

P R E S E N T E R B I O S - D r a f t

ELLEN ALLARD

Ellen, a multi award-winning Performer, Music Educator, Composer, and Coach educator is one of the most influential musicians on today's Jewish music scene. Traveling throughout the US and abroad, Ellen has been performing and teaching music to young children, adults and families for over 40 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 recordings and 11 books. Ellen's songs are sung in schools, synagogues and summer camps worldwide, and are part of the curriculum for Hebrew Union College, Hebrew College, Jewish Theological Seminary and Aleph. In addition to presenting workshops and keynotes on the importance of music in the lives of young children, Ellen is a regular faculty member and presenter at Hava Nashira, Song Leader Boot Camp, NewCAJE, and the Hebrew College Jewish Education Conference; she regularly presents workshops, leads family worship, and performs on the Jewish Rock Radio stage at the URJ Biennial. She is a cantorial soloist at Mishkan Tefila, Brookline, MA, is certified as a holistic health coach, teaches Yoga Yeladim children's yoga classes and Rhythm 'n' Ruach children's music classes. Ellen holds a BA in music from Boston University and a master's degree in early childhood education from Arcadia University.

GILAD AMSHALOM

Gilad Amshalom is a Speech Language Pathologist and Infant Mental Health Specialist at Boston Medical Center; Fellow in the Infant-Parent Postgraduate Fellowship at UMass, Boston; and Infant Mental Health Counselor in the Early Intervention Program of Riverside Community Care in Somerville. Gilad holds a BA from Haifa University and a Master's degree from Hebrew University (Jerusalem) in infant and early childhood mental health. Gilad joined the Infant-Parent Mental Health Postgraduate Fellowship/Certificate Program at University of Massachusetts Boston in March 2019. For the past seven years, Gilad has worked closely with infants and their families, as well as with educational staff and governmental programs.

Recently, Gilad contributed to the Israeli Health Ministry's plan for early childhood education renewal and policy revision by helping to construct a three-year blueprint of an ideal early childhood in Israel. The plan addressed the issue from four perspectives: theoretical, economic, practical and ethical. Central to his plan was an emphasis on the children's relationship with his surroundings.

Gilad has volunteered at the SPARK Center (Supporting Parents and Resilient Kids) at the Boston Medical Center and works as a Mental Health Clinician in the Early Intervention Program in the Riverside Community Care of Somerville, MA.

RABBI SHARON COHEN ANISFELD

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld became President of Hebrew College in July 2018, after being appointed President-Elect in fall 2017 and serving as Acting President from January-June

2018. Rabbi Anisfeld first came to Hebrew College in 2003 and went on to serve as Dean of the Rabbinical School for eleven years, from 2006-2017. Rabbi Anisfeld graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1990, and subsequently spent 15 years working in pluralistic settings as a Hillel rabbi at Tufts, Yale and Harvard universities. She has been a regular summer faculty member for the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel since 1993 and is co-editor of two volumes of women's writings on Passover, "The Women's Seder Sourcebook: Rituals and Readings for Use at the Passover Seder" (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2002) and "The Women's Passover Companion: Women's Reflections on the Festival of Freedom" (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2002). From 2011 to 2013, she was named to Newsweek's list of Top 50 Influential Rabbis in America. In 2015, Rabbi Anisfeld was named one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world by The Jerusalem Post. She writes and teaches widely, weaving together Torah, rabbinic commentary, and contemporary poetry and literature in her wise and compassionate approach to the complexities of the human experience and the search for healing and hope in our beautiful but fractured world.

LUCY BANERJI

Lucy Banerji, Director of Temple Shalom Nursery School (Newton, MA), studied Psychology and Sociology of Childhood at Saratov State University, Russia (equivalent to a Ph.D. in Sociology of Childhood.) She is passionate about the topics of children's rights, inclusion and cultural construction of quality concepts in early childhood education. Lucy's professional experience includes work in preschool settings, academic research, and teachers' training. In her early career, Lucy taught Psychology and Social Pedagogy in Saratov Pedagogical College and led professional development courses for early childhood educators. After immigrating to the United States, Lucy worked at Tufts Educational Daycare Center, a laboratory school at Tufts University, as a mentor teacher.

RABBI JETHRO BERKMAN

Rabbi Berkman, Dean of Jewish Education, Gann Academy (Waltham, MA), is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), where he was a Wexner fellow. Rabbi Berkman has since joined the Reform movement's rabbinical association. He studied at the *Yakar* Center for Tradition and Creativity, the Harvard Divinity School, the Hebrew University, the *Pardes* Institute, the Conservative Yeshiva and *Machon* Schechter.

Prior to his studies at RRC, he worked for several years both in Israel and America for Seeds of Peace, an organization that helps teenagers from regions of conflict learn peacemaking skills. In his role as Dean of Jewish Education at Gann Academy, he has become increasingly interested in thinking about how Jewish wisdom and practices support human thriving and how Jewish living and learning at Gann help our students to thrive as human beings.

DAVID BERNAT, PHD

Dr. Bernat is 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.

Yael BOIM-FEIN

Yael Boim-Fein, the Founding Director of the Israeli Institute for Gender Equality in Education, is an educational entrepreneur, and a specialist in the field of gender and education. Yael founded and directed the education department at Beit Avi Chai, and has an academic background in Media and Culture studies, Gender studies and Pluralistic Education. Yael is an executive member of the international Gender and Education Association (GEA), and a graduate of the Mandel School for Educational Leadership and the American State Department's leadership program.

AMY BOLOTIN

Amy Bolotin is the Director of the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston (JCC) Early Learning Center, Brookline/Brighton. A graduate of Bank Street College of Education's Infant and Parent Development program, Amy has been working with very young children and their families for more than twenty-five years. In addition to her work at the JCC Greater Boston, she works with JCCA faculty at the Sheva Center to support JCC directors around the country create and sustain quality Jewish early childhood environments. Amy is involved with the Paradigm Project, a national organization that supports Jewish early-childhood educators, was a member of the third cohort of the Jewish Early Childhood Leadership Institute and facilitates a local community of practice for Jewish early childhood educators working with infants and toddlers.

RACHEL LEVITT KLEIN DRATCH

Rachel is Associate Director of Educational Innovation, of the Prizmah Center for Jewish Day Schools. Rachel has a Master's in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University, is a Mandel Jerusalem Fellow, participated in the Mandel Teacher Education Program, has an ELI talk, and has served as a scholar-in-residence in many communities. Rachel has served as a *Tanach* and Prayer teacher, Director of Professional Development, Teacher Mentor, Dean of students, Vice Principal, Student Life Coordinator, Israel guidance advisor and other meaningful roles at many amazing day schools including: Frisch, Ramaz, Maimonides, Fuchs Mizrachi, Berman Academy and *Beth Tfiloh*. Rachel has also been Director of SLED educational consulting, and spends her summers at Camp *Moshava IO* running drama and special programming.

TALIA ELLIOTT

Talia joined the Temple Shalom Nursery School six years ago and is currently the Judaic and Nature Curriculum Coordinator. Most importantly, Talia is passionate about working with children outdoors, and developing a gardening program through a Jewish lens. Talia's first language was Hebrew and she is alumnus of Solomon Schechter and the Prozdor program of Hebrew College. Having worked with children for over twenty years, including at the JCC in Brighton and at Congregation Mishkan Tefilla, Talia is also toddler and preschool teacher certified.

LINNA ETTINGER, MJED '12

Linna is Assistant Director of the Early Childhood Institute of Hebrew College, and also serves as supervisor of Field Experience I, Coordinator for the Annual Jewish Education Conference, and Facilitator and Coordinator of the Israel Education Community of Practice. She received her Master's in Jewish Education from Hebrew College and a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her informal Jewish education includes completion of the two-year *Me'ah* program of Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Hebrew College, completion of the two-year *Me'ah* Graduate Institute Certificate of Studies in Jewish Thought and Spirituality, and participation in the Community Leadership Program of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem since 2013. As co-chair of Adult Education at Temple Emunah for over a decade. She has been an advocate of the Shalom Hartman Institute video lecture series including iEngage, a series designed to equip rabbis with the sources and strategy needed to comprehensively teach about Israel in all of its complexity.

RABBI SAM FEINSMITH

Rabbi FeinSmith directs the Educating for a Jewish Spiritual Life and Clergy Leadership Programs at Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), and writes the weekly Hasidic Text Study track. He has been immersed in the world of Jewish contemplative living, learning, and teaching for over fifteen years, conducting Jewish meditation workshops and retreats for young children, teens, and Jewish educators and community leaders. He holds rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah and an MA in Talmud from Jewish Theological Seminar (JTS). Sam lives outside of Chicago with his wife and daughter, where he delights in the daily miracles of early childhood.

SANDY GOLD

Prior to her current position as Director of Jewish Education, Gateways Access to Jewish Education, Sandy was Director of the Temple Shir Tikva Early Learning Center in Wayland and was a full-time instructor in the education department of Framingham State University, 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 Jewish 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.

JONATHAN GOLDEN, PHD, MJED '97

Dr. Golden is Israel Curriculum Coordinator and American History Teacher, Gann Academy (Waltham, MA). During Dr. Golden's career at Gann, he chaired the History Department, served as Assistant Head of School and Director of Academic Operations, and mentored numerous teachers and department chairs. A graduate of Princeton University, he received his MJEd from Hebrew College and Ph.D. from Brandeis University. At Brandeis, he studied American Jewish history under the tutelage of Professor Jonathan Sarna. In 2007, Dr. Golden was the recipient of Hebrew College's Sydney Hillson Memorial Award for Distinguished Leadership in and Commitment to Jewish Education. In 2014, he received the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Boston Young Leadership Award. In 2018, he was given CJP's Chai in the Hub award honoring the contributions of young professionals and lay leaders in the greater Boston Jewish community. He is a member of the AJC New England Regional Board and he serves on the Steering Committee of AJC's Contemporary Jewish Life Commission and the Jewish Religious Equality Coalition (JREC). He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Camp Yavneh.

DR. ROBERTA LOUIS GOODMAN

Dr. Goodman is the Education Director at North Shore Congregation Israel (Illinois). She received her Master's degree in Jewish Education from HUC-JIR and her doctorate from Teachers College/Columbia University. A veteran educator, she has worked in a wide range of settings including as an evaluation consultant of Jewish early childhood and day schools.

RABBI DR. ARTHUR GREEN

Rabbi Dr. Green is Founding Dean and Rector of the Rabbinic School, and Irving Brudnick Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Religion at Hebrew College. Dr. Green is Professor Emeritus at Brandeis University, where he occupied the distinguished Philip W. Lown Professorship of Jewish Thought. He is both a historian of Jewish religion and a theologian; his work seeks to form a bridge between these two distinct fields of endeavor.

Educated at Brandeis University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he received rabbinic ordination, Dr. Green studied with such important teachers as Alexander Altmann, Nahum N. Glatzer, and Abraham Joshua Heschel, of blessed memory. He has taught Jewish mysticism, Hasidism, and theology to several generations of students at the University of Pennsylvania, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (where he served as both Dean and President), Brandeis, and now at Hebrew College. He has taught and lectured widely throughout the Jewish community of North America as well as in Israel, where he visits frequently. He was the founder of Havurat Shalom in Somerville, Massachusetts in 1968 and remains a leading independent figure in the Jewish Renewal movement.

MARION GRIBETZ

Marion Gribetz is Director of Educational Initiatives at Hebrew College. A member of the Hebrew College faculty since 1995, Marion is director of the Pardes Educators Program in the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education of Hebrew College. Gribetz has taught courses on a variety of topics in contemporary Jewish education and the place of art in 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

Sherry joined Gateways in 2009 and is a Gateways Senior Coach. She works 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 35 years in Jewish educational settings. Sherry has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Simmons College, a Master's degree in Education in Early Education and Special Needs from Tufts University's Eliot-Pearson School of Child Study, and a Master's in Judaic Studies from Boston's Hebrew College. She has Massachusetts certification in Early Education and Care, Director Level II, and State Teachers' certification.

KATE HOLDSWORTH-CLARKE

Kate is the Director of Gan Keshet Preschool, a Reggio-inspired Jewish community preschool in Northampton, MA; and a PJ Library Page to Stage Performer. Kate is passionate about partnering with children, families, and teachers to create a curriculum rich with opportunities for creative expression, exploration of the natural world, and celebrating the rhythms of the Jewish calendar. With an educational background in early intervention, curriculum development, the Reggio Emilia philosophy, art/theater, Kate is excited to continue her collaboration with her dear friend Felicia Sloin, as part of PJ Library Page to Stage. The Page to Stage project has allowed Kate with the opportunity to meld her experience as an educator and as a performer; bringing stories to life and inspiring children and fellow teachers to explore and expand their creativity and their connection to Jewish tradition.

KAT HORION

Kat is a Lead Teacher at Trust Center for Early Education at Temple Ohabei Shalom, in Brookline, MA and Associate of Second Nature Design. Katrine holds a Bachelor's Degree of Art from UMass Boston, and a Master's Degree in Early Education from Lesley University, and is a trained behavior therapist. Kat has over 15 years of teaching experience with children ages birth through grade 5, in both Jewish and secular settings.

Kat is an advocate for Nature Based Education for children of all ages, she has worked in the field of Jewish early childhood, and secular early elementary, school age vacation and after school care for nearly twenty years. She is an independent consultant.

She has had the pleasure of presenting nationally on the topic of nature and risky play opportunities. She has supported change and growth in the field of early childhood by participating in the EEC grant funded public conferences through EarlyEdCon and The Southeast Education Professionals Partnership of Massachusetts (SEEPP) grant over the past four years.

LEAH HOUGH

Leah is entering her third year at the Temple Shalom Nursery School. Leah is both Lead Toddler and Lead Preschool Teacher. She has the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential which she completed through Rasmussen College. Leah has 9 years of professional experience in early childhood education working at different preschools including Newton Childcare Academy and KinderCare in Needham.

AVRAHAM INFELD

Avraham is the President Emeritus of Hillel International– the Foundation for Jewish Campus life. He also serves as a consultant on Tikkun Olam to the Reut Institute, and is a member of the Faculty of the Mandel Institute. In May 2012, Avraham was elected Chairman of the Board of the Hillels of Israel. In 1970, Avraham founded Melitz, a non-profit educational service institution that fosters Jewish identity. He also served as chairman of Arevim; founding chairman of the San Francisco Federation’s Amuta in Israel; and chairman of the Board of Israel Experience, Ltd.

Avraham was also Director General of both Geshar Educational Affiliates, the Shalom Hartman Institute and served a three-year tour of duty in London as Director of the Jewish Agency’s Youth Department for English speaking Europe. Avraham was Birthright’s first International Director, and led the Planning Process which created one of the most successful and formative educational programs in the Jewish world. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University in Bible and Jewish History, and of Tel Aviv University’s Law School. In 2005, he was awarded the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s prestigious Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education. He was awarded honorary doctorates by Muhlenberg College and from Hebrew Union College for his contribution to the field of education.

SARAH KERSTEIN

Sarah is a Special Education Teacher in the Boston Public Schools; Inclusion Coordinator at the URJ 6 in Points Sci-Tech Academy; and Consultant and Coach, for Gateways: Access to Jewish Education Massachusetts. Sarah has worked in inclusive settings for the past decade. She has been the Inclusion Coordinator at URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, a full inclusion Jewish science and technology sleep away camp, since its founding 6 years ago. In addition, Sarah has worked in various capacities in synagogue schools, training teens and teachers to collaboratively support all students in their classrooms. In her work with Gateways, Sarah works with Education Directors, Teachers, and other community members to help them develop the skills necessary to support the needs of all students. Sarah received her undergraduate degree in

psychology from Tufts University and her graduate degree in special education from Lesley University.

HEIDI LOVITZ

Heidi, Director of Educational Programming at ShalomLearning, is an educator, education administrator, and curriculum developer dedicated to innovating Jewish education. Her experience includes Family Educator at Congregation Beth Elohim in Acton, MA for over 15 years, the Director of Jewish Life and Learning at Camp Tevya in Brookline, NH for 15 years, and Director of Education and Programming at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, NH. Heidi was one of the founding leaders of the Havayah program connecting teens from Boston, Haifa and Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. Heidi holds a BA in communication studies from the University of Massachusetts and has completed coursework towards a Master of Jewish Education at Hebrew College.

WALTER LYONS

Walter, a Mental Health Specialist for Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, has been working with in the fields of mental health and education for over forty years. He worked at McLean Hospital as a Mental Health Worker for five years and then as a child welfare social worker at Roxbury Children's Service before moving to education. Since then he has helped start new programs in Medford and Newton, including the Curtis-Tufts Academy in Medford, the Pilot Program in Newton North H.S. and Central High School, an alternative high school in Newton. He has worked as a special education director at Newton North H.S. and as a special education director in North Andover and at the Neighborhood House Charter school in Dorchester, middle and elementary schools. He also worked for two years as the coordinator for the Newton Public School's Suicide Prevention Program. Walter is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and has M.Ed. in School Adjustment Counseling and in School Administration.

JARED MATAS, MAT, JLDS '14

Dr. Matas is Director of STEAM Innovation at Boston's Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) and Director of J-STEAM for Jewish Interactive. He has almost two decades of experience teaching a wide range of students and content, including kindergarten, middle school history and early elementary engineering. Jared has served as an adjunct professor at a number of universities, teaching courses such as "Early Childhood Education" at Tufts University, "Teaching Tefillah" at Hebrew College, and "Teaching Hebrew with Technology" at Middlebury College. Additionally, Jared has worked as a consultant for a number of synagogues, leading efforts to innovate supplementary schools with project-based learning and STEAM integration.

Jared is the Director of STEM Innovation at the Boston Jewish Community Day School, where he leads school-wide initiatives in the areas of Design Thinking, project based learning, engineering and coding, and the Director of J-STEAM for Jewish Interactive, which gives him the opportunity to bring this work to schools across the country.

Jared has a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Brandeis University and received his doctorate in education from Hebrew College and Northeastern University.

LISA MICLEY

Lisa is the Program Director for the Online Judaic Studies Consortium (OJSC) at the Virtual High School (VHS, Inc.). She is involved in the design, development and delivery of the unique online Judaic Studies courses offered to students within the consortium. She works closely with all schools and teachers involved in the OJSC. Lisa has been active in Jewish education for four decades. She was on the faculty of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston and mentored teachers at the Prozdor of Hebrew College. As Director of Education for BabagaNewz, she was involved in the development of articles, programs and lessons on Jewish values and worked with congregational schools on ways to incorporate the magazine into the curriculum. She earned undergraduate degrees from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary before coming to Boston to pursue graduate study at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

SUSAN MORREL

Susan is Director of Field Experience at the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education of Hebrew College. A dynamic Jewish educational leader with over 25 years of congregational education experience, as well as work in Jewish camps and organizations, she is also a Jewish Education Consultant in the Greater Boston area. As a consultant for *Gateways: Access to Jewish Education*, Susan leads a community of practice for school directors, provides coaching for Jewish educators, and teaches in the B'nei Mitzvah program which prepares students with special needs for their bar/bat mitzvah. Susan holds an Executive Master's Degree in Religious Education from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

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

Johanna has been an educator in the field of Jewish early childhood education for over 35 years and is passionate about connecting children with nature. She is currently the Judaic Curriculum Specialist at Temple Ohabei Shalom Trust Center for Early Education. She is a partner in Second Nature Design, which provides staff training and consulting in both secular and Jewish settings to facilitate bringing children outdoors. In addition to presenting nationally, Johanna has done nature webinars for the Jewish Outdoor, Food, Farming & Environmental Educators (JOFEE) Fellows and for The Jewish Education Project (NY). She has also been a guest lecturer at both Mass Bay Community College and Bunker Hill Community Colleges. She is a certified trainer for Nature Explore Outdoor Classrooms.

Johanna holds a Master's degree from Wheelock College in Early Childhood Education, and a certificate from the Early Childhood Institute of Hebrew College.

RABBI DR. NEHEMIA POLEN

Rabbi Dr. Polen, Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew College, is a leading expert in Hasidism and Jewish thought. A widely published author, his books include The Holy Fire: The Teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto (Jason Aronson Inc., first ed., 1977); The Rebbe's Daughter (Jewish Publication Society, 2002), based on Polen's research as a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow and recipient of a National Jewish Book Award; and Filling Words With Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2004), written with Lawrence Kushner. Polen holds a doctorate from Boston University, where he studied with and served as a teaching fellow for Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. Prior to his career in Jewish academia, Polen served for 23 years as a congregational rabbi.

WILMA POYSER, MJED '19

Wilma is a Jewish Educator at Temple Aliyah (Needham, MA). She holds a BS in Business Management from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and a Master's in Jewish Education from Hebrew College. She participated in fellowships focusing on technology in Jewish education from CJP as well as the iCenter's Israel education program. As a teacher who has lived in both Israel and America, Wilma uses technology to bring Israel and Hebrew to life within her classroom through various applications of technology.

RACHEL RAZ, MJED '06

Rachel serves as the Director of the Early Childhood Institute of Hebrew College; Chair of the Annual Jewish Education Conference since its inception in 2011; and Director of the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Educators' Connection, a program sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) and the Haifa Municipality Department of Early Childhood Education. Rachel has designed and led educational seminars in Israel and Boston for educators and professionals.

Rachel is an active member of the Israeli-American Council (IIAC) Boston and serves on the advisory committee of the KESHET program of the National IAC. In addition, she is a board member of UMass Amherst Hillel; a member of Boston's Israel Academic Forum.

She is the author of the children books, ABC Israel (2012) and The Colors of Israel (2015), and the Executive Producer of the forthcoming educational documentary about Jewish astronaut Dr. Jeff Hoffman. Rachel has a BA from Bar-Ilan University, and MJED from Hebrew College.

REBECCA REDNER, MJED '19

Rebecca is an educational specialist at Gateways: Access to Jewish Education in Boston, where she has taught for over ten years. In addition to teaching Sunday school classes for students with special learning needs, Rebecca developed the current Gateways B'nei-Mitzvah curriculum and coordinates the Gateways B'nei-Mitzvah program. Rebecca is the author of two books that aim to make Jewish rituals accessible to people of all abilities: The Gateways Haggadah (2015),

and The Gateways Shabbat Family Companion (2016). Rebecca received a BS in special education from Boston University and an MEd from Hebrew College.

ANGELICA RONA

Angelica is the *Atelierista*/Art Teacher, at Soule Early Childhood Center (Brookline, MA). Early childhood education has always been Angelica's passion. Growing up in a large family in Mexico, she learned first-hand the importance of imaginative play and a sense of community. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Education, she moved to the United States to pursue a Master's degree from Lesley University in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis on integrating the arts in the curriculum. She previously worked at a Reggio Emilia-inspired preschool in Cambridge for ten years where she strengthened her interest in practicing the Reggio approach.

LYNNE RUBINGER

This is Lynne's eighth year at Temple Shalom Nursery School, where she is lead teacher. Lynne graduated from Hofstra University with a BA in Speech and Language Development, studying evaluation and therapy. She began her career working in the state schools with adults with severe developmental disabilities. Lynne has worked in several preschools, including the YMCA in Framingham and the JCC in Newton. She is an active participant of the Boston-Haifa ECE Connection and has participated in seminars in Boston and Israel.

RABBI MA'AYAN SANDS, RB '16, CFE '96, ZCPC '95, MAJS '93

Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands is the rabbi at Temple B'nai Shalom in Braintree, the visiting rabbi at Congregation Mishkan Tefillah in Brookline, and the rabbi at Providence House, an assisted living facility in Allston. Rabbi Ma'ayan received ordination from Hebrew College in 2016; previously, she received a Master's degree in Judaic Studies and certificates in Jewish family education and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) also from Hebrew College. Her "soul's work" is Jewish family education. Prior to entering rabbinical school, Ma'ayan was the Family Educator at Temple Israel in Natick, and the Director of Boston-Area Jewish Education Program (BJEP), an independent Hebrew School located on the campus of Brandeis University. During her ten-year tenure at BJEP she developed a nationally recognized K-7 Jewish Studies and Jewish family education curriculum. In both of Ma'ayan's children's books, "Nobody Ever Told Them They are Different" and, "Does God Have Ears that Really Work?" her desire is to support children and their adult readers to discuss challenging questions from the perspective of Jewish values.

ANDREA SHAPIRO, MJED '19

Andrea is the Dor Chadash (Young Family) Coordinator of Temple Emanuel (Newton, MA). In 2019 she received her Master's degree in Jewish Education with a specialization in Early Childhood Education (MJED-ECE) at Hebrew College. Andrea was an iCenter Fellow working on incorporating the best tools to engage children and families in Israel education. An active member of the Boston-Haifa Early Childhood Educators' Connection, Andrea has participated in

seminars in Boston and Israel. Andrea has spent the last 12 years working with young children and families as an early childhood educator. Over the past two years Andrea has developed a passion for early childhood education as it relates to Israel and has written two children books about her trips to Israel.

RABBI DR. MICHAEL SHIRE

Rabbi 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.

FELICIA SLOIN

Felicia is the Music Teacher at Gan Keshet Preschool and Lander-Grinspoon Academy; Cantorial Soloist of Congregation B'nai Israel (Northampton, MA) and PJ Library Page to Stage Performer. Felicia has an extensive background in Jewish life, education, and community building. She is an accomplished singer/songwriter and a self-coined children's 'entertainicator' using musical instruments, puppetry, sign language, and song to celebrate Jewish tradition with communities all over the East Coast. Felicia is the music teacher at the Lander-Grinspoon Academy and the cantorial soloist at Congregation B'Nai Israel in Northampton, MA where she helped to pilot Shabbat Shabloom, an outdoor musical Shabbat service for young children and their families. Together with her fellow puppeteers and educators, she writes and performs puppet shows based on popular PJ Library books as part of PJ Library Page to Stage.

MICHAL FOX SMART

Michal is an Associate Principal of Judaic Studies at Bi-Cultural Day School in Stamford, CT and Director of Ayeka North America. A recognized leader in innovation and curriculum design, Michal has received the Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education, the JEIC Education Innovation Award, and was one of the ten designers re-envisioning day school education on the Hakaveret Design team. She is the Editor of *Kaddish: Women's Voices* (Urim, 2013), winner of the 2013 National Jewish Book Award. Earlier, Michal pioneered Jewish outdoor and environmental education in this country. She is a founder of the TEVA Learning Center and co-author of [Spirit in Nature: Teaching Judaism and Ecology on the Trail](#) (Behrman House, 2000).

A Fulbright scholar in Jewish Thought, Michal received her B.A. from Princeton University in Religion and an M.S. from Cornell. She is also an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, the Melton Senior Educators Program at Hebrew University, and *Machon Pardes*.

ERICA STREIT-KAPLAN

Erica is Associate Director of Parenting Through a Jewish Lens at Hebrew College. A social worker by training, Erica Streit-Kaplan understands that supporting parents is key to nourishing children and strengthening families. In her five years at Hebrew College, she has been inspired to see how ancient Jewish wisdom and compassionate facilitation can support modern families today. She received her MSW and MPH degrees from Boston University.

VIVIAN TERKEL-GAT

Vivian is currently working in Community Teamwork in a Head Start program as an Education and Workforce Development Manager where she is leading strategic planning to support training needs for teachers. Over the previous 15 years, Vivian worked for the Israeli Ministry of Education as an early education counselor. As part of her work, Vivian served as a member of a multidisciplinary Early Education Board of the city of Petach Tikva. She led training workshops in social-emotional programs for kindergarten teachers and provided personal organizational consulting to the city's superintendent of early childhood education. Also, Vivian initiated a City Educational Entrepreneurship program that encouraged teachers and city employees to fulfill their professional dream.

Vivian has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Ben Gurion University and a Master's degree in Educational Counseling for Early Education from Tel Aviv University. In May of 2019, Vivian graduated from the Gender, Policy and Leadership program at University of Massachusetts, Boston. During her studies, Vivian interned with Strategies for Children, where she researched local governance models of different states.

FAYE TONKONOGY

Faye is the Director of Early Education at The Judy Gordon Early Learning Center at Temple Israel (Natick, MA). Faye has a degree in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College. She has worked in many different settings with young children and families and has a passion to help young children grow and learn. Partnering with parents in the child rearing journey is an interest of Faye's that has developed over the 30 plus years in the early education field. Most recently, Faye was a public school Kindergarten Teacher.

GINA TZIZIK

Gina is a long-time early childhood educator, teacher trainer with over 25 years of experience. She has been the Director of Soule Early Childhood Center in Brookline, MA for the past 10 years. She has lived and worked in Italy, Germany and the United States. Her philosophy of education has been profoundly inspired by the European view of the child and education, the teachings of Maria Montessori and the Reggio Emilia philosophies of education. She holds a Masters in Montessori Education from Endicott College and is currently completing a Masters in Jewish Early Childhood Education at Hebrew College.

RABBI STEPHANIE WOLFE, MJED, MJS '19

Rabbi Wolfe is the Jewish Wisdom Educator at The Lippman School in Akron, OH. She received her ordination from HUC-JIR in 1995 and her dual masters in Jewish education and Jewish studies from Hebrew College this past June.

RONIT ZIV-KREGER, PHD

As Director of Education and Leadership Development, Dr. Ziv-Kreger oversees Momentum's education, leadership development, and evaluation programs. She joined Momentum with over 20 years of experience in those areas.

Dr. Ziv-Kreger previously served as a consultant, helping Jewish institutions navigate systemic changes, adapting and implementing new pedagogies to manifest their educational vision. She is the founding designer and trainer of Hebrew College's congregational project-based learning professional development, and has taught for a range of innovative adult learning initiatives. Ronit is a graduate of the *Pardes* Jewish Educators Program, and holds a Ph.D. from MIT's Sloan School of Management.