רגשי/ חברתי. בסדנא נחווה איך השימוש בדמיון והביטוי היצירתי (המחזות הספר, תנועה וביטוי פיס, שימוש באביזרים ועוד) יכול לא רק ליצור לימוד חווייתי וכיפי אלא גם לתרום ליכולת של הילד לבטא את עצמו, להתנסות דרך עולם הדמיון בסיפור ובמשמעויותיו השונות ולשפר מיומנויות רגשיות וחברתיות. הסדנא תועבר בעברית.*

The Joy of Sharing Rabbinic Stories with Young Children

Rabbi Elliot Goldberg, Visiting Scholar, Brandeis University Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education

The Talmud is filled with stories. Sharing these stories with our youngest learners is an effective way to nurture Jewish identity and literacy, and to connect children to contemporary Jewish practices and values which have been shaped in significant ways by rabbinic Judaism. For example, we often tell the story about Hillel summarizing the Torah while standing on one foot as a way to teach about his answer: "What is hateful to you, do not do to others; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn." In this session, we will study a Talmudic story that focuses upon our responsibility to clean up after ourselves and explore how, and in what context, it might be integrated into a child's learning experience with the aim of developing a methodology for integrating rabbinic narratives into early childhood education.

Workshop Session 5 (7 concurrent sessions)

2:15 – 3:15pm

Beyond Teaching Hebrew as the Language of the Book: Major Debates about Second Language Acquisition and Teaching

Dr. Shiri Katz-Gershon, Adjunct Faculty of the Shoolman Graduate School of Hebrew College

Teaching Hebrew remains a challenge in spite of time, energy and economic investments from families and Jewish communities across the US. For decades, Hebrew was taught solely as the language of the book and thus was used as such. We will look at pivotal debates on the way to teach Hebrew beyond the language of the people of the book. What are cognitive advantages gained from learning Hebrew as a second language? What do new studies on the way we learn teach us on how to teach?

"The World is Built on Loving Kindness" (Psalm 89:3): The Book of Ruth

Ina Regosin, Founder and former director of the Early Childhood Institute of Hebrew College

The Book of Ruth presents the only model of a mother and daughter relationship in the Tanakh -- yet it is not a biological one; rather it is a bond based on hesed (loving kindness or devotion). In this learning session, we will explore the triumvirate of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz as they together rebuild the world around them after tragedy, and discuss the model for change that they represent for us as "people of the book."

From Building Blocks to Building Community: Fostering a Sense of Belonging

Avital Fux, Community Engagement Manager, Israeli American Council (IAC), Vicky Benedek, Director, Jewish Preschool of Lexington and Lindsay Harvey, Director, Yal-Day-New

In the Ethics of the Fathers (Pirkei Avot 2:4), Hillel teaches that we should not separate ourselves from the community. Current research suggests that social connection is required for the well being of the individual and the community. Moreover, today more than ever, people in America feel lonely and disconnected. During this session, we will share different strategies that schools can use to foster a sense of community and belonging amongst families in early learning centers.

Jewish Storytelling Comes Alive

Sarah Ruderman Wilensky, PJ Goes to School Educator, and Lisa Litman, Director of PJ Goes to School

This session will explore the roots of Jewish storytelling and dramatic interpretation of text, both classical and modern. We will delve into the psychology and skill-set development of storytelling and dramatic play for children and adults. Participants will create a movie based on one of our PJ Library books.

Holding Torah in Our Hand:

'Using Puppets and Props to Engage Young Children in the Weekly Torah Story

Sharon Cores and Martha Deitsch, Teachers at The Jewish Preschool of Lexington

Punch and Judy or Esther and Haman? Pinocchio and the Whale or Jonah and the Big Fish? Bible stories have been dramatized for the masses for centuries, and evidence can even be found during the Middle Ages. Early childhood educators have used puppets and other story props to engage young children at circle time, to role play difficult social concepts, and to establish a non-threatening relationship with shy or withdrawn students. A story telling puppet can be a sock, a craft stick, a superhero character or a felt board family. Join us for a fun and creative hour of puppets and Torah.

Children's Israeli Songs and the Kodály Method

Dr. Mary Epstein, President Organization of American Kodály Educators, and Martha Sandman Holmes, Music Instructor

The Kodály method is an intentional approach to teach songs to children that has been implemented in Israel and the United States. This session will describe the origin and goals of the Kodály approach and give participants tips on how to use the Kodály method to teach children songs. Handouts from the music book, "One, Two, Three!" (*Achat, Shtayim, Shalosh!*) (www.oake.org/publications/) will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring a pitch pipe or tuning fork and wear comfortable clothing for movement.

In the Beginning...Creating a Solid Foundation (In Hebrew for Hebrew Speakers)

Liat Kadosh, Senior Advisor and Frieda Robins, Advisor, Hebrew at the Center

This session will be an exploration of how language is acquired during early childhood. The focus will be on the importance of the role of the early childhood teacher as mediator between the student and Hebrew. The presenters will share a suggested lesson structure and activities to promote speech in the target language. Teachers working with different learners (ages 3-8) will also gain insights into activities that encourage language acquisition.

בראשית : יצירת שפה משותפת ופעילה בעברית כבר מההתחלה

פרידה רובינס וליאת קדוש.

במפגש זה המנחות יובילו את המשתתפים לתובנות של יצירת שפה משותפת פעילה בעברית למן המפגש הראשון עם ילדים בגיל הרך.

תפקיד המורה לעברית כמתווך בין הילד לשפה והערך הנלווה לכך כבר בשלבים הראשונים.

המנחות יציגו מערך שעור מעשי ופעילויות מעודדות שיח כבר בתחילת הלימודים.

מורים לתלמידים שלומדים אחרת יוכלו גם הם לקבל מגוון רעיונות לפעילויות רוחביות המהוות תשתית להטמעת השפה.

PRESENTER BIOS

DANA ALBERT-PROOS, PHD

Expressive Arts Therapist and Educator. Dr. Albert-Proos has more than 12 years of experience working in various settings (schools, community based organizations, hospital setting, work-facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities), and with various populations (children, adolescents, adults, elderly, and families). Her areas of professional interest include: the application of the arts both in teaching and psychotherapy, group work, cross-cultural work, and working with life transitions (including migration). Dr. Albert-Proos earned her bachelor's degree in Education and Theater from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, and her M.A. in Expressive Arts Therapies from Lesley University, Cambridge. In addition, she completed her PhD in Expressive Therapies in Lesley University. Her dissertation title was: "Separation from and Reconstruction of Home: A Study of Immigrant Expressive Therapies" where she conducted an art-based research in which she examined the experiences of home in the process of immigration and the use of arts as a method of treatment. Dr. Albert-Proos has been teaching both undergraduate and graduate level courses for the last six years, and is strong believer in the power of the arts to affect and transform.

ELLEN ALLARD

Recording Artist, Composer and Performer. One of the most influential musicians on today's Jewish music scene, she has been performing and teaching music to young children, adults and families for over 30 years. Her repertoire of over 300 songs is featured across 14 recordings and 7 songbooks; her music has been published by fellow singer-songwriters on 31 additional recordings and 11 books. Ellen's songs are sung in schools, synagogues and summer camps throughout the world, and are part of the curriculum for Hebrew Union College and Hebrew College. Ellen is a regular faculty member and presenter at Hava Nashira, Song Leader Boot Camp, NewCAJE, and the Hebrew College Early Childhood Conference; she regularly presents workshops, leads family worship, and performs on the Jewish Rock Radio stage at the URJ Biennial. Ellen holds a BA in music from Boston University and a master's degree in early childhood education from Arcadia University. Ellen is also a certified Holistic Health Coach, and a devoted yoga enthusiast, teaching baby/toddler yoga, Kidding Around Yoga and Yoga Yeladim for children.

LORRAINE POSNER ARCUS

Educational Consultant. Lorraine is nationally recognized for her work in the fields of Early Childhood Judaic curriculum as well as Israeli folk dance for children and teens. Lorraine taught kindergarten Judaica at the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy in Albany, NY for 30 years. Her book, "Torah Alive!" (Behrman House) is an experiential approach to teaching the Torah lessons and is reflective of her innovative and original curriculum. Lorraine is also the author of "*Zman Lirkod*-A Manual for Teaching Israeli Dance." Lorraine conducts Israeli dance leadership training programs for teens and adults. Lorraine is a 2001 recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award for Outstanding Creative Jewish Educators. Lorraine is currently a consultant for the Lorraine & Jack N. Friedman Commission for Jewish Education of the Palm Beaches.

RONIT BENSHER, MJED'16

Early Childhood Consultant inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. Originally from Israel, Ronit received her BA in Early Childhood Education from Oranim Academic College of Education, Israel. Ronit taught in Israeli schools in Boston for students K-6 and opened and served as founding director of the JCC Early Learning Center in Acton. Ronit was also the Director of the Early Learning Center at the JCC of Greater Boston in Newton.

In 2016, she completed her Master's Degree in Jewish Education at Hebrew College, with thesis research on early childhood explorations of the Jewish holidays informed by the Reggio approach.

DAVID BERNAT, PHD

Executive Director of Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, Lecturer in Judaic Studies at UMass Amherst and *Me'ah* instructor at Hebrew College. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation from Brandeis University. Dr. Bernat is the author of *Sign of the Covenant: Circumcision in the Priestly Traditions*, co-editor of *Religion and Violence: The Biblical Heritage* (with Jonathan Klawans, Boston University professor and previous *Me'ah* faculty member. He has been with the *Me'ah* program since 1997, and planned and led *Me'ah's* summer Israel Study tour. His research focuses on ritual and violence in Jewish texts and traditions.

PRESENTER BIOS (CONTINUED)

SHARON CORES, ECE CERT. '02

Lead Teacher, The Jewish Preschool of Lexington (JPL). Sharon is celebrating her 17th year as a teacher at the Jewish Preschool of Lexington, having previously obtained a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. Prior to receiving her Early Childhood Certification through the Early Childhood Institute at Hebrew College, Sharon developed and facilitated toddler playgroups, Tot Shabbat, and preschool religious school programs. Sharon especially loves introducing young children to the natural wonders and artistic representations of the world around them.

SIGALIT DAVIS

Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Language, Specialist in Curriculum Development and instruction of Hebrew. Coordinator: Hebrew Language & Culture program of Hebrew College. Sigalit 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 the Hebrew language from Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

MARTHA DEITSCH

Lead Teacher, The Jewish Preschool of Lexington (JPL). Her degree in Theatre and Art has been invaluable for creatively inspiring children in the Jewish setting. Martha created JPL's "Crafty Tuesdays" as an enrichment activity for the extended day program, offering an artistic outlet for extending the current week's theme or holiday celebration for three to five year olds. Martha's cherished "Torah Story" felt board collection has made JPL's weekly Parashat Ha Shavua come alive for children and teachers alike.

DEBORAH SKOLNICK EINHORN, PHD

Associate Dean for Academic Development and 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.

MARY ALLMON EPSTEIN, DMA

President, Organization of American Kodály Educators. She completed doctoral studies in 2013 at New England Conservatory. Her dissertation, "A music teacher education experiment: the Kodály Fellowship Program" was published by University of Michigan. Through a 1971 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Dr. Epstein studied the Hungarian Music Education System following which the Kodály Fellows presented workshops to Israeli music teachers at Hebrew College, Jerusalem. Dr. Epstein has taught all ages at the Elma Lewis School, Dorchester; New Haven Public Schools, CT; Park School, Brookline; New England Conservatory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Pine Manor and Anna Maria Colleges. She is an educational consultant and served on arts boards and search committees for children's choirs (Voices Boston and Boston Children's Chorus). She co-founded and directed the Kodály Music Institute at New England Conservatory and Anna Maria College. For over 30 years Dr. Epstein taught private piano. She is a pianist, vocalist, and choral conductor.



AVITAL FUX

Community Engagement Manager, Israeli American Council (IAC). Avital holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Educational Counseling -- Special Needs with honors from Tel Aviv University, Israel. She has worked as a Developmental Specialist for the Jewish Community Center (JCC), and as a Judaic studies teacher at Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton. She is a parenting consulting expert following the Adlerian approach. Avital has lived with her husband and three daughters in the US for the last ten years.

TAL GALE

Senior Program Director at Hebrew at the Center (HATC). Tal came to HATC with diverse experience in Jewish education across North America and in Israel. She has worked in both formal and informal educational settings across a broad range of audiences with a focus on educational leadership and Hebrew language acquisition. Tal has a BA and MA in Near Eastern Judaic Studies with a concentration in Hebrew Literature and pedagogy from Brandeis University. She has also pursued post-graduate studies at Tel Aviv University in Hebrew Literature and at UCLA in Educational Leadership.

Prior to working at HATC, Tal served as North American Program and Education Director of the Diller Teen Fellows Program where she managed local teen leadership programs in collaboration with 10 North American Jewish Federations (SF, Baltimore, Boston, LA, NJ, Montreal, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Miami and Chicago) and promoted partnerships between local programs and their respective Israeli partner communities. Tal's work includes publications on the topic of Jewish Peoplehood and contributions to the Peoplehood Education Toolkit, a Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education and a UJA Federation initiative. In addition to her work, Tal serves on the Board of Directors of the Council of Hebrew Language and Culture in North America.

DENA GLASGOW

Director of Faculty and Curriculum Development in the Adult Learning division of Hebrew College. Before joining Hebrew College, she worked for five years as director of the Boston-area Jewish Education Program, a Sunday school community at Brandeis University. She served for many years as a member of the PJ Library Book Selection Committee. As a mother of four children, Glasgow particularly enjoys her work designing curriculum and teaching for Parenting Through a Jewish Lens. She holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a master's degree in Jewish studies and Jewish communal service from Brandeis University. Currently Dena is also a Rabbinical student at Hebrew College.

SANDY GOLD

Director of the Temple Shir Tikva Early Learning Center. Prior to her current position, Sandy was a full-time instructor in the education department of Framingham State University for nine years where she taught methods classes in both the undergraduate and post baccalaureate programs and supervised 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 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.



PRESENTER BIOS (CONTINUED)

RABBI ELLIOT GOLDBERG

Visiting Scholar at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University and a consultant for the Legacy Heritage Instructional Leadership Institute of the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Rabbi Goldberg received a Wexner graduate fellowship to study at JTS, from where he received rabbinic ordination and MA in Jewish education. He is a graduate of the Senior Educator Program (Hebrew University) and the Day School Leadership Training Institute (JTS). Rabbi Goldberg has worked in leadership positions in Jewish day schools for more than two decades and has spent many summers at Ramah camps, including Camp Ramah New England, upon whose board he now sits. His current research is about the teaching and learning of rabbinics in Jewish early childhood and elementary school settings.

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

Gateways Director of Coaching and Consultation. Sherry joined Gateways in 2009. She coaches directors, facilitates Communities of Practice (CoPs) and develops professional training opportunities cultivating Gateways Center for Professional Learning including the Madrichim Train the Trainer Program for educators working with teens to serve their religious schools more effectively. As a senior educator, consultant, coach and program manager, Sherry's career spans 35 years in Jewish educational settings. Sherry has a Bachelor in Psychology from Simmons College, a Master in Education in Early Education and Special Needs from Tufts University's Eliot-Pearson School of Child Study, and a Master in Judaic Studies from Hebrew College. She has Massachusetts certification in Early Education and Care, Director Level II, and State Teachers' certification.

LINDSAY HARVEY

Director, Yal-Day-New. Lindsay Harvey joined Yal-Day-New in 2009, after graduating from Syracuse University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Psychology. She continued her studies in Early Education, receiving a Director II licensure by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. As a member of the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Educators Connection, she embarked on an educational trip to Israel with Hebrew College in February 2014 to enrich the Israeli culture and Hebrew curriculum at the school. She recently created and built a brand new facility, and relocated Yal-Day-New in September to 300 Western Avenue in Allston/Brighton, expanding in capacity and services.

JEFF HOFFMAN, PHD

Professor in MIT's Aeronautics and Astronautics Department. He received a BA in Astronomy (summa cum laude) from Amherst College; a PhD in Astrophysics from Harvard University; and an MSc in Materials Science from Rice University. As a NASA astronaut (1978-1997) he made five space flights, becoming the first astronaut to log 1000 hours of flight time aboard the Space Shuttle. He has performed four spacewalks, including the first unplanned, contingency spacewalk in NASA's history (STS 51D; April, 1985) and the initial repair/rescue mission for the Hubble Space Telescope (STS 61; December, 1993). In 2001, Dr. Hoffman joined the MIT faculty, where he teaches courses on space operations and space systems design. In 2007, Dr. Hoffman was elected to the US Astronaut Hall of Fame. In 2017 Dr. Hoffman was inducted into the Jewish Hall of Fame.

MARTHA SANDMAN HOLMES

Music Instructor. Martha did her undergraduate study at Syracuse University, and has a Master of Music degree in Kodály methodology from Holy Names University. Martha has taught music and directed choirs in public and private schools, from pre-K to 8th grade for over 30 years, and taught music at several Jewish camps and synagogues around the country. She has published 3 children's choral pieces, several articles on music education, and recently edited "One, Two, Three!" (*Achat, Shtayim, Shalosh!*).

KAT HORION

Lead teacher, Jewish Creative Preschool in Newton Massachusetts and Associate of Second Nature Design. Kate brings her passion for nature curriculum to the Jewish Creative Preschool, a Reggio inspired preschool. She has taught infants and toddlers through elementary school, in both Jewish and public school settings. During her 10 years as the lead toddler teacher at Temple Shalom Nursery School in West Newton, she took an active role in designing the school's outdoor space and nature curriculum, specifically implementing it for toddlers. Her toddler classes spent a majority of their time outdoors in all kinds of weather, engaged in curriculum activities and investigation. She has been the subject of a Nature Explore national website blog, "Kat Gets It," written by Dex Lane, a Nature Explore Education Consultant/Journalist. She continues to cultivate new knowledge through participation in the JCC Infant Toddler Community of Practice. Kat has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of Massachusetts (Amherst/Boston) and a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Lesley University.

LIAT KADOSH

Senior Advisor at Hebrew At The Center (HATC). Liat has over 25 years of experience teaching Hebrew to students and adults in Israel and the United States. She has been involved with HATC since its founding in 2007 and is a member of HATC's Educational Leadership Team. Liat has worked with multiple schools throughout North America and served as the coordinator of the Atlanta Regional Hebrew Initiative. Currently living in Atlanta, Georgia, Liat is the Director of Hebrew at Atlanta's Jewish Academy. Previously, Liat was the Hebrew Language Director at The Epstein School (Middle School), Hebrew Language Coordinator at the Yeshiva High School of Atlanta, and a Hebrew language instructor at Emory University in Atlanta. Prior to moving to Atlanta, Liat taught Hebrew, wrote curriculum, and coordinated Hebrew language instruction support for students with special needs at the New Jewish High School (Gann Academy), in Waltham, MA. In Israel, Liat served as Director of the Ulpan at the Givat Washington High School campus and subsequently as co-director of the School.

Liat holds a BA, Teaching License, and Educational Leadership Diploma from Bar Ilan University and an MA in Jewish Education from Siegal College of Judaic Studies, Ohio. She is also an ACTFL-certified OPI tester.

SHIRI KATZ-GERSHON, PHD

Adjunct Faculty of the Shoolman Graduate School of Hebrew College. Shiri's areas of expertise and research are the fields of memory and first and second language acquisition. Dr. Katz-Gershon earned her BA and MA at Tel Aviv University in Cognitive Psychology focusing on aphasia and team-developed memory enhancement workshops. Dr. Katz-Gershon studied Dyslexia at Wayne State University (Michigan), and completed a Masters in Linguistics. Her PhD dissertation examined ways that infant-directed speech in African American English and Standard American English facilitates word segmentation in that cohort. In Boston, Dr. Katz-Gershon did post-doctoral work at the Judge Baker Children's Center on the behavioral and emotional effects of the attrition of Spanish in a population of children from Spanish speaking homes, showing the criticality of maintaining a child's mother tongue. Dr. Katz-Gershon has taught a variety of courses in cognitive psychology, speech perception and research methods at Northeastern University, Lasell College and Emerson College. While teaching part time in universities, she also taught and promoted the study of Hebrew as a second language to children with learning disabilities at local Jewish day schools.

LISA KRITZ

Director Hertz Nursery School, Sharon, MA 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. Lisa received the BJE Keter Torah Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Work in outdoor classroom development with a concentration on "Jewish Outside" is a current passion of Lisa's. Lisa attended the Nature Explore Leadership Institute in July 2017 and her outdoor classroom is now nationally recognized by Nature Explore. Lisa lives in Sharon with her husband Alan, has two married children and three grandchildren.

LISA LITMAN

Director of PJ Goes to School (PJGtS). PJGtS provides curriculum materials and professional development based on PJ Library books for Jewish preschools and K-2 programs throughout the United States. Lisa also writes music and continues to perform and direct musical theatre in the Philadelphia area. Lisa has a BA/BS from the University of Pennsylvania and a M.Ed. from Gratz College.

SANDY MILLER-JACOBS, EDD

Professor Emerita, Fitchburg State. Sandy spent most of her adult life teaching current and future teachers how to reach students with special needs to ensure success for both students and teachers. For almost 30 years at Fitchburg State University, she served as Professor of Special Education, Chairperson of the SPED department, Interim VP of Academic Affairs, and Academic Dean. After taking an early retirement, she shifted her sights to the Jewish community working at the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) of Greater Boston to initiate and expand inclusive educational settings in preschools, supplemental and day schools. She then served as a professor of Jewish Special Education at Hebrew College. She holds the rank of Professor Emerita in Special Education at Fitchburg State University, received the Keter Torah Award from the BJE and the S'fatai Tiftakh award from Hebrew College.

SUSAN MORREL

Director, Field Experience, Hebrew College Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education. Susan has a MA in Religious Education from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. Susan has over 25 years of congregational education experience, as well as work in Jewish camps and organizations. Susan last served as the Director of Education at Beth El Temple Center in Belmont, and she continues her work as a Jewish education consultant in the Greater Boston area. She is also a teacher educator and consultant in Philosophical Inquiry in Jewish Education (PIJE).

VIVIAN NEWMAN, ECE CERT '06

Educational consultant to PJ Library. Vivian is a member of the Book Selection Committee and the PJ Goes to School team and helps to develop educational materials that encourage deeper explorations of contemporary Jewish values. A graduate of Barnard College and Bank Street College of Education, Vivian is also the author of several children's books: "Ella's Trip to Israel" (Kar Ben, 2011), "Tikkun Olam Ted" (Kar Ben, 2013), and "Moti the Mitzvah Mouse" (Kar Ben, 2017).

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

Judaic and Curriculum Specialist, Temple Ohabei Shalom Trust Center for Early Education and co-founder of Second Nature Design. Johanna Perlin has been an educator in the field of Jewish early childhood education for over 30 years. Johanna has been director of the Temple Shalom Preschool, Striar Hebrew Academy, and the JCC Nursery School in Sharon, Massachusetts. While Director of Temple Shalom Nursery School for eighteen years, she followed her passion for connecting children with nature. During her tenure at Temple Shalom Nursery school she led the program to become the first school in Massachusetts to be awarded Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom certification. Her work in leading the school to fully embrace Nature Curriculum has been featured in several blogs written by Education Consultant and Journalist Dex Lane, which can be found on the Nature Explore national web site. She holds a Master's Degree from Wheelock College in Early Childhood Education as well as a Jewish Early Childhood Education Certificate from the Early Childhood Institute of Hebrew College. Johanna is a long-time member of the early childhood professional organization NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), an active member of the Union for Reform Judaism Early Childhood Educators Organization and a member of the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Partnership.

ITTY PRUS

Founder and Director of Jewish Creative Preschool. Jewish Creative Preschool is a boutique Reggio inspired preschool in Newton, MA. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Itty has been involved in Jewish education and communal work for over eight years. Currently, Itty is the Educational and Program Director of Beth Menachem Chabad of Newton. In addition to overseeing the preschool, Itty founded an active teen group called CTeen and organizes popular community-wide holiday events for hundreds of attendants. In her free time, Itty enjoys baking, cooking and hosting guests for Shabbat. Itty has been featured on Channel 7's "What's Cooking" segment, making Chanukah Latkes and Passover Brisket.



Summer Vacation
חופשת קיץ

REBECCA REDNER

Educational Specialist and Author. Rebecca began her career in special education as a high school volunteer at Gateways: Access to Jewish Education in 2003. After graduating from Boston University with a degree in Special Education in 2008, Rebecca returned to Gateways as a teacher. In addition to teaching in the Gateways Jewish Education Program, Rebecca has created the resources available on the Gateways website, <https://www.jgateways.org>, and is the author of *The Gateways Haggadah* and the *Gateways Shabbat Family Companion*. Rebecca is pursuing her Master's in Jewish Education at Hebrew College.

INA REGOSIN

Adjunct Faculty, Hebrew College. A national leader in the field of early-childhood education, Ina Regosin is the founding director of the Early Childhood Institute in the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education. Ina is a veteran Jewish educator who has worked in all aspects of Jewish education, from day schools to Jewish camps, and served Hebrew College as Dean of Students and Acting Dean of the Shoolman school. She holds an M.S from Wheelock College, is a graduate of Machon Greenberg and has done advanced Judaic study at Yeshiva University and JTS.

FRIEDA ROBINS

Advisor at Hebrew At the Center, ELLOPA trainer at the Center for Applied Linguistics and independent consultant in Hebrew education. Frieda was the Lead Educator of Ma'alot, Early Childhood Hebrew Immersion Network at the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), also funded by The Covenant Foundation. At JTS she also directed a program of Judaic Enrichment for Early Childhood Educators. These pilot programs were later replicated in various educational settings throughout the country. Frieda has also served as Director of Early Childhood Programs at Camp Ramah of New England. Before joining JTS, Frieda taught at the New City Jewish Center for 16 years in the religious school, preschool, Hebrew for adults, and at Rockland Community College. She holds a Masters in Jewish Education from JTS and was a doctoral candidate in Jewish Education there. Her research interests include early childhood Jewish education and Hebrew language education and evaluation. Frieda concentrates on professional development for early childhood educators both in Hebrew Proficiency education and assessment and in Judaic studies. She has published studies on the Hebrew language immersion program at Camp Ramah, Judaic enrichment as change agent and scholarly research in Hebrew Immersion.

DEVORA ROHR

Shabbat Educator at Temple Aliyah in Needham. Devora has spent her life teaching and engaging children at synagogue schools, community programs, Boston public schools and Jewish summer camps and family camps. Most recently, Devora has worked with children with special needs at Tikvah Family Camp at Ramah Poconos, as the Director of Education at Camp Young Judea Sprout Lake, and currently teaches and leads family prayer at various Boston area synagogues. Devora leads upbeat, dynamic, interactive services based in the liturgy and texts of Jewish tradition. Currently Devora is a Legacy Fellow in the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education at Hebrew College.

SARAH RUDERMAN WILENSKY

PJ Goes to School Educator at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Sarah is 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 StorahTelling 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.

ADVA SCHNEIDER

Learning Disabilities Specialist. Adva has 10 years of experience teaching children ranging in age from early childhood to high school with learning disabilities. She completed her BA in special education at the Seminar Kibbutzim College of Education and completed her master's degree in learning disabilities and educational intervention at Beit Berl College. She also acquired an NDFA, a diploma in the Rami Katz neurodevelopmental approach to learning. Adva integrates this approach into educational frameworks that she designs and in which she works. Adva also studied and specialized in didactic diagnosis, and was the owner of a private clinic for learning disabilities for parents, teachers and students.

ANDREA SHAPIRO

Jewish Education Consultant. Andrea has spent the last 9 years teaching infants through preschool aged children in secular and Jewish settings. She graduated from Hofstra University in 2008 with a dual degree in early and elementary education and psychology. Currently Andrea is pursuing her Master's degree in Jewish Education with a specialization in Early Childhood Education from Hebrew College. After spending two weeks in Israel with the Boston Haifa Early Childhood Educators Connection, she was inspired to write two children's books based on her experiences while travelling. Andrea is on the advisory committee for the Boston Haifa Early Childhood Educators Connections and is an ECE Annual Conference Coordinator Intern.

RABBI MICHAEL SHIRE, PHD

Chief Academic Officer, Hebrew College; Dean, Shoolman Graduate School and Jewish Studies Program. Michael Shire joined Hebrew College in 2011 as professor of Jewish education and Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education. In July 2015, he assumed the additional responsibilities of chief academic officer of the college and dean of the graduate programs in Jewish studies. Shire received his Rabbinic Ordination from Leo Baeck College and his Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Shire has published widely in the field of religious growth and development as well as the Jewish theology of childhood. He has also published four books of creative liturgy with medieval illuminations in association with the British Museum. He and his wife, Rabbi Marcia Plumb, have two children.

JOSHUA TRODERMAN

CEO of ShalomLearning. Joshua has been a passionate innovator of Jewish education for the last 17 years. Josh has held teaching and administrative positions at a number of Jewish day schools, synagogues, and summer camps, including The Rashi School, The Rodeph Shalom Day School, The Keshet Community Hebrew School, The Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor High School, Congregation Kehillath Israel, Camp Ramah, Camp Edward Isaacs, and StorahTelling. Since 2009, Josh has also directed JChoice.org, a giving platform that empowers Jewish youth to learn about and experience the mitzvah of Tzedakah. Josh holds a master's degree in Jewish Education (2005) from The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education. He lives in Brookline, MA with his wife and two children, and can be seen playing keyboards and singing vocals in his artist residency at The Ellis Room—every Thursday night with his band called The New Mother Earth.

RABBI JULIE ZUPAN

Director of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Reform Jewish Outreach Boston. The mission of URJ's Reform Jewish Outreach Boston is to support interfaith couples and individuals exploring Judaism through classes and workshops. Rabbi Zupan is especially devoted to helping interfaith families and those new to the Jewish community access the deep wisdom of Jewish tradition. She is grateful for the opportunity to guide and accompany couples, individuals, and families on their spiritual journeys. Rabbi Zupan received an M.A. from Tufts University in 1991 and a M.A.H.L. and rabbinic ordination from HUC-JIR in 1999. She has served as a congregational rabbi, elder care chaplain, and as an educator in a variety of settings. Her pronouns are she, her, and hers.



The Early Childhood Institute

Leader and innovator in early childhood
Jewish Education since 1987



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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 - ECE Cert. `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

We hope you enjoyed the 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 | Summer 2018

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 | Spring 2018

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

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 584: Hebrew in Jewish Education

Decades of worldwide research in language acquisition recognizes childhood second-language acquisition not just as an end – seeing the world with a second set of eyes – but also as a means for cognitive and emotional growth. Teaching Hebrew in early childhood opens a door for cultural and communal connections, as well as enhances cognition by strengthening mental functions such as working memory and phonological segmentation. In this course, we will examine controversies in language acquisition relevant to teaching Hebrew in different settings. In each of these issues, we will explore a variety of solutions, some that were the common practice for decades and some newer.

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 and 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.

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



Dr. Jeff Hoffman reading torah in space inside 1996 space shuttle Columbia.

For more photos and videos, visit  [spacetorah](https://www.facebook.com/spacetorah)
spacetorahproject.com

Thank You

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