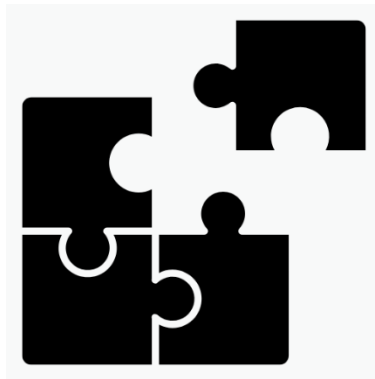




**BJE BEBE FEUERSTEIN SIMON  
EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE**



***“Putting the Pieces Back Together”***

**Monday, March 13, 2023**

20 Adar 5783



**BJE** builds and secures a vibrant and enduring Jewish future through education. BJE works with more than 140 affiliated schools and 2,500 educators to provide high quality education to nearly 25,000 students in the greater Los Angeles community. As a unifying force in the community, BJE links a diverse educational system comprising a full spectrum of Jewish ideology and traditions. Through programs, services and scholarships, BJE enhances educational quality, encourages participation of children and families in Jewish education and helps make Jewish education more accessible.

Bennett Spiegel, *President*

Gil Graff, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

Carly Rosenstein, *Director*  
*Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education*  
*and Special Projects*

Alisha Sela, *President*  
*BJE Early Childhood Directors' Network*

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to invite you to register for our 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Early Childhood Institute which will focus on the theme of *Putting the Pieces Back Together*.

This year will look a little different than last year. We will be hosting our conference at just one site, Temple Judea, and are looking forward to bringing all of our participants together for a day of networking and learning. In lieu of a full keynote address this year, we will have an extended breakfast (please come hungry!) and an Exhibition where schools will showcase some of their unique and outstanding projects so others can learn from them. Following the breakfast and Exhibition, we will hear an opening inspiration from renowned Israeli artist, Hanoch Piven, and then participants will enjoy two different workshops from our esteemed presenters before lunch, which is included in the conference fee. Following lunch, participants will have the opportunity in the afternoon to tour one of five BJE-affiliated school sites around Los Angeles to close out their day of learning.

With an updated conference ahead, we would like to offer a special thank you to our host, Temple Judea ECC, as well as our school tour sites: Aaron Milken Center at Wise, Gan Israel Preschool, Sinai Akiba Academy, Temple Judea, and The Nook on Valley Circle. We also want to thank the Early Childhood Directors' Network President, Alisha Sela, and the Institute Planning Committee: Abby Mars, Alana Levitt, Angie Bass, Avital Etehad, Claudine Douglas, Jennifer Cavalieri, Renee Hutchings, Shayna Goldmann, and Valerie Segall for providing guidance, input and direction in shaping and planning this special day.

Warmly,

*Carly*

Carly Rosenstein  
Director, Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education  
and Special Projects

## IMPORTANT PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION POLICY

Registration is available **online only** at <https://www.tfaforms.com/5038948> and must be completed by **Monday, February 13, 2023**, in order to qualify for early bird registration fees. Workshops and school tour sites will be assigned on a first come, first served basis and must be designated on the registration form. Anyone registering after February 13, will be considered a walk-in registration and will be assigned their choices based on availability.

Schools should designate one representative to register all of their participants at the same time. Please have the names, emails, and workshop preferences for all of the educators you are registering ready before beginning the registration process.

### COVID POLICY

While not required, full vaccination and masks are recommended for all conference participants.

### REGISTRATION FEES

#### BJE-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

Early Bird Registration (before February 13)	from 1 to 10 participants	\$60/each
	from 11 to 20 participants	\$55/each
	from 21 to 30 participants	\$50/each
	31 or more participants	\$45/each
Walk-In Registration (after February 13)	from 1 to 10 participants	\$75/each
	from 11 to 20 participants	\$70/each
	from 21 or more participants	\$65/each

#### NON-AFFILIATED (WITH BJE) SCHOOLS

Early Bird Registration (before February 13)	any # of participants	\$90/each
Walk-In Registration (after February 13)	any # of participants	\$130/each

### BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Registration fees include a full breakfast buffet and dairy lunch (dietary laws observed). This year's full breakfast is made possible thanks to a generous donation by Sanford and David Weiner in memory of their beloved wife and mother, Karen Weiner<sup>z</sup><sup>1</sup>.

### PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY

Payment **MUST** be made by credit or debit card online at time of registration. Refund requests must be made in writing directly to Carly Rosenstein at [croseinstein@bjela.org](mailto:croseinstein@bjela.org) and will be issued in the form of a check from BJE. A 50% refund can be granted until February 13, 2023. **NO refunds will be allowed after February 13, 2023.** You may, however, send a substitute participant and they will have to attend whatever workshops were already assigned.

For further information, contact Carly Rosenstein, [croseinstein@bjela.org](mailto:croseinstein@bjela.org), (323) 761-8623.

**CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE**

<b>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN</b>
<b>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b>	<b>BREAKFAST BUFFET AND EXHIBITION</b>
<b>9:30 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT</b> <i>Carly Rosenstein, Director, Center for Excellence in Early Childhood and Special Projects</i>
	<b>OPENING INSPIRATION</b> <i>Collage Lessons – What Art Teaches Us About Education</i> <b>Hanoch Piven, Artist</b>
<b>10:00 AM - 10:10 AM</b>	<b>TRANSITION TIME</b>
<b>10:10 AM - 11:10 AM</b>	<b>WORKSHOP 1</b>
<b>11:10 AM - 11:20 AM</b>	<b>TRANSITION TIME</b>
<b>11:20 AM – 12:20 PM</b>	<b>WORKSHOP 2</b>
<b>12:20 PM – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>1:00 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>TRANSITION/DRIVE TIME</b>
<b>1:30 PM – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>SCHOOL TOUR</b>
<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>VIRTUAL EVALUATION FORM</b>

### ***Pre-Program Exhibition:***

While you are enjoying your breakfast buffet, explore the booths around the room. At each table, you will find representatives from different BJE-affiliated schools sharing one project/activity/philosophy that their school specializes in. Examples include a Mobile Loose-Parts Wagon, Learning Stories, and so much more. Explore hands-on activities and take home many new ideas for your classroom.

## **WORKSHOPS 1 AND 2**

**All workshops will be offered twice (Workshop 1 and Workshop 2) except where noted. During registration, you will be asked to indicate your top 4 workshop choices, which will be used to determine your two workshop assignments. Participants must attend the workshops they are assigned.**

1. ***The Gender Equation in Early Childhood Education: Setting the Stage for Student Success and Happiness.*** In this highly interactive workshop, teachers and school administrators will see the ways gender shows up explicitly and implicitly throughout our students' experiences in early childhood education. Educators will examine language patterns built into daily parlance as well as space construction which come to define students' experiences of gender expectations.  
**Jason Ablin**, Director of AJU Mentor Teacher Training Program and Ablin Educational Services
2. ***Health and Safety in the ECC Classroom.*** In this workshop, you will join a current Pediatrician to discuss trends in children's health we are seeing right now, following the height of Covid. You will have an opportunity to discuss what to look for in our students during daily health checks and mitigation strategies we can employ in the classroom to keep everyone healthy. This will be a discussion-based session so come with any questions you may have about your students' health and safety.  
**Dr. Daniel Bruckner**, MD, Pediatrician
3. ***Using Your Space to Meet Your Students Where They Are.*** This hands-on workshop will help you navigate your classroom set-up and schedule to meet the students' needs wherever they may be. Lots of real-life examples will be shared and questions about your own classroom are encouraged. We will also discuss how parents "fit in" to the classroom and productive ways for communicating daily with parents to include them in your space.  
**Naama Cameron**, Parent Coach/Behavior Consultant
4. ***Growing Wonder and Curiosity Through Art and Nature.*** How can we inspire young children to look closely at the natural world, see patterns and connections, and use art as a way to investigate or express their wonder? As a counterbalance to the digital world, it's ever more essential to inspire connection with the wonders of the wild world. In the Jewish context, art and nature based projects can deepen the Jewish environmental values of Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) and Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim (compassion for all living things). In this hands-on workshop, we will discover how to bring nature inside by exploring a variety of materials/art processes, which awaken curiosity and creativity, and build attention, confidence and joy. *This session is appropriate for teachers of 4-5 year olds.*  
**Shari Davis and Benny Ferdman**, Co-Directors of Camp Wildcraft

## WORKSHOPS 1 AND 2 CONTINUED

5. ***[Only Available for Workshop 2] The Power of Positive Education: How to Weave Well-Being into your Classroom and Passover Celebrations.*** In this workshop, an overview of Positive Education will be share and you will gain tips and tools on integrating this approach into your classroom. Positive Education is a branch within Positive Psychology focused on prioritizing well-being and taking a strengths-based approach. We will explore specific ways to integrate activities in your classroom that promote well-being and connect these themes to the upcoming holiday of Passover. Come learn the foundational language of Positive Education and resources to apply this work into your own life to help promote thriving for you and your students.  
**Sarah Epstein**, Positive Psychology Teacher
6. ***Out of the Box Jewish Holiday Ideas.*** This workshop will offer a fun and engaging hands-on session that explores out of the box art activities for the Jewish holidays. This session is appropriate for teachers of students of all ages and you will come away with many creative ideas to try in your classroom.  
**Michael Fritzen**, PJ Library in LA Program Manager
7. ***Pandemic-Related Social Interaction and Communication Challenges: Three Years Later.*** The Covid-19 Pandemic impacted infants and toddlers more than anyone could have imagined: they were kept out of group child care environments, they had much more screen time than anyone would have liked, and they spent a lot of time being spoken to by masked adults! It's no wonder that we are seeing differences in the social interaction and verbal communication of our preschoolers and early elementary-aged students! This presentation explores how Covid-related lockdowns resulted in young children taking longer to reach certain speech, language and social milestones, and provides evidence-based strategies that early childhood teachers can use to offset these delays and to help students re-engage in the social world competently and confidently.  
**Amanda B. Miller**, M.S. CCC-SLP
8. ***What We Are Made Of! - The Collage Self Portrait.*** In this hands-on workshop you will be immersed in the experience of creating your self-portrait with reused everyday objects. Piven will model his way of working with children as developed in over 20 years of experience in the art education field. Following the hands-on experience, we will distill its educational assets with the aim of being able to reproduce the playful space of freedom and self-learning it creates. You are invited to bring your own bag of discarded objects such as broken toys, computer parts, buttons, screws, old photos, little figures, feathers, screws, nails, etc.  
**Hanoch Piven**, Artist
9. ***Making Music with Toddlers.*** This workshop focuses on making music with our youngest students. Songs, chants, movement, and dance allow children ages 2-3 to express themselves in a very elemental and natural way. Research has shown that speaking/chanting/singing rhythmically with young children allows language to flow more easily. Using literature as a jumping off point for making music, this workshop provides toddler teachers with musical ideas to use throughout the day in their classrooms.  
**Kira Rappaport**, Early Childhood Music Specialist

## WORKSHOPS 1 AND 2 CONTINUED

10. ***How to Have Difficult Conversations with Parents.*** This workshop will walk you through how to have those challenging conversations with parents in your classroom. More and more children are coming into our classrooms without the skills needed to be successful in the classroom setting. This workshop will give you strategies and language to use when speaking with parents to help you build a collaborative relationship.  
**Dr. Penni Seller**, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
  
11. ***Implementing Daily Yoga Techniques into the Classroom.*** In this workshop you will learn the best practices from Rock Zen Roll's top teachers for how to utilize breathing, intentions, and movements in your daily classrooms. By the end of the session, you will have techniques that can be streamlined daily and help classroom participation, focus and order.  
**Cheryl Silberman**, Co-Founder of Rock Zen Roll, and **Gillian Lich**, Master Yoga Instructor
  
12. ***Sensory Processing 101 with Tips and Tricks for the Classroom.*** This workshop will cover a sensory processing overview, including how to identify sensory versus behavior challenges. Throughout this engaging session, tips, tricks, and strategies will be shared that can be used daily in the classroom.  
**Heidi Soussan**, Occupational Therapist

## SCHOOL TOURS

**During registration, you will be asked to rank your top 2 afternoon school tour sites. Participants will need to drive off site for most of the school tours.**

1. ***Aaron Milken Center at Wise*** – 15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90077
2. ***Gan Israel Preschool*** – 18181 Burbank Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356
3. ***Sinai Akiba Academy*** – 10400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90024
4. ***Temple Judea ECC*** – 5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356 (*Site of morning conference*)
5. ***The Nook at Valley Circle (Infant Care Center)*** – 7353 Valley Circle Blvd., West Hills, 91304

## **PRESENTERS**

**Hanoch Piven** is an award-winning illustrator, educator and seasoned creative instigator. Piven's artwork is unique in both form and method. By reinventing the meaning and use of everyday objects he forges associations between these and the subject of his creation. Piven's art is playful, inclusive and transformative. Since 1992, Piven's work has been published in newspapers and magazines across the world, such as Time, Newsweek, Rolling Stone, London Times, Der Spiegel and Israel's Haaretz. Piven is also the author of a series of award winning children's books and apps, TV shows, interactive exhibitions and advertising campaigns. Piven has lectured extensively about creativity and its applications to life in diverse platforms across the world. Amongst them are The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard Business School, Teach for All Global Conference, Duke University, The School of Visual Arts, China Academy of Fine Arts, Art Center of Design, Instituto Europeo di Design and many more. For the last 15 years, Piven has also been conducting creative workshops where he actively engages people in a revelatory experience. Participants are inspired to use Piven's method to explore and visualize their understanding of values, vision, emotions and abstract concepts. Piven is a Seeds of Peace Fellow applying his art method to foster interchange and dialogue between Arabs and Jews.

**Jason Ablin** is the author of *The Gender Equation in Schools: How to create equity and fairness for all students*. He has served as a teacher, department chair, principal, and head of school. He holds national certification in leadership coaching and mentoring from the National Association of School Principals and has been supporting new leaders throughout the country for over 15 years. At American Jewish University's Graduate School for Jewish Education and Leadership and in school-based teacher workshops, he trains teachers to create gender aware classrooms and has taught year-long courses regarding the relationship between cognitive neuroscience and education. He is also the founder and director of AJU's Mentor Teacher Certification Program.

**Dr. Daniel Bruckner** is a board certified Pediatrician who specializes in the general health of children and adolescents. As a graduate of the Baccalaureate/MD program at the University of Southern California, Daniel received his Bachelors in Biological Sciences and his Medical Degree. He then spent three years at Children's Hospital Los Angeles as a pediatric resident, where he was a proud recipient of the Associates and Affiliates Award, as well as the Chief Residents Award. Daniel has been a pediatrician for eight years at Balboa Pediatrics in Encino, CA and is currently the Vice Chair of Pediatrics at Providence Tarzana Hospital. He also volunteers his time hosting high school students as part of the Eve and Gene Black Summer Intern Program for the Los Angeles Pediatrics Society.

**Naama Cameron** holds a Master's in Educational Psychology and Counseling. She has over 25 years of experience working in the child growth and development field including the parent to child dynamic. Naama is currently working as a Behavior Consultant and Parent Coach. She specializes in consulting and collaborating with parents and teachers to ensure success. Her emphasis on early childhood interventions, development of behavior plans, assistance with social coaching and behavior counseling expertise are what make her approach so unique. Naama is a dedicated Behavior Specialist with a keen understanding of children's developmental needs. She demonstrates talent for designing age-appropriate, child and parent centered behavior management systems. Naama has worked as a School Psychologist, Behavior Specialist, Parent and Me Teacher and Preschool Teacher in both public and private settings.

**Shari Davis and Benny Ferdman** are an artist/educator team who design art and education programs, which explore the intersections of culture, nature, history and identity. They are founders of Camp Wildcraft—an L.A. based art and nature summer day camp whose mission is to "grow creative, curious, confident & caring kids who feel at home in nature." As Jewish educators, they have taught and directed programs across the LA Jewish community. Benny was the founding Arts Director at De Toledo High School and Shari served as Director of Education at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.



## PRESENTERS

**Sarah Epstein** is a Positive Psychology Practitioner and Associate Director of College Counseling at Milken. Sarah grew up in LA and is an alumna of Sinai Akiba Academy. She earned her B.A. at Union College and is a graduate of The University of Pennsylvania's Masters in Applied Positive Psychology program. Her graduate thesis was on Positive Psychology and Jewish Education. Sarah's career is focused on helping students and educators thrive, cultivate resilience, and capitalize on their strengths. Sarah has worked in college admissions and college counseling at Marymount Manhattan College, Rice University, and Xavier Academy. She has taught Positive Psychology courses to students, parents, and educators ranging from day schools, The Jewish Federation, congregational programs, and law schools. She has created workshops and professional development programs for schools and companies across the country to help promote flourishing communities.

**Michael Fritzen** has over 15 years of experience in informal education, program design, and audience engagement. Michael is dedicated to cultivating community, creating space to engage, connect, and learn. He currently serves as the Program Manager for PJ Library in Los Angeles. Michael serves on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for a Japanese Garden in Los Angeles, the Board for CAAEYC (CA Association for the Education of Young Children), and holds a Master's Degree in Arts Management/Museum Studies from Claremont Graduate University. Outside his work world, Michael docents at the Los Angeles Zoo and loves the outdoors.

**Gillian Lich** taught both preschool and elementary school for over ten years before making the move to Rock Zen Roll™. As a credentialed teacher, Gillian incorporated creative ways to get kids moving throughout the day. When the opportunity to join Rock Zen Roll™ presented itself, she took the leap and never looked back. She pulls from her background in education to teach movement while building confidence and focus. Gillian loves spending time with her husband, two young daughters, and their dog named Koogel. They enjoy hiking and exploring different places around Los Angeles.

**Amanda B. Miller** is a California licensed, ASHA certified speech language pathologist in private practice in Tarzana, CA. She received her bachelor's degree in Linguistics, with an emphasis in Sociolinguistics (UCSD, '97), and her master's degree in Speech Language Pathology (CSUN, '00). This year will be Amanda's 22nd year as a part-time lecturer at her beloved alma mater, Cal State Northridge, and she was recently awarded a Certificate in Effective College Instruction by the Association of College and University Educators and recognized by the American Council on Education. In addition to previously serving as a clinical supervisor, graduate student externship coordinator and phonetics instructor, Amanda currently teaches both sections of the speech and language development course for the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences. Amanda is also the sole proprietor of her own clinical practice, where she serves both individual speech and/or language clients, as well as facilitates social language pairings and small groups for both preschool and school-aged populations. When she is not teaching or seeing clients, Amanda enjoys spending time with her 17-year-old daughter and their two chihuahuas, traveling with her family, and visiting thrift stores to find new books, toys, games and inspiration for her young clients!

**Kira Rappaport** has been an early childhood music specialist for 24 years. She has an M.A. in Music Education from CSULA and a Bachelors of Music in Flute Performance from USC. She has completed all three levels of Orff Schulwerk teacher training, Dalcroze Eurhythmics teacher training and Mastership Certification in Edwin Gordon's Early Childhood Music Learning Theory. In 2019, Kira completed the First 36 Fellowship through the Simms/Mann Foundation and Builders of Jewish Education, which focuses on all aspects of development in the first 3 years of life. Kira regularly presents workshops to teachers on the use of music in the classroom, including presentations at NAEYC, BJE, CAAEYC & BEST Arts Conferences. She is currently an Adjunct Instructor at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles teaching "Creative Experiences in Early Childhood". Kira is married with 2 daughters ages 10 & 12 and has 2 CD's: "Sing Together" and "Beautiful Day", available for download on iTunes and streaming on Spotify and Pandora. Learn more about Kira from her website: [www.musicwithkira.com](http://www.musicwithkira.com)

## **PRESENTERS**

**Dr. Penni Seller** is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an internationally sought-after speaker specializing in child development and parenting who offers consulting services to parents, families, and schools. She has been working with parents and children for over 40 years as an educator and therapist and is currently based in Los Angeles. Dr. Penni is a mother of two, and has found so much joy in being a grandmother of two as well. She has a private counseling practice where she offers house calls to help families deal with parenting issues in their home environment. Dr. Penni has a Master's degree in Educational Counseling, as well as a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, and a Doctorate Degree in Psychology.

**Cheryl Silberman** co-founded Rock Zen Roll™ Yoga with her sister-in-law, Rachel, with a goal to help children develop self-awareness, build self-regulation, and move their bodies in a meaningful way. Rock Zen Roll™ teaches yoga to children as young as 18 months and school-age kids. Before Rock Zen Roll™, Cheryl worked as a preschool teacher in Los Angeles. She's always had a passion for yoga and after ten years of teaching children between the ages of two and five, decided to make a career change. Rock Zen Roll™ combines her passion with yoga with her career as a teacher. As a credentialed K-5 teacher and a certified yoga instructor for children and adults, Cheryl's extensive knowledge is an important and unique asset to Rock Zen Roll™. Cheryl is constantly exploring professional development opportunities for yoga to coincide with child development. In her free time, Cheryl enjoys yoga, hiking, and spending time with her family (including their dog, Prana).

**Heidi Soussan, MS, OTR/L**, has been practicing in pediatrics since 1998 in hospital settings, private clinics, in-home therapy, and school based practice. Heidi Soussan received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and her Master of Science degree from Florida International University in Miami. She has training and certifications in several pediatric-specific areas such as Handwriting Without Tears, The Therapeutic Listening Program, and Infant Massage. She was a lead Occupational Therapist for SMMUSD's integrated pre-school classrooms and speaks to parents and teachers about the sensory needs of children. She now runs her own private pediatric practice, Heidi Soussan Pediatric Therapy and Associates, in Sherman Oaks, CA, where she focuses on child-centered, play-based techniques that support the whole-child and the family unit. Heidi finds much of her practice to be inspired by her two beautiful children, Sydney (16) and Hudson (10).

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**Bebe Feuerstein Simon** (1925-2003) was a long-time director and officer of the BJE board. Active in many community causes, Bebe championed parent and family education and took special interest in early childhood Jewish education. Her family chose to memorialize Bebe by establishing an endowment at BJE to support its annual conference for early childhood educators.

**Karen Weiner** (1942-2017) was a long-time director of the board of BJE and Chair of its Early Childhood Education Committee. A "hands on" volunteer actively engaged in community causes, Karen was, for many years, a vital presence at BJE's Bebe Feuerstein Simon Early Childhood Education Conference, assisting with on-site coordination. Her husband, Sanford, and son, David, are sponsoring this year's conference breakfast in Karen's memory.