

# Workshop Descriptions - Westchester

There will be two sessions. Please choose a morning workshop and an afternoon workshop when you register for the conference. **\*\*Be mindful that Workshops 1 & 7 are double sessions and will be taking place before and after lunch.**

## 1. Created to Create: An Art Making Practice for Personal Nourishment & Practical Application in the ECE Classroom (Double Session)

Presented by **Adina Allen** and **Rachel Brodie**

Exploratory art making can help children tap into emotions or feelings, express themselves without the use of words, and develop important character traits such as risk taking, perseverance, focus, play and experimentation while developing a sense of and relationship to their own creativity. The same is true for adults! Educators need opportunities to engage in uninterrupted deep play as much as our students, both to nourish ourselves and to help us become better guides and supports for our students. In this facilitated art making experience we'll dive into the ins and outs of the Jewish Studio Process, a methodology designed to help us tap into our own childlike place of play and exploration. Working with the sense of freedom, constraint, ease, pleasure, challenge frustration and joy (and anything else!) that arise, together we'll harvest the insights that emerge and ask how we might apply these in our classroom. You'll leave with a practice for reconnecting you to your own creativity and specific useful tools for supporting your students creative development.

***Rabbi Adina Allen**, is Co-Founder and Creative Director of Jewish Studio Project (JSP). Integrating a lifetime of experience in the expressive arts with her rabbinic training, Adina has pioneered a methodology for the integration of Jewish learning, spiritual reflection and creative expression that she has brought to thousands of Jewish educators, professionals and lay leaders across the country. Her original research on art making as a methodology for generating new midrash was published in the CCAR Journal in 2012. A contributing writer to the Huffington Post, Patheos, and My Jewish Learning, her work has been published widely. Adina was ordained by Hebrew College in 2014 where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She is a recipient of the Open Dor Fellowship, the Upstart Fellowship and the CIRCLE Interfaith Leadership Fellowship. Adina is a recipient of the 2018 Pomegranate Prize for emerging Jewish leaders from the Covenant Foundation. Adina resides in Berkeley, CA with her husband Jeff Kasowitz (co-founder and Executive Director of JSP) and their two amazing young kiddos.*



***Rachel Brodie**, Senior Educator at the Jewish Studio Project, has spent much of her career teaching Torah (in the broadest sense) to adult learners and specializing in designing and facilitating professional development opportunities for other Jewish educators. From 2011 to 2016 Rachel served as the Chief Jewish Officer of the JCC of San Francisco. Prior to that (2004-2011) Rachel was the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Jewish Milestones: a not-for-profit, educational resource for Jewish lifecycle ceremonies. A New Yorker by birth and temperament, Rachel settled in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1997 after spending a year in Israel on a Melton Senior Educator's Fellowship at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She holds a master's degree in Rabbinic Literature from The Jewish Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Literature and Society from Brown University.*





## 2. Noticing and Wondering – How to Examine Jewish Art and Artifacts with Young Children

Presented by **Asya Gribov**

How can we create a culture of wonder and questioning through observing and examining art with children? How can we foster a process-focused art curriculum while learning about Jewish values and rituals? During this hands-on workshop we'll explore ways in which we can bring art and museum-like experiences into the classroom in order to extend children's thinking. We'll discuss ways to use unique materials and open-ended prompts to inspire creativity and deepen learning. Participants will gain concrete ideas for specific artworks and art inspired activities to use with their young students.

*Asya Gribov is a museum educator, community organizer, and perpetual learner. Asya currently teaches at the Jewish Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. For the last four years, Asya had consulted with PJ Library, supporting Jewish organizations across North America in reaching and engaging families through creative, cultural programming and innovative outreach strategies. Asya loves developing digital and print educational tools that support children and their grown-ups in engaging with the arts through self-guided activities and hands on exploration. Asya holds a dual B.A. in Psychology and Comparative Religions, and a Master's in Elementary Education from Hunter College. She received her most valuable education while backpacking around the world and spending time in art museums.*



## 3. Viewing the Art of Young Children to Better Understand Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Growth

Presented by **Beth Gonzalez-Dolginko**

This workshop offers a brief review of early childhood developmental stages and then correlates these to early childhood art development. Young children's art is reflective of what is going on in their typical development—in their bodies, minds, and souls. Early Childhood Educators will likely recognize and identify scribbles as being done by a child of a certain age but they may not know what else the child's drawing shows. In this workshop, we will look more deeply into children's art and explore how and why this is the art work being done by a child of this age while also considering what is simultaneously happening in the child's psychosexual, psychosocial, and cognitive development.

*Beth Gonzalez-Dolginko has worked clinically as an art therapist for 44 years, in academia for 28 years and in private practice for 40 years. Beth has worked with children and adults in the areas of psychiatry, addictions, aging, PTSD, chronic illness, special education, developmental disabilities and child development. Beth has served on two Boards for the NYS Office of the Professions: Mental Health Practitioners Board and Applied Behavior Analysis Board. Beth has been on the Board of Advisors for the Children's Museum of the Arts in Soho, NYC, providing education components for shows on the artwork of children from war zones throughout the world, as well as developing community programs implemented after 9/11/01. Beth is approved by NYS as a provider of continuing education contact hours for LCAT's.*



## 4. Sparking Creative Play Through Collaborative and Sensory Storytelling

Presented by **Lauren Jost**

Children are natural storytellers, but how can we deepen and inspire collaboration in their stories? How can we go beyond read-alouds to prompt rich and meaningful collaborative play? This workshop will provide strategies for storytelling that utilize theater, puppetry, and sensory exploration to jump start your, and your students', creativity.

*Lauren Jost is a theatre artist and arts educator in New York. She is the Artistic Director of Spellbound Theatre, New York's award-winning theatre exclusively for the very young. Lauren can occasionally be found performing as a storyteller and puppeteer but spends most of her time directing and producing Spellbound's public, school, and national touring theater productions for children*

*ages 0-5. Additionally, Lauren works as a Master Teaching Artist in schools, libraries and community centers around New York with organizations such as The New Victory Theater, Lifetime Arts, and New York University. With a deep understanding of the joys and challenges that parenthood and preschool provide, Randi uses her proactive, creative and customized approach to help her clients of all ages build emotional literacy, promoting healthy communication styles and deeper relationships.*

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## 5. Arrangements with Natural Objects and Found Materials, a Hands-on Workshop

Presented by **Amy Miller**

Learn how to make something beautiful out of something ordinary. This workshop will begin with an inspirational and discussion-based presentation of work Amy has done with children, ages 2-5, in collaboration with natural objects and found materials. Following the presentation, you will begin your own collaborative discussion with the materials. You will learn how to make something beautiful, something soothing, something visually exciting while enhancing your own knowledge-base for working with children. Throughout this hands-on workshop, Amy will provide tricks-of-the-trade to help you bring this knowledge back to your own school and classroom setting.

*Amy Miller describes herself as an artist, teacher-researcher, wife and mother who appreciates the beauty in the ordinary (and extraordinary) objects that surround our daily lives. Amy is currently the Associate Director of Larchmont Temple Nursery School. For the past 10 years, Amy worked as the Studio Teacher at Beginnings Nursery School in New York City and as an educational consultant through Teaching Beyond the Square.*



## 6. Singing for the Whole Being: Rosh, Lev, Guf, Neshama

Presented by **Rena Branson**

Singing in community can offer soothing, enlivening, and nourishing experiences for people of all ages. In this session, we will dive into two Jewish melodies—one that is likely familiar, and one that is likely new—and sing them in a variety of ways (e.g., slow and soft; upbeat with clapping). We'll observe how different parts of ourselves may light up as we explore a range of musical dynamics, deepen our listening, and connect to ourselves and each other. At the end, we'll reflect on how to engage students in more meaningful singing experiences together. All voices welcome!

*Rena Branson has worked as an educator in a wide range of settings, from teaching ESL in Alaska to harvesting carrots for matzah ball soup with teens on a Jewish farm. After studying in the Pardes Experiential Educators Program (2017-18) and the year fellowship at Hadar Institute (2018-19), Rena is taking a deep-dive into Jewish music and prayer leadership in the Rising Song Residency. She is passionate about making Chassidish nigunim (wordless melodies) more widely accessible and sharing their healing power in community. She organizes monthly nigun singing at Jewish services in jails as well as LGBTQIA+ singing circles in New York and Philadelphia. You can hear her recordings of original and traditional music online.*



## 7. How Can Simple Materials Support Creativity and a Culture of Inspiration? (Double Session)

Presented by **Robin Koo**

In this double-session workshop, participants will have the opportunity to go deeper in their understanding of children's artistic development, and how creativity and a culture of inspiration can be supported in the classroom using simple materials and the classroom environment. Robin Koo will offer an overview of artistic development in young children from 1.5 to 6 years of age, and offer examples of language that can support inquiry. Through some hands-on experiences with materials, participants learn different ways in which they can introduce materials and extended learning. We'll discuss the differences between Loose Parts Areas and Making Areas / Art Areas, and how to source

and prep materials for both parts of the classroom.

*Robin Koo is the Preschool and Lower School Art Teacher at Packer Collegiate Institute. She began her teaching career at Beginnings in 2001, first as a classroom teacher in the 2s and 4/5s, and then as the Art Studio Teacher starting in 2006. In 2007, she helped establish the Materials Center and served as Coordinator until 2018. In 2015, when Teaching Beyond the Square (TBS) hosted the Wonder of Learning Exhibit, Robin was the chair of the Atelier Committee, which created the Natural Materials and Light & Shadow Ateliers, and served as Program Director until 2018. During that time, she worked closely with public and independent early childhood centers, supporting them as they moved towards an inquiry-based approach to teaching. She received her MA from Teachers College in Studio Art & Art Education, and her BA in Visual Art & Art History from Bowdoin College.*



## 8. Extravaganza in The Cardboard Studio!

Presented by **Tom Pnini**

Join Tom Pnini, the “Cardboard Teacher,” on a messy journey exploring process-based art! This workshop will explore different ways to ignite creativity in a classroom and the connection between imaginative play and art making. The workshop will consist of a presentation sharing stories and art projects from Tom’s “Cardboard Studio” and will be followed by a hands-on activity where you can put the ideas and inspiration presented into practice. You will leave with your unique art and countless new ideas to bring creativity and joy to your own classroom.

*Tom Pnini creates time-based works and large-scale installations. He has exhibited in museums and galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Milan, Toronto, Moscow, and Israel, including a 2017 and a 2014 solo show at Lesley Heller Workspace, in the Lower east side, NY, a 2015 and a 2012 solo show at Cheloudh Gallery in Tel Aviv and a 2015 solo show at Giuseppe Pero Gallery in Milan. He holds a BED from Hamidrasha College (2008) and an MFA from Parsons School of Design at the New School (2010). Pnini has been operating the Cardboard studio in the last 4 years.- an experience based art space for early childhood at Congregation Beth Elohim.*



## 9. Exploring Fine Art and Artists Through the Lens of a Child

Presented by **Erica Strongin**

Experience how children tap into their inner creativity when they spend an afternoon with Erica Strongin during her after-school art club. In this workshop, you will learn how her art club came to life and get an understanding of how Erica weaves art history and artistic concepts with emergent creativity for young children. Next, participants will have the opportunity to engage in their own “art club” session, where they will be introduced to a famous artist. Then, they will create their own work of art using a wide range of materials. Participants will also have an opportunity to reflect on their experience and share how they think they can expose children to artists in an emergent way in their own classroom setting.

**Erica Strongin** is currently a kindergarten teacher and the curator of the after-school art club at Westchester Day School in Mamaroneck, NY. Before embarking on a career in early childhood education, Erica worked as an art curator in New York City for 14 years before her daughter was born. She had the privilege of organizing exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum, Neue Galerie and Wave Hill in Riverdale. During that time, she also managed Ronald S. Lauder's private art collection and the Estee Lauder Corporate Art Collection. Erica graduated from Binghamton University with a BA in Art History and from Hunter College with an MA in Art History. She is currently pursuing a Masters' in Early Childhood Education at Manhattanville College.



## 10. Painting Beyond the Square

Presented by **Jennifer Carvajal**

Participants should dress for a mess as we explore a variety of paints through open-ended play. We will discuss the learning that happens through paint experiences, intentional language and planning around this material, the role of the teacher, and potential emergent curriculum investigations.

**Jennifer Carvajal** is the Senior Educational Director of Teaching Beyond the Square. She has coached for Teaching Beyond the Square since 2013, leading professional development workshops and partnering with teachers and directors in the tri-state area as they strive to take a more progressive approach to education. She has partnered with The Jewish Education Project to lead special projects and cohorts, and she has presented at several conferences including Brooklyn College's Art of Play and Wonderment Conference, the JCC's Come Learn with Us conference, and JECA's Long Island and Manhattan conferences. Jennifer taught at Beginnings Nursery School from 2002 to 2009

and participated in a study group in Reggio Emilia, Italy in 2007. She received her B.S. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA and her M.S. in Education, with a concentration in Literacy, from Hunter College in New York, NY.