

WHEN WE CREATE: Empowering Children's Unique Voices Through the Arts

This list represents the talented pool of presenters and their workshops originally scheduled for March 17 & 19, 2020.
USE THIS RESOURCE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Presenters & Workshops

Created to Create: An Art Making Practice for Personal Nourishment & Practical Application in the ECE Classroom

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.



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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 has 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.



"As If You Were There": Using Immersive and Multi-Sensory Theater Techniques to Bring Stories to Life in the Jewish Early Childhood Classroom

Presented by **Jonathan Chapman**

How can you use theater techniques to immerse your students in the world of a story? How can interactive theatre activate the senses of 2-5-year-olds, creating meaningful and lasting engagement with Jewish stories? In this hands-on, participatory workshop, artist-educator Jonathan Shmidt Chapman will offer a range of techniques and strategies to spark your creativity and enhance your

classroom through the theater, multi-sensory engagement, and creative play. As an attendee of the workshop, you will actively explore a variety of exercises as a participant yourself, and then have the opportunity to unpack and apply them to your own teaching practice.

Jonathan Shmidt Chapman is an internationally recognized artist, educator, and leader in the field of Theater for Young Audiences. He is the founding project director for Aggadah Adventures, a new initiative at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST) serving 0-6-year-olds and their families that brings Jewish stories to life through immersive, multi-sensory, and interactive theater practice. Through this project, he is a 2019/20 Covenant Foundation grantee. He also currently serves as executive director of Theater for Young Audiences/USA (TYA/USA), the national organization for the professional field of children's theatre. He was selected to participate as part of the artist cohort for the 2018 Asylum International Jewish Artists Program, and he is the recipient of the 2019 inaugural Luminary Award for his contributions to the national field of theater for children, presented by New York City Children's Theater. As a writer and director, his work has been produced by The Kennedy Center, The Park Avenue Armory, Seattle Children's Theater, Abrons Arts Center, and New York City Children's Theater



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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 most likely may recognize and identify scribbles as being done by a child that is X months old. In this workshop, we will look more deeply into the actual art piece and explore how and why this is the art work being done by a child of this age by looking at the art 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.*



Unpacking Creativity: Holiday and Community Building through Art Expression

Presented by **Ellen Alt**

Kids are natural artists; you just have to encourage what they already know. This workshop will take you through a wide range of provenly successful strategies, from really easy to more ambitious. Using the holiday of Sukkot as a focus, we will look at a range of ideas that can be translated for any holiday in the calendar. Then we will check out projects that bring the community together through art and shared experience. This will be followed by actual art making, building confidence for you to take these ideas back to your peeps.

***Ellen Alt** is an artist, art educator, art coordinator and all about the ART. As the Artist-in-Resident at the Park Avenue Synagogue she works with all departments to infuse and design programs that reinforce education through a visual lens. She is the art coordinator for the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan. Ellen Alt's artwork is inspired by languages, alphabets and symbols. Starting with a calligraphy class in college, this interest has led from Canaanite pictograms, through the history of writing, Ketubot commissions and more recently to messages embedded in ice and floating in water as part of her current work about climate change. Her mixed media work has been exhibited in the U.S, Germany, Russia, China, England and the Middle East. One of her pieces was presented to Hillary Clinton on the occasion of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan and is in the collection of the White House. She holds an MA in studio art from New York University and a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Ms. Alt lives in New York City and maintains a studio in Long Island City. Her husband,*



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Carlos Narvaez, was a photographer from Peru.



Mindful Music and Movement

Presented by **Kathryn Ulrich**

Children thrive through a whole body approach to education. Self-regulation, social skills, language development, literacy, math and science can all be taught (and learned) through this fun medium of Music and Movement! In this workshop, Kathryn will give practical and accessible tools to incorporate more music and movement into your classroom, while sharing why this approach can be so beneficial. Through your participation in a class using song, rhythm, and movement we will find out first hand why adding these methods into your classroom can be fun, engaging and effective. We'll end the session with a relaxing guided meditation. Be ready to participate! You don't need a flexible body to start, but it will help if you bring a flexible mind.

***Kathryn Ulrich** is a music and movement specialist with more than 20 years of professional teaching experience and expertise. She has spent her adult life studying and implementing curriculums that support children's physical, social/emotional, and educational development. Her means of implementing "Play with a Purpose" is through music and movement. While a theater and dance major at the University of Minnesota, she worked at the U of M Child Care Center and was introduced to the work of Dr. Emmi Pikler and Magda Gerber. She has been greatly influenced by a personal yoga practice and the RIE approach, which has expanded her ideas of mindfulness in education. By 2003 she was leading teacher trainings at Next Generation Yoga, the first ever studio dedicated solely to children and families. She has taught thousands of children in New York City schools including Rockefeller University Child and Family Center, Allen-Stevenson, Kaplan Nursery School, Madison Playgroup, Roosevelt Island Day Nursery, Basic Trust, Beit Rabban, and Central Synagogue.*



How Can Simple Materials Support Creativity and a Culture of Inspiration?

Presented by **Robin Koo**

In this 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 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 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*



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Studio Art & Art Education, and her BA in Visual Art & Art History from Bowdoin College.



Supporting Creativity through STEAM in the Jewish Curriculum

Presented by **Tamar Andrews, EdD**

Join us for a highly interactive, very fun and totally challenging STEAM workshops where you will move from one activity to another...all while being challenged to solve some of the greatest problems in Jewish history. Get ready to band together in both mind and movement, art and activity as we ask more than just four questions about Passover, move from darkness to light, try to get the Israelites from Egypt to the land of Israel, and much more!

***Tamar Andrews** has been looking at the world through a child's lens her whole life. What she has discovered is that while fun is fleeting, challenges that we successfully complete during childhood are what make us stronger, smarter and better equipped to handle challenges as adults. These include social,*

emotional, academic and spiritual challenges. As such, most of Tamar's work as a preschool director, as a professor, researcher, and as an international presenter include challenges for participants so that they can observe their own growth in real time.



In-SITE-Ful Journey at Beth El: Shifting from Possibility to Reality Through Creativity

Presented by **Vicki Perler**

Learn about our Reggio-inspired school's journey to create an environment that respects and values children as being capable, competent, curious and creative thinkers within a teaching culture of deep awareness, reflection and inquiry. Experience how the classroom environment is a space where children and teachers use their creativity to co-construct the curriculum through investigation and play to achieve a high level of learning and joy. Take a tour of the hallway documentation boards and learn how they are intentionally used to make the learning visible and to convey the school's values to the community.

***Vicki Perler** has been the Director of Early Childhood Education at Temple Beth-El of Great Neck since 1994. Vicki is a passionate advocate for young children. Since 2001, she has led her school to achieve and maintain National*

Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. In 2005, Vicki and her school became a Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI) grant recipient. She twice served as president of the National Jewish Early Childhood Network and served as treasurer of the New York Jewish Early Childhood Association. Vicki is the immediate past president of the Huntington Jewish Center. Vicki earned her B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education, an M.S. in Early Childhood and Special Education, and a postgraduate certificate in Educational Leadership and Administration. Vicki is a consultant and mentor to other directors, programs and teachers. Vicki is an accomplished piano player who brings music to her school and personally engages with all the classes and children. Vicki and her husband, Arthur, love to spend time with their children and grandchildren.



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Painting Beyond the Square

Presented by **Amanda Ferguson**

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.

Amanda Terreri Ferguson is an early childhood educator who has been learning alongside children, families & teachers for as long as she can remember. Twenty years of her career as an educator were spent at the University of Vermont's Campus Children's School. These formative years shaped her educational philosophy and helped craft the person she is today. She earned a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Library Media Studies from UVM. She currently lives in Morristown,

NJ; coaching for Teaching Beyond the Square, instructing PlayAGAIN toddler classes, and being a Mom to three fantastically fierce little girls.



Creativity Through Songs Stories and Props: Tools for Joyful Learning

Presented by **Carla Friend**

How can you use music to make learning more meaningful, exciting, and inclusive? We'll explore how to incorporate songs paired with puppets, stories, felt boards, and other props to connect your students with Jewish concepts on a whole new level. Music is a universal language and you do NOT need any talent or prior experience to activate this tool within yourself!

Carla Friend is Founder & Executive Director of Tkiya, an organization using participatory music experiences to reinvigorate diverse Jewish communities. Tkiya engages thousands of families through partnerships with 50+

organizations using Carla's educational approach which she also presents about at several Jewish education and engagement conferences across the country. She received the Young Pioneers Award from Jewish Education Project, was recently named in 36 Under 36 from Jewish Week, and is in UpStart Venture Accelerator's Cohort 11. Carla is currently working on recording her first album of original Jewish music for families.



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Teaching Beyond the Square's Materials Trailer - From Start to Finish and NOW

Presented by **Wendy Gelsanliter** and **Susan Weseen**

Participants will learn the story behind our Materials Trailer—how and why it was transformed from a snowmobile trailer into a traveling resource for students and teachers across the tri-state area. We will share images of, and reflections about, our current work with children ranging in age from three to nine. We will discuss how the objects they choose from the trailer visits, that normally would be discarded, can promote complex play and creativity, language development and fluency, the ability to problem solve, and build confidence. The workshop will end with a visit to the Materials Trailer where participants will have their own opportunity to choose up to two pounds of recycled materials.

Wendy Gelsanliter is the Materials Educator and Coordinator at Teaching Beyond the Square (TBS). She has over thirty years of experience working with young children in many capacities, ranging from head teacher, librarian, music/movement teacher, art teacher to head of school. In her work at TBS, Wendy uses materials to enhance peoples' learning experiences. She has worked with infants through adults and believes, in today's world, the opportunities for open, creative expression (especially with repurposed materials) are transformative, even revolutionary. Music is another passion of Wendy's. As a singer, songwriter, and guitarist, she has produced three CDs for children and their families. Wendy holds her BA in English from Hamilton College and a M.S. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Bank Street College.



Susan Weseen is a Materials Educator at Teaching Beyond the Square (TBS). During her 15 years teaching at an elementary public school, she implemented key programs that taught mindfulness, emotional literacy, critical thinking and joyful learning, including: a full library, the school's garden/farmers market, a Wellness and Sustainability program; the Yoga program, and a mindfulness cluster class. She has also taught in CUNY's Writing Across the Curriculum program at York College, and in the Psychology Department at Hunter College. In addition to her work at TBS, she is an executive functions coach with bodyLITERATE, and the creator and owner of Meadowhawk Granola. Susan graduated from Harvard with a degree in Sociology and received her Masters degree in Education from Bank Street, as well as a Ph.D. in Social-Personality Psychology from the Graduate Center at CUNY.



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Sparkling 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, Lauren uses her proactive, creative and customized approach to help her clients of all ages build emotional literacy, promoting healthy communication styles and deeper relationships.



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.*

