

THE AERODYNAMICS OF COLLABORATION

Annual Yeshiva/Day School Day of Learning

Keynote Speaker Jennifer Gonzalez

Jennifer Gonzalez is a National Board Certified Teacher with over 10 years of classroom experience. Most of this time was spent teaching middle school language arts, and the rest was at the college level, where she trained pre-service teachers for the classroom. In 2013, she created the website Cult of Pedagogy, where she now works full-time to help teachers of all subjects and grade levels practice and perfect the art of teaching.



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Ellen Alt is all about the art. An exhibiting artist, her current work focuses on Climate Change, melting ice and television test patterns. She is the Artist in Residence at the Park Avenue Synagogue and the Art Coordinator for the Schechter Manhattan School. From 2004-2019 she was on the faculty of the Graduate Education Department of Brandeis University, teaching Creativity for the Classroom, and the Visual Arts Instructor for BIMA (Brandeis Institute for Music and Art), the precollege arts program for High School students. She lived in Israel for 15 years, facilitating concrete sculpture and mural projects with communities throughout the country and works with synagogues and educational institutions.



Dr. Tamar Andrews is the Director at Temple Isaiah Preschool in Los Angeles and Director of the ECE Degree Programs at the American Jewish University. She travels the world speaking on all aspects of education. Her current projects include research on Extreme Brain Vitality and how to create the perfect chocolate cake.



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Tamar Appel, Director of Education for Hidden Sparks, is a past Associate Principal of Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls in Teaneck, NJ, having served as a teacher and administrator for 18 years. An educational leader, she has created a culture of ongoing professional development, supportive and productive mentorship of faculty, and academic excellence. She also served as a mentor for school leaders through Prizmah's YOU Lead Program and for teachers through the Jewish New Teacher Project. Dedicated to her own professional growth she also has completed the Summer Institute for Principals at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Tamar is passionate and confident about the potential for growth in every student, teacher and school.



Dennis Desormier meets thousands of teachers each year in his workshops and school visits. His professional experience combines years of classroom teaching with curriculum and instructional design experience with several publishers and school districts. However, his greatest love in the education field is professional development for teachers, school leaders, and district leaders in the areas of mathematics and assessment. He has written/co-written most of the mathematics and assessment workshops currently presented by Catapult staff around the country as well as some of the STEAM workshops. He has a passion for balancing rigorous teaching and learning with a lighthearted environment.

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Wendy Gelsanliter helped develop the Materials Center at Beginnings Nursery School in 2007 and is currently the Materials Educator and Coordinator at Teaching Beyond the Square. Wendy has over thirty years of experience working with young children, including Associate Director of the Jewish Community Project's Early Childhood Center, Director of the Park Slope Child Care Collective and Assistant Director of Beginnings Nursery School in Manhattan. Wendy has taught children from ages eighteen months old through third grade at The Buckley School, Beginnings Nursery School and Blue School. Wendy holds her B.A. in English from Hamilton College and a M.S. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Bank Street College. In 2018, she participated in a study group in Reggio Emilia, Italy.



Justin Goldstein joined Sefaria as the Engagement and Learning Associate in 2022. Ordained in 2011, Justin served synagogues in Bangor, ME and Asheville, NC before co-founding Yesod Farm in 2020, a small farming project inspired by ancestral Jewish agricultural wisdom in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Bringing decades of experience in formal and informal learning environments, Justin comes to Sefaria with a deep passion for Jewish learning and for sharing Jewish wisdom with the world.



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Eve Goldschlag, Psy.D is a child psychologist working with families in the NY/Long Island area for over two decades. She supports families by addressing the many ways anxiety can impact and present itself in a child's life. Children come to her office experiencing anxiety and a host of accompanying problems including academic struggles, tension around food and eating, as well as social anxiety. Eve uses art, games, activities (and gentle humor) to help children learn essential skills. The overall treatment philosophy is a cognitive behavior framework with a large dose of compassion as well as a common sense approach to use what works for each family. To learn more reach out at: (516) 366-0030 or email her at evegoldschlag.com.



Anat Goodman is an award-winning educator and Instructional Technology expert. Anat earned her Masters in Educational Technology and has worked for the Israeli Ministry of Education as a National Counsellor for effective implementation of technology into the Israeli Education System. Since 2013 Anat has been VP Education and Israel Director at Jewish Interactive (JI).



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Hebrew at the Center aims to revolutionize the effectiveness of teaching and learning Hebrew in all educational settings, worldwide.

HATC engages institutions and professionals worldwide with the goal of advancing excellence in Hebrew teaching and learning. Our vision is a world where Hebrew is vibrant, celebrated, and pivotal to a thriving Jewish identity and the global Jewish community.



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Adam Jerozolim has an M.E. Mechanical Engineering from NYU. He specializes in mechanical engineering and systems design. Adam began his career designing nuclear submarines at General Dynamics before consulting for NYC Transit designing self-driving subway cars. Adam joined CIJE as a mentor in 2013 and has lead the development of many CIJE events including robotics tournaments and Drones Olympics.



Yonina Lerner has been teaching, laughing, and jumping around with students for over 15 years! She has taught multiple grades and served as her school literacy curriculum coordinator as well as mentoring new teachers. She is the founder and creator of Kidkoach - a place where teachers and parents can come together to support the children we share. Yonina coaches and mentors parents and teachers to become healthy advocates for their children and learn strategies and skills to help them succeed. To learn more about Kidkoach, head to kidkoach.net or to our Instagram page @kidkoach.



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Ella Metuki is a Jewish educator and actor with almost a decade of experience weaving together theater education with Hebrew, Israel and Jewish education. Ella is a curriculum writer specializing in game-based, project-based and creative education for tots, tykes and teens. Ella is currently the Manager of Online Educational Content at the Jewish Educator Project, bringing quality resources to educators worldwide through the Jewish Educator Portal.



Orly Nadler has a B.S. in Information Systems from Stern College, and an M.A. in Jewish Philosophy from YU. Prior to joining CIJE in 2018, Orly directed Educational Technology at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva HS for 10 years running the network, training teachers on the use of emerging digital tools and inaugurating a program putting the Arts in STEM. At CIJE, Orly sparks innovation, leading programs like the Design & Fab Collection, and the Girls' Future Engineers trip to Boston.



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David Seay has a B.A. in Communications from Central Washington University and an M.A., in Education from Capella University. David joined CIJE in 2022 after 20 years teaching multiple subjects grades K-12, most recently middle school math at Torah Day School of Phoenix. David is mentoring teachers with a particular focus on the math elements of CTMS, BYTES, and other CIJE programs.



Deanna Stecker, Hidden Sparks' differentiated instruction consultant, is a learning specialist with over 25 years of experience working in Jewish day schools, including Schechter Manhattan where she has been the Coordinator of Learning Support for the past 15 years. Her expertise includes guiding and mentoring educators, parents and students in the implementation of differentiated instruction across all subject areas, identifying and modeling high-impact evidence-based practices, and problem-solving around learning and behavioral challenges that impact student progress and school culture. Previously, she worked at the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) where she led professional development workshops and developed materials for educators and parents for Get Ready to Read!, NCLD's early literacy program. Deanna holds a Master's Degree in Applied Educational Psychology: Reading Specialist from Teachers College, Columbia University.



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Dr. Samantha Vinokor-Meinrath is the Senior Director of Knowledge, Ideas and Learning at the Jewish Education Project. A lifelong Jewish educator and learner, Samantha has lived and taught in Jewish communities in Israel, Washington DC, and Cleveland Ohio. She is a recognized expert on adolescent identity development, Israel education, antisemitism, and Generation Z. An award-winning educator, Samantha is an alumna of the University of Pittsburgh, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Gratz College. She is the author of *#antisemitism: Coming of Age During the Resurgence of Hate*. Samantha lives in Westchester with her husband, baby, and two beloved rescue dogs.



Heshy Wieder has a B.S. Psychology from Brooklyn College and an M.A. Education: Curriculum & Instruction from Adams State, with a NASA Endeavor STEM Certificate. Heshy has been an E2K/CIJE instructor since 2004. In 2015, he was the first runner-up in N.J., Non-Public School Teacher of the Year, and received the distinct honor of Teacher of the Year in N.J. for the Association of Jewish Day Schools.



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Sara Wolkenfeld is the Chief Learning Officer at Sefaria, an online database and interface for Jewish texts. Sara is also a fellow at the David Hartman Center at the Hartman Institute of North America, and is a member of Class Six of the Wexner Field Fellowship. Her previous experience includes serving as Director of Education at the Center for Jewish Life - Hillel at Princeton University as part of the OU's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus and serving on faculty at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. She studied Talmud and Jewish Law at many institutions of Jewish learning in Israel and America including Midreshet Lindenbaum, Drisha, Nishmat, and Beit Morasha and speaks on various Jewish topics at synagogues, schools, and university communities.



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