

Shine a Light Jewish Education Team



Dr. Robyn Faintich, EdD (she/her) of JewishGPS, LLC served as the Project Manager for the Shine A Light Jewish education content. She has over 26 years of Jewish communal professional experience in areas that include youth movements, day schools, community teen initiatives, early childhood education, congregational family education and adult education. In August 2010, Robyn launched JewishGPS, LLC in an effort to help guide Jewish organizations in a variety of aspects of Jewish education. Robyn earned her Bachelor's in Journalism and Mass Communications at Drake University and a Masters' in Jewish Studies with a focus on Jewish Education at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies. She is a graduate of the Jim Joseph Foundation Fellowship with Bar Ilan University's Lookstein Center, which trained Jewish leaders to facilitate online Communities of Practice. Robyn completed a fellowship in the Senior Jewish Educators' Cohort of M2: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education. She has a Doctorate of Education from Northeastern University where her dissertation topic was "*Understanding How Under-Engaged Jewish Teens Self-Articulate and Self-Express Jewish Identity and Jewish Identification.*" She holds a Doctoral Certificate in Jewish Education Leadership from Hebrew College.



Erica Hruby (she/her) serves as the Executive Director of Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Network (JTEEN). Erica has worked for more than twenty-five years in the Jewish world. She has served as an educator, administrator, and consultant in many areas of Jewish life including two synagogues in the greater Atlanta area; BBYO and Beit Hamidrash (Hebrew High) in Orlando; Hillel at the University of Central Florida; the American Hebrew Academy (AHA) in Greensboro, North Carolina; and in several organizations and foundations specializing in Israel education, Jewish camping, and Jewish teen education and engagement. Erica also works as a parent and teen educator and coach, offering customized parenting education and she facilitates an online course she co-created called "PhD in Parenting Tweens and Teens." Erica holds a Bachelor's in Psychology/Religion from Stetson University and a Master's in Clinical Psychology from Argosy University.



Stephanie Marshall, RJE (she/her) has been engaging learners for 34 years. From toddlers to adults, Stephanie has worked as the Education Director at synagogues and Jewish agencies around the country, as the director of Jewish Day camps, as both an educator and faculty member at several Jewish sleep away camps, and has also spent many years as a youth group advisor. She has her Master's in Jewish Education from HUC-JIR, where she was awarded the Rabbi Mordecai and Eve Soloff Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Stephanie has also earned a certificate in Innovation and Change/Excellence in School Leadership from NewCAJE and is certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. She is currently based in Tulsa, OK.



Dr. Jennifer Newfeld, EdD (she/her) is the Chair of Jewish Life and a Rabbinics teacher in the middle school at the Charles E Smith Jewish Day School (CESJDS) in Maryland. Prior to working at CESJDS, she spent 13 years in synagogue education administration in New York, St Louis and Maryland, and many, many summers at a variety of Jewish summer camps. She is also an educational consultant and curriculum writer, and has worked with Shalom Learning, the St Louis and Washington DC Federations, ARJE and several synagogues. Jennifer holds an Doctorate of Education. in Jewish Educational Leadership from Northeastern University, a Master's from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a Master's of Education from George Mason University.



Keren Rhodes (she/her) is the Director of Communal Life and Learning at the Jewish Community of Amherst in Massachusetts. She has worked in the field Jewish education field for more than 15 years, and is a winner of the Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. She has worked with all ages, from tots to teens, and is passionate about finding inclusive ways to make Jewish education accessible to children of all abilities. She is also the owner and creative influence behind the innovative Jewish wood craft company, Keshar Crafts. Keren lives in Amherst, MA with her husband and two children.



Nike Silberstein (she/her) is a born and raised New Yorker who made aliyah to Tel Aviv 8 years ago. The pandemic inspired Nike to explore, live and work in various parts of Israel including the Jerusalem Hills and the Galil. She connected to the land of Israel and the Jewish laws of farming while working with FIG - Food Integrated Gardens. Prior to the pandemic, Nike worked on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz with the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation, interviewing *Shoah* survivors and connecting them to world wide press. Over the years, Nike taught in the Israeli school system, in Hebrew schools and online. Her work at the Foundation for Jewish Camp as a Cornerstone Educator, as well as her years as an Artistic Director in the Division of Informal Education at the Board of Jewish Education, focused on bringing Judaism to life through the arts. As a Communal Education Consultant at the Jewish Education Project, Nike built professional networks and facilitated professional development. Nike has her Master's in Jewish Studies, is a graduate of the Muehlstein Fellowship for Jewish Professional Leadership and earned an Israeli teaching certificate from Seminar HaKibbutzim. One of Nike's formative experiences was when she was 11 years old and joined the cast of *Immigranti*, a communal theater project which brought teens from the Former Soviet Union and the United States together. This experience anchored Nike in the importance of dialogue, Jewish learning and the desire to facilitate such opportunities for all age groups, denominations and settings.



Debra J. Siroka, RJE (she/her) has been a congregational educator and consultant for more than 25 years. Debra has served congregations in the Midwest, Northeast, and Pacific Northwest, and as an educational consultant and curriculum writer for the American Jewish Archives, The Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle, and the Union for Reform Judaism. Involved in the performing arts since elementary school, Debra has studied theatre, dance & voice, and appeared in a variety of productions. Her areas of professional expertise have included youth engagement, family & community programming, and integrating the arts into educational settings. *Just Theatre – Making a Scene*, her pioneering endeavor, evolved out of her twin passions for theatre and social justice, offering a transformative approach to cultivate critical conversations around issues of social concern. In addition to her innovative Jewish educational work, Debra has been a vitally active member of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators (ARJE) a variety of leadership roles. She now serves on the Reform Movement's Commission on Social Action as a representative from the ARJE and on the Faculty Commission for URJ Camp Kalsman. Debra is originally from Minneapolis and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Cincinnati with her Master's in Judaic Studies and a Master's of Education in Educational Administration. She resides in Sammamish, Washington, a suburb of Seattle, and is married with two grown children. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, bingeing Law & Order SVU, museums, and a good musical or dance concert.



In collaboration with The Jewish Education Project Staff:

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- **Judith Talesnick**, Managing Director, Professional Learning and Growth
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- **Nessa Liben**, Chief Advancement Officer
- **Michelle Sabzevari**, Accounts Payable Manager
- **Dina Nusnbaum**, Executive Assistant to the CEO
- **Keryn Warren**, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications
- **Gabriel Weinstein**, Project Manager, Digital Content & Communications

Addition gratitude to the content design and copy editing team:

- Layout and Design: **Luisa Viladas** luisaviladas@gmail.com
- Copy Editor: **Elyssa Hurwitz** elyssa.hurwitz@gmail.com

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**SHINE
ALIGHT**
on Antisemitism

The logo for "SHINE ALIGHT on Antisemitism" features a yellow sunburst graphic in the upper right corner. Below the graphic, the text "SHINE ALIGHT" is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font, and "on Antisemitism" is written in a smaller, blue sans-serif font below it.