



## 2017 Annual Yeshiva Day School Day of Learning – PRESENTER BIOS

**Leyla Demirtas** - I am a professional artist and art educator. I have been teaching the Visual Arts, i.e. creating, appreciation, and its history, for over 25 years. I have been at my present position for over 18 years. Additionally, I run a business teaching the Visual Arts and creating commissioned/personal artwork for sale.

**Dennis Desormier** - Dennis meets thousands of teachers each year in his workshops through Catapult Learning. His professional experience includes years of teaching, curriculum design, and instructional design for several organizations. However, his greatest love in the education field is professional development for teachers in the areas of mathematics and assessment. He has written (or co-written) most of the mathematics and assessment workshops currently presented by Catapult staff around the country. His passion for rigorous but lighthearted teaching and learning comes through in every workshop he presents.

**Seth Dimbert** - Seth Dimbert, the founder of MRD: Education Technology, has more than 20 years experience in teaching and administration at all grade levels. He is a certified Google Educator and Trainer, a huge Apple nerd and holds an MS in Educational Leadership. Seth created the EdTech30, an online course for teachers, has worked for decades at IB and Blue Ribbon schools and is the founder of JEDcamp, the international series of teacher-driven professional development for faculty in Jewish Day Schools.

**Rena Eskowitz** - Rena has been teaching Early Childhood in Manhattan Day school for 5 years. She has her master's degree in Early Childhood and Special Education, as well as in Jewish Education. She has dedicated herself to learning from occupational therapists and other Special Education teachers, gathering various ways to create a thriving environment for her students.

**Sharon Esses** - I have worked as a teacher in 3 different day schools teaching grades 1-5 before taking a leadership role in 2011. I hold a Bachelor's degree in elementary education, a M.S in teaching literacy and a M.S in School Building Leadership. I have mentored new teachers through JNTP for 5 years.

**Yona Glass** - Yona Glass has been teaching in Early Childhood Education for 10 years and currently teaches kindergarten at Manhattan Day School. Yona is also the Principal at the Polonies Talmud Torah (Hebrew) School of Congregation Shearith Israel. Yona became certified in Montessori Education in order to adapt its methodology for her classroom, creating new activities and experiences for her students and to explore unique approaches to traditional education.

**Eve Goldschlag** - I am a psychologist with a private practice in the Five Towns in Long Island, specializing in identifying and treating psychological factors that impede learning. Primarily, my practice focuses on treating students with executive skills deficits, learning disorder and anxiety. I also consult with local day schools to help teachers in their work with struggling learners..

**Gail Greenbaum** - Gail Greenbaum founded The Great 5 For Successful Learning and developed its programs based on her 20 years as an educator in one of the highest performing public schools in the US (Stuyvesant HS), and subsequently teaching at a much lower performing school. For the past 10 years she has implemented these Healthy Habits programs in various low and high performing K-12 schools in New York City and environs. She has now begun implementing them in Jewish schools both in the US and Israel.

**Rabbi Dr. David Hertzberg** - Rabbi Dr. David Hertzberg is the principal of the Yeshivah of Flatbush Middle Division and adjunct asst, professor of History at Touro College. He holds a doctorate in Modern World History from St. Johns University. He writes a monthly column in the Jewish Press on Leadership and the Parsha.

**Adam Holstein** - Mr. Holstein is a NYS Certified School Psychologist, a NYS Licensed Psychoanalyst, Behavior Therapist with 40 years of working with schools, children and families.

**Jennifer Hucul** - Mrs. Jennifer Hucul- is a teacher at HAFTR Middle School. She has over 10 years experience. Jennifer Hucul has a Master's degree in Judaic Studies specializing in Jewish philosophy, a Master's degree in Education and Leadership Studies and State



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certification as a school administrator. She has been trained in the Bonayich methodology and identified by Rabbi Hayman as a master teacher.

**Elisha Hus** - Elisha is the Director of Educational Technology and STEAM Coordinator at Manhattan Day School. He is also currently finishing up a Masters Degree in Instructional Technology and Curriculum Development. Elisha works with teachers and students throughout grades 1-8 on using technology to enhance their learning, allow for differentiation, and take projects to the next level of understanding and presentation. In the state of the art Smartlab he teaches a STEAM course for grades 4-8. Students learn Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and design, and Mathematics, through inquiry, exploration and discovery. One element Elisha really enjoys about this SmartLab course is seeing students who struggle in the classroom shine, through this hands on way of learning.

**Roizy Klein** - Roizy has been teaching Science at Beth Jacob of Boro Park for over 20 years. They have been both coordinating content area curriculum for other teachers as well.

**Linda Kastner** - I have taught art at the Garden City Public Schools for 37 years and was the Chairwoman of the Fine Arts Department. I am currently teaching art at the Middle School level at Manhattan Day School for ten years. I have a master's degree of Professional Studies in Creativity Development and Art Therapy from Pratt and a B.F.A in Art Education. I have visited schools worldwide and have led professional development workshops relating to Global Studies and writing in the museum.

**Drew Olczak** - Drew has spent 9 years as a classroom teacher in New York State. His career in education began in a charter school in Niagara Falls as a math specialist working with students from kindergarten through fifth grade. After Niagara Falls, Drew worked in Williamsville, New York for eight years as a classroom teacher at the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade levels. He was selected to serve as a Common Core Facilitator for his school district in English Language Arts.

**Dr. David Pelcovitz** - Dr. David Pelcovitz is a psychologist whose career over the past 25 years has focused on clinical practice and research efforts in areas related to trauma, child abuse and parenting. He is currently the Straus Professor of Psychology and Education at the Azrieli Graduate School in Yeshiva University.

**Avrohom Schwartz** - Rabbi Avrohom Schwartz has been in chinuch for 23 years in the capacity of Rebbe, Special educator and Principal, currently at Yeshiva Derech HaTorah and Yeshiva Chasan Sofer. He holds a Masters Degree in Special Education and is also is an adjunct Professor in Education at Daemen College.

**Jennifer Sebow** - Jennifer Sebow is the early childhood literacy specialist at Manhattan Day School. She is also an adjunct lecturer and student teaching supervisor in the Masters in Literacy Education Program at Hunter College.

**Sara Shonfeld** - Sara has been an early childhood educator and a music specialist, conference presenter and a director of various programs for the last 30 years. She has developed a unique music program: Learning through Music, which includes various styles of music, drumming and rhythm, songs, movement and dance, diverse international music, integrated with dramatic play. Her latest Drumming and Rhythm program has been a great success. To read more : [www.musicalminds.net](http://www.musicalminds.net)

**Nancy Siegel** - Nancy Siegel, MA, E-RYT-200, RCYT, is a nationally recognized presenter, and trainer. She has more than 25 years of experience practicing yoga, mindfulness and conducting teacher training. She began her career in the early childhood classroom and currently as a mindfulness educator and children's yoga teacher trainer she advocates, nurtures and supports teacher learning. Nancy has created and implemented programming that has resonated with school leaders, educators, parents and children.

**Ruchie Toplan** - Mrs. Ruchie Toplan has been teaching history at Beth Jacob of Boro Park for the past 25 years.



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**Malka Ungar** - After teaching for eight years and earning a Masters in Teaching Literacy, I became the ELA Curriculum Director for TAG JHS. My current position has opened my eyes to the young, untrained teachers who are searching for guidance. This inspired me to join the teacher training community, and I became an adjunct professor at Daemen College through TTI. I am always researching best practice and looking to spread effective teaching.

**Joshua Wise** - Rabbi Dr. Joshua D. Wise is Assistant Principal of Middle School General Studies at Magen David Yeshiva. He most recently wrote "Summer Reading: Moving Past Carrots, Sticks, and Lollipops", for Prizmah's HaYidion.

**Bracha Yanni** - As a passionate educator I have been involved in Jewish education for the past 15 years. I have worked in administration, classroom teaching and with special ed children. I have graduated with a BA in Psychology and Education and a Masters Degree in School Building Leadership. I am a life long learner always seeking out new best practices to incorporate in instruction. I firmly believe that Jewish Education should be innovative and at the forefront of new educational trends.

**Shahar And Rina Yonay** - Dr. Shahar Yonay and Dr. Rina Yonay are co-founders of SHY PUBLISHING CORP. and have produced about 150 publications on teaching Hebrew and various Judaic studies from Kindergarten up tot High school levels.