



Jewish Learning Venture™

Yom Limmud 2018

## AM SESSIONS

### Engaging Your Students in Inclusion

Inclusion of kids with disabilities or special learning needs goes beyond the teacher. In this workshop, we'll share lesson plans, books and resources to help all of your students recognize the Jewish value of honoring every human being.

#### **Bio:**

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer directs Jewish Learning Venture's "Whole Community Inclusion." She is also a teacher at Mishkan Shalom and is the author of several books, most recently [The Little Gate Crasher](#), which was selected as one of the 2017 Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month selections.

#### **Contact Info**

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer

Director, [Whole Community Inclusion](#)

Jewish Learning Venture 215.320.0376

### Yoga and Story

This 45 minute class is an experiential workshop with discussion. We will be doing yoga together; please come dressed for yoga. We will take one of the stories like Noah's ark and do some poses to be able to enter the story in our bodies.

There are many ways to do this, for example:

- We can do boat pose for the ark.
- We can do the poses of the letters that make up Noah's name.
- We can do some of the animals that are on the ark.

After about 30 minutes we will have a discussion.

#### **Presenter Bio**

Dove has been doing and teaching yoga for over 26 years. He began teaching in south Florida and then moved up to Philly. He began leading yoga with a Jewish bend to it at Elat Chayyim in New York, a retreat center. He incorporated Parsha and Yoga together.



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In Philly he has been teaching for 22 years at GJC. He teaches 2nd grade and uses yoga poses and alefbet. He uses yoga for different stories using the body to remember what it is learning. He believes that using as many modalities as we can helps kids and adults to learn.

### **Presenter Contact Info**

Dove

[dove613@gmail.com](mailto:dove613@gmail.com)

215-290-5517

### **Growing Judaism in the Garden**

Where do we find Judaism in nature? How can gardening connect us to the cycles of the seasons and themes of the Hebrew calendar? In this session, we'll share explorations from the Jewish Farm School's Side Yard Seedlings program for children ages 2-6 and their families. Our program invites families to experience the stories, traditions, and values of Judaism through caring for the garden, harvesting seasonal produce, nature-based crafts and activities, music, blessings, and books. (Many thanks to PJLibrary for the grant that makes our program possible!) We emphasize that nature is everywhere, and we'll also talk about how you can support a robust nature-based learning program in the city, with a window garden, or wherever you are!

### **Presenter Bios**

Rowan Machalow is the program manager for the Jewish Farm School's Side Yard Seedlings program for children ages 2-6 and their families. Rowan has been an educator for over 20 years, as an elementary and middle school teacher, director of math and science curriculum for a major educational publisher, and preschool director, and is currently working on a PhD in education at UPenn. Some of Rowan's favorite things are teaching and learning, gardening, music, and Jewish traditions, and Side Yard Seedlings provides a space to unite them all!

Nati Passow is the cofounder and Executive Director of the Jewish Farm School. He has been a leader in the field of Jewish environmental education for over 10 years, was selected to the Jewish Week's "36 Under 36," and was a recipient of the Joshua Venture Group Fellowship for Jewish Social Entrepreneurs. Under his direction, JFS was named by Slingshot as one of the most innovative Jewish organizations in North America for three years. Side Yard Seedlings takes place



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in Nati's side yard garden, which is a shared space managed by several families and used for a range of community and educational programs.

### **Contact Info**

Nati Passow

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Jewish Farm School

(877) 537-6286 | 707 S. 50th Street. Philadelphia, PA 19143

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Mailing List](#) | [YouTube](#)

### **Integrated: Technology and Israel**

Where do we discover the great stories about Israel?

How can we engage our students in connecting to the great stories about Israel? In our sessions, you will learn ways to bring exciting stories from the history book to life via your students' screens. Our session will highlight different animation software, and show free or low cost ways to animate the story of the People and the State of Israel.

We will be presenting some student works and allowing participants to test out some of the animation platforms that we use with students in grades 4-7. (iPads and laptop computers will be provided for demonstration purposes).

### **Presenter Bios**

Ben Rotenberg is committed to making Jewish learning exciting, meaningful, and a place for everyone. Ben is the Youth Coordinator and Head of the Middle School at the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School of Har Zion Temple. He received a Bachelors in Jewish Education at Hebrew College, and a Masters Degree in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He and his wife Juliet live in Germantown.

Josh Block attended Penn State University where he earned a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education. Following college, Josh taught for two years at the Jewish Day school of the Lehigh Valley, teaching several subjects including technology. He then moved to Philadelphia and taught technology for charter schools while attaining his Masters degree in Educational Technology from Arcadia University. Josh currently lives near King of Prussia and organizes and



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directs programs for Julian Krinsky Camps & Programs. In his free time, Josh volunteers as a BBYO advisor and likes to stay active in the local Jewish community

**Contact Info**

Please contact him online: [brotenberg@harziontemple.org](mailto:brotenberg@harziontemple.org) and on Twitter @JFGRS.



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## **Holy Hebrew**

This workshop will provide instruction on how Hebrew classes can be leveled and meet the learning needs of a variety of learners. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and learn more about engaging ways of bringing Hebrew to the classroom. We will share ideas about activities that aim to help all of our students achieve their Hebrew goals.

### **Presenter Bio:**

Aviva Habib is an adjunct faculty member at Camden Community College. She works as the Hebrew Coordinator for the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. She earned a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania and received the Penn Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE) Recent Alumni/Early Career Award of Merit in 2015.

## **Engaging Your Students in Inclusion**

### **Presenter Bio:**

Rabbi Michelle Greenfield is the Director of Family Education and Engagement at Kol Tzedek Synagogue. She is a 2012 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and has a background in special education.

## **Never Too Young To Build a Better World**

How can a 23-year-old gain the skills to design the staffing and programmatic elements of a seven-week overnight camp? How can a group of 17-year-olds plan and run an entire day of camp-wide programming without the help of regular summer staff? How can we trust 15-year-olds to "overthrow" camp leadership and inspire younger campers to be the change they wish to see? Welcome to Camp Galil, where we see our children, our campers, as the builders of our future. With these skills, we see our community marching in protest and fighting injustice between our summer seasons. We teach our campers to build a better world, and they they are never too young to start.

### **Presenter Bios**

Molly Wernick and Mor Kanari are excited to join Yom Limmud from the professional team at Camp Galil. The two of them bring a combined three decades of Jewish experiential education training with a speciality in youth empowerment and leadership development. Molly's past professional work



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includes talent development at Jewish Federations of North America and millennial engagement at Philadelphia's Tribe 12. She holds an MA in Nonprofit Management and Leadership Development from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before starting her work as a shlichah (Israel Emissary), Mor led a non-profit in Israel, Hameorer - Center for Informal and Multidisciplinary Education where she was responsible for the high school and junior high programs. Mor is also a tour guide for HaNoar HaOved's trips to Poland where the youth movement members in Israel study the Holocaust.

### **Presenter Contact Info**

### **Harness the Power of Improv and Creative Play**

Harness the powers of improv and creative play in the classroom to delight and engage your students! Join Ash Fisher-Tannenbaum of The Bible Players in expanding your educator's toolkit with games and activities designed to encourage creativity, build and strengthen the classroom community, and bring Torah and Jewish values to life. Educators are invited to spend this fifty minute session playing games, telling stories, and learning together, all while discovering their own unique ways of incorporating these tools into their work. The Bible Players have been visiting schools, camps, and synagogues "improv-ing Jewish lives" since 2011, performing and working directly with students and campers during special programming. Now you can bring The Bible Players into the classroom every day!

### **Presenter Bio**

The Bible Players are a comedy team that are Improv-ing Jewish Lives. Since 2011 they have performed in 30 states, visiting hundreds of Schools, Synagogues, Camps, and more. From plays, to stand-up shows, to training workshops, they use improv and comedy to teach Jewish values. The Bible Players make Judaism joyous for all ages, and are sure to be the highlight of the year. Learn more and see lots of funny videos at [www.TheBiblePlayers.com](http://www.TheBiblePlayers.com)

Co-Founder Andrew Davies recently received the Young Pioneers Award from the Jewish Education Project for their innovative programs. Co-Founder Aaron Friedman recently received a masters in Jewish Education from JTS, and was named "The Funniest Jew in New York" by The Jewish Week



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Ash Fisher-Tannenbaum is a multimodal artist, educator and storyteller, currently based in Northampton, Massachusetts. They have a degree in Theater from Temple University, and have almost a decade of experience combining theater, art, creative play and Jewish education, through work with Ramah Day Camp (Rosh Drama), BTBJ, GJC, and The Bible Players.

### **Contact Info**

Ash can be reached at [afisher.tannenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:afisher.tannenbaum@gmail.com)

The Bible Players can be reached at [www.TheBiblePlayers.com](http://www.TheBiblePlayers.com) or [andrew@thebibleplayers.com](mailto:andrew@thebibleplayers.com)

## **PM SESSIONS**

### **Inquiry-Based Learning**

The inquiry process is just that: a process. No one model can encapsulate inquiry-based learning and the range it encompasses. However, if you're willing to try a dynamic way to engage students, give this a chance. During this workshop, you will have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on, inquiry-based experience that will lead to creating a successful learning environment for your students. Inquiry-based learning allows and encourages students to direct their learning in a way that keeps them interested, engaged and thinking. It creates teachers that guide - not lecture - students.

### **Presenter Bio**

I am a long-time educator having worked with children from infants through high school and adults, too, in early childhood centers, day school, and synagogue schools. I've taught educators face to face and online for year-long courses, short-term classes and workshops. This past year, I ventured back into the classroom to teach a third grade (Aleph) class of children at Old York Road Temple Beth Am in Abington, PA. It was an opportunity to implement all the strategies, techniques and theories that I had learned and presented over the years. What a fantastic year! My background includes a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph's University, a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education and Administration from Arcadia University and a Masters Degree in Jewish Studies from Gratz College. After teaching young children at the JCC in Philadelphia, I founded and directed the Early Childhood Center at Main Line Reform Temple for 14 years and then became the Director of Education for both the Early Childhood Center and the Religious School for an



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additional seven years. Then, it was on to Perelman Jewish Day School as the principal before becoming the Director of the NESS (Nurturing Excellence in Synagogue Schools) Initiative for the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education (now Jewish Learning Venture). The success of the initiative led to replication in San Francisco, Detroit and Pittsburgh. Once the project ended, I returned to early childhood education as the Director of several centers operated by Federation Early Learning Services in Philadelphia. If you're open-minded and willing to try some different ways to teach, you, too, can enjoy the thrill of having kids love coming to religious school! THIS IS LONG - FEEL FREE TO EDIT!

### **Contact Info**

email: [adavisblock@gmail.com](mailto:adavisblock@gmail.com), phone: 215-680-2589.

## **Engaging Your Students in Inclusion**

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Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer

Director, [Whole Community Inclusion](#)

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## **Visual Prayer**

In a Visual Prayer Art classroom session, your students will study the meaning of traditional Jewish prayers and then select a favorite traditional prayer for which they create a visual representation. Each poster created is an expression of what the student thought to be most important and wanted to be reminded about daily in their home. To make sure all students feel comfortable participating, this challenge is addressed by introducing simple Jewish symbols and easily rendered icons from nature. The painting drawing class time together allows for personal conversation time among



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the students at Hebrew school. They are grateful for it. The expenses for this project doesn't involve too much; copy paper, 11 x 17 white construction paper, dollar store: watercolor paints, brushes, pencils, crayons, color pencils, and paper cups – all of which can be shared.

### **Presenter Bio**

I am a veteran Supplementary Hebrew School Teacher who has worked as a Jewish Educator for more than thirty years, teaching ages three through Confirmation, as well as, classes to include adults. I also worked as the Omanut Director at Ramah Day Camp for five summers. Recently, I acted as coordinator of the Project SHEMA program at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life which encompassed being their facilitator of classes for visiting students with their elderly community. I earned Graduate Certification from Gratz College in Jewish Special Needs and I am a graduate of their High School Normal Department.

As a Supplementary Hebrew School teacher, I have participated in the following programs; Penn Literacy Network through the University of Pennsylvania, Nurturing Education in Supplementary Schools (NESS), Mentor Teacher Program, and IConnect Israel Travel Studies through the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education.

As an artist, my work has been shown in galleries in the Philadelphia area. My student's Visual Prayer Art was published in an article for Tikkun Olam Magazine (January 2012) and appeared in the Goldstein's Calendar 2011, 2012, and (featured) in 2013. Visual Prayer student work was included in the "Pesach Exhibit" at Old City Jewish Art Center in 2008 and The Abramson Center for Jewish Life's Town Square in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2016.

### **Presenter Contact Info**

Michele Machles

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### **Growing Judaism in the Garden**

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