



**BJE BEBE FEUERSTEIN SIMON  
EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE**

**לא המדרש עקר אלא המעשה**

***Reaching Every Child Through Teaching With Intentionality***

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

**at Adat Ari El, 12020 Burbank Boulevard, Valley Village**

**Opening Keynote**

***Oh, the thoughts that children think! Leading in the classroom.***

**given by**

**Jayanti Tambe**

**Executive Director, UCLA Early Care and Education**



**BJE** helps over 140 affiliated schools and 2,500 educators provide high quality education to nearly 27,000 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.

Alan M. Spiwak, Ph.D., *President*

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

Phil Liff-Grieff, *Associate Director*

Janice Tytell, *Director*  
*Continuing Professional Development*

Angie Bass, *President*  
*BJE Early Childhood Directors' Network*

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to register for our 37<sup>th</sup> annual Early Childhood Institute. As BJE's Director of Continuing Professional Development, it is my pleasure to be working with all of you, and I look forward to learning with you!

This year we are focusing on "Engaging Children Through Teaching With Intentionality." Following the keynote address at our plenary session, you will have the opportunity to participate in two workshops, each examining different ways to actively engage our students in the learning, meeting them where they are. We hope that this conference will inspire you and provide each of you with an opportunity to share and learn in ways that will enrich your classroom, as well as yourself.

Special thanks to Patrick Miller of Adat Ari El for his help in meeting our needs for this conference. We appreciate the efforts of the BJE staff in bringing this conference to fruition. Special thanks to the Early Childhood Directors' Network President, Angie Bass, and the Institute Planning Committee: Angie Bass, Judy Callahan, Claudine Douglas, Leeron Dvir, Shayna Goldmann, Renee Hutchings, and Alana Levitt, for providing guidance, input and direction in shaping and planning this special day.

*Janice*

Janice Tytell,  
Director of Continuing Professional Development

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **DIRECTIONS**

**Adat Ari El, 12020 Burbank Boulevard, Valley Village**

Adat Ari El is located just east of Laurel Canyon Boulevard on the south side of the street  
*Limited parking is available in the lot. Carpools are strongly advised.*  
*Street parking near the synagogue requires a permit.*

### **PRE-REGISTRATION**

#### **EARLY BIRD**

Pre-registration is available online only at <https://bjel2017eceinstitute.eventbrite.com> and must be paid in full by **February 10, 2017**, in order to qualify for the BJE affiliated school early bird registration fee of **\$50.00 per person**. BJE affiliated schools registering **11-20 individuals** qualify for reduced early bird fees of **\$45 per person**. BJE affiliated schools registering **21 or more** may pay an early bird fee of **\$40 per person**. Please note that these reduced fees are only available until **February 10, 2017**.

#### **WALK-IN**

Registrations received or postmarked **after February 10, 2017** will not be processed, and will be considered as **walk-in registration**. Walk-in registrants from BJE affiliated schools must pay **\$100.00 at the door**, and workshops will be assigned the morning of the conference.

#### **NON BJE-AFFILIATED SCHOOLS**

All registrations from schools and guests not affiliated with BJE received or postmarked by **February 10, 2017**, must be accompanied by a registration fee of **\$75.00 per person**. Those received after this deadline will be considered walk-ins and non-affiliated walk-ins must pay **\$125 at the door**.

#### **PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY**

Payment may be made by credit or debit card online, or if the option of having the school pay is selected, with a credit card or a check made payable to BJE and sent to the BJE office **by February 10, 2017** (attention ECE Institute, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90048).

A 50% refund can be granted up to 2 weeks before the Conference. **NO refunds will be allowed after February 17, 2017**. You may, however, send a substitute participant.

For further information, contact Janice Tytell at [itytell@bjela.org](mailto:itytell@bjela.org), (323) 761-8623.

## **CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE**

**8:15 AM - 9:00 AM**

**REGISTRATION**

**9:00 AM - 9:50 AM**

**WELCOME**

**Janice Tytell,**

*Director of Continuing Professional Development*

**OPENING REMARKS**

**Dr. Alan M. Spiwak, *President, BJE***

**EDUCATOR AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

**BJE Lainer Distinguished Educator Awards**

**BJE Smotrich Family Educator Awards**

**Dr. Gil Graff, *Executive Director***

**Phil Liff-Grieff, *Associate Director***

**KEYNOTE: Jayanti Tambe**

*Oh, the thoughts that children think! Leading in the classroom.*

**10:00 AM - 11:15 AM**

**WORKSHOP I**

**11:15 AM - 11:40 AM**

**BREAK AND SNACK**

**11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

**WORKSHOP II**

**1:00 PM**

**Turn in Evaluation Forms**

**Keynote Address:**

This keynote address is designed to provide leadership training to help individuals develop and enhance their effective leadership skills in early childhood classrooms. This session will explore ways in which to support leadership in early educators, and will help throw light on the process of thinking in early childhood.

**Jayanti Tambe**, Executive Director, UCLA Early Care and Education

## **WORKSHOPS**

**Participants will attend two workshops and must indicate their top three choices for each workshop period when registering.**

### ***Addressing Challenging Behaviors in the ECE Classroom***

**Appropriate for all ages**

We will present a method of examining the causes of common challenging behaviors found in ECE classrooms and provide strategies for helping the ECE professional cope with them. We start with examining ourselves as educators interested in how children's behaviors affect us in our classrooms. We progress to examining the physical/social/emotional environment that we have control over in our settings to determine how it might affect children's behavior. Then we seek to understand what the child is communicating to us through the challenging behavior. Finally, we will discuss and offer strategies that a teacher can immediately implement to help children learn appropriate behaviors while supporting their growth and development.

**Roberta J. Goldberg, Ph.D.**, Director, C&E Department, The Frostig Center

**Linda Barker, M.A.**, Senior Early Childhood Specialist, The Frostig Center

### ***Four Year–Old Theology - Meaningful Engagement with Children on Tough Questions***

**Appropriate for ages 3-5**

Have you ever gotten a tough question from a kid? Have you ever felt like a deer in headlights when trying to answer that question? If you're a Jewish educator it's like having a bulls-eye on your back for questions just like these: "Where did my grandma go when she died?" "Is G-d a boy or girl?" "Can we celebrate Christmas, too?" Let's talk about the best way to listen and talk to kids about big and important issues. We'll entertain, in fun ways, some of the best approaches to engage kids around tough questions. Got a tough question from a kid hanging around in your head? Bring it along!

**Rabbi Noam Raucher**, Senior Rabbi, Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center

### ***Engaging Jewishly Through Interactive Storytelling: Jump, Sing, Stomp and Roar!***

**Appropriate for ages 2-5**

Bring Jewish ideas to life in your classroom through the telling of stories, both old and new. Learn to shape and share stories, while engaging even the youngest listener. In this hands-on workshop you will leave with at least two new tales to tell and many ideas for audience participation and to encourage active listening.

**Karen Golden**, Storyteller

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## **WORKSHOPS**

**Participants will attend two workshops and must indicate their top three choices for each workshop period when registering.**

### ***How To Enhance “Social Smarts” by Teaching Children About Whole Body Listening***

**Appropriate for ages 2-5**

This workshop will introduce several “social thinking” strategies developed by Michelle Garcia Winner, SLP, to enhance social cognition and perspective taking skills in young students. Participants will learn how to encourage children to “think with their eyes,” and to listen not only with their ears, but also with their whole body, which includes the heart and mind. Creative ideas will be presented to engage children, including teaching them to become “social detectives” to focus their attention on their communication partners’ thoughts and feelings.

**Amanda Brault Miller**, Speech Language Pathologist/Clinical Supervisor, California State University, Northridge

### ***Integrating Families into the Classroom Community - Engaging Parents with Intentionality***

**Appropriate for all ages**

Schools are partners with parents in providing the strongest foundation for each soul within our educational atmospheres from spiritual growth and character development to academic and social growth. Together let’s learn about creating moments of intentionality for our students and their families, and explore methods of integrating our parent bodies in meaningful and appropriate length opportunities within the classroom and at home.

**Rabbi Sarah Hronsky**, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth Hillel

### ***Music Throughout the Seasons***

**Appropriate for ages 2-5**

This workshop presents the school year as a musical journey throughout the seasons. Fall, winter and spring are explored through finger plays, songs, chants, creative movement, storytelling and literature.

**Kira Rappaport**, Music Specialist, Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy of Temple Beth Am

### ***Sensory Integration Basics with Ready-to-Use Classroom Skills***

**Appropriate for ages 2-5**

Discover sensory integration and how it directly impacts children's learning. Using a developmental lens, this course provides clear explanations of the sensory systems and ready-to-go strategies for the classroom. Leave this course with many new ideas that are easy to make and simple to put into practice with your whole class.

**Heidi Soussan**, Owner and Therapist, Heidi Soussan and Associates, a Pediatric Occupational Clinic

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## **WORKSHOPS**

**Participants will attend two workshops and must indicate their top three choices for each workshop period when registering.**

### ***Teaching Art Through Process***

**Appropriate for ages 3 ½ and up**

This workshop discusses the research on creativity in early childhood education and its benefits when taught through the lens of process. You will be guided through an art project that illustrates this concept and gives you ideas to take back to the classroom.

**Kathy Leader**, Art Specialist, Owner of The Art Process

### ***If There Were No Change, There Would Be No Butterflies***

**Appropriate for Directors only – offered once during Workshop I**

**FOR DIRECTORS ONLY:** This highly interactive workshop is designed to provide leadership training to develop and enhance effective leadership skills in times of rapid change in the critical field of early childhood education. This session will move participants towards an integrated leadership development model that will provide an action-based application of the best practices in enabling change, such as leadership, coaching, communication, strategy and inclusion for directors of early childhood schools and centers.

**Jayanti Tambe**, Executive Director, UCLA Early Care and Education

## **PRESENTERS**

**Jayanti Tambe** is the Executive Director of Early Learning at UCLA. She is the author of the books, “**The Art of Math and Science**” and “**A Kaleidoscope of Children: How to Awaken Young Minds and Inspire Childhood Curiosity and Creativity.**” She has served as the Executive Director of Pacific Oaks Children's School. Jayanti also served as a core faculty member in the School of Education at Pacific Oaks College. Prior to moving to Southern California, Jayanti served as the Director of the Rainbow School and Pepper Tree School at Stanford University. She teaches courses on Child, Family, Community, Music & Movement, Supporting Dual Language Learners in a Multilingual Classroom, Health & Safety, Administration in Early Childhood Education, Business and Fiscal Management, and HR Administration in Educational Leadership, among others. She created and designed the Early Childhood Trauma Specialization for Pacific Oaks College. She also serves as a Peer Reviewer for NAEYC's Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation (ECADA). Through her appointment by several national associations, institutes and universities, she has been widely accredited for her innovation in teaching practices. She has presented at conferences around the world on a myriad of child development topics that include: Leadership in Early Education; Science and Math in Early Childhood; Supporting Bilingual Children; Gender Identity in Early Childhood; Managing Stress in Early Childhood; and Risk Taking in Early Childhood.

**Linda Barker, M.A.**, has a Masters Degree in Marriage, Child and Family Counseling and a Pupil Personnel Credential. She has been with the Frostig Center since 1997 as the Early Childhood Education Specialist in the C&E Department. Linda has extensive experience in teaching Early Childhood Education and Parent Education programs. She currently provides consultation and professional development services at various ECE settings in the L.A. area. She has been a presenter at the CA Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the CA Association of Private Schools (CAPSO) conferences. She has provided counseling services in mental health settings and elementary schools.

**Roberta Goldberg, Ph.D.**, received her Doctorate in Developmental Psychology and School Psychology from the University of Minnesota. At the Frostig Center, she has served as Clinical Director and, since 1989, as the Director of the C&E Department. Dr. Goldberg speaks frequently to audiences concerning children's learning and behavior, including conferences for the following organizations: the Learning Disabilities of America (LDA), CA Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC), CA Association of School Administrators, LA Archdiocese (Inclusion), Council for Exceptional Children and World Forum. Dr. Goldberg publishes regularly in the area of longitudinal studies of children with learning disabilities.

**Karen Golden** began telling stories at her dinner table at the age of three and playing her saxophone at age 9. Now her table has grown to include the world! She recently returned from her first Asia tour to China, Hong Kong and S. Korea, where she told stories and taught the art of storytelling at schools to students learning English as a second language. When she is stateside, she can be found teaching teachers how to use storytelling in the classroom and performing at a variety of schools, synagogues, libraries, museums, universities and other gatherings of humans. Karen is also the founder and director of Creative Learning Place, a learning center for homeschooled students in Los Angeles.



## **PRESENTERS**

**Rabbi Sarah Hronsky** joined Temple Beth Hillel in July 2003 following her ordination at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC) of Los Angeles. While at HUC, she earned two masters degrees: one in Hebrew Letters and the other in Jewish Communal Service. She works extensively with the Board and staff of Temple Beth Hillel to ensure a thriving Reform Jewish community in the East San Fernando Valley. She brings energy and creativity to the vast programming of the congregation. Her rabbinate is filled with teaching, counseling, liturgical exploration, and leadership. She enthusiastically sings with the children and assists in the development of the Beth Hillel’s successful preschool and parent and me programs, teaches and leads prayer in her temple’s Religious School and Elementary Day School, and provides enriching instruction throughout its Adult Education Program. Rabbi Sarah is most honored to work directly with families in the congregation through their joyous moments and their most difficult times. In addition, Rabbi Sarah has served on the Board of Rabbis of California for 9 years. She currently serves as Vice President. She is proud to be a fellow in the Shalom Hartman Rabbinic Leadership Cohort, where she studies with rabbis of all denominational backgrounds in an intensive manner throughout the year. She is in the first year of this three year program.

**Kathy Leader** grew up in South Africa where she received a Masters in Fine Art at the Michaelis School of Art, University of Cape Town. She then went on to get her Masters in Art Education. After teaching at a Jewish high school in Cape Town, Kathy emigrated to the United States in 1985. After moving to Los Angeles, Kathy taught in various school settings. She soon realized that she had a particular style of teaching based on her observation of what determines creative self confidence in the classroom. With this philosophy, she opened her own art studio called “The Art Process”. Currently Kathy teaches private art lessons and workshops to children and adults out of her art studio and at the American Jewish University. Her style of teaching reflects her own creative journey allowing the process to become a personal voyage of internal discovery. Kathy also trains early childhood teachers in “the art process” method of teaching.

**Amanda Brault Miller** received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at San Diego in Linguistics, with Specialization in Sociolinguistics, in 1997. She was accepted to the master's program in Speech Language Pathology at California State University, Northridge, and graduated with honors in 2000. She was invited to begin teaching at her alma mater, CSUN, the following year, and has been enjoying her role as part time lecturer and clinical supervisor ever since. She is a clinician at heart, and has devoted her private practice to pediatric clients who present with articulation and phonological disorders, auditory processing disorders, expressive language disorders, and social cognitive disorders. Her most recent passion project has been the development of small, customized "Social Thinking" groups that teach children how to "share space" more effectively by modeling concepts and teaching vocabulary developed by Michelle Garcia Winner ([www.socialthinking.com](http://www.socialthinking.com)).

## **PRESENTERS**

**Kira Rappaport** is in her 13th year as the music specialist at Pressman Academy, where she teaches “Parent & Me” Music, nine preschool classes and Kindergarten through Grade 3. She holds an M.A. in Music Education from CSULA and a B.M. in Flute Performance from USC. In addition, 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. Kira regularly presents workshops to classroom teachers on the use of music in the classroom, including presentations at CAEYC in 2008, 2010, and 2014, the BEST Arts Conference in 2014 & 2015, and BJE in 2008 & 2016. Kira believes music is an invaluable tool in the early childhood classroom and is very passionate about and committed to providing classroom teachers with the tools to make music a regular part of their curriculum.

**Rabbi Noam Raucher**, Senior Rabbi of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center is from Hamden, CT and grew up in a home of Jewish educators and leaders. He graduated from Hofstra University in 2002 with honors in Judaic Studies and Psychology. Noam spent the next few years working for Hillel at the University of California, San Diego; and as a counselor at the Yale Psychiatric Hospital in New Haven, CT. Eventually he made the move back out to California to attend the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, and was ordained in 2011. Following ordination, Rabbi Raucher served as Associate Rabbi of Temple Israel in Charlotte, North Carolina. In that role Rabbi Raucher assumed responsibility for any and all pulpit tasks, overseeing youth programming and activities, young professional leadership, young family engagement, adult education, and outreach to marginalized members of the Jewish community. Rabbi Raucher loves being a rabbi and the meaningful work of the rabbinate. His self-written professional credo states: “I will live each and every day guided by a covenant of love with my Teacher. Each day I give thanks for the opportunity to serve the Jewish people, my fellow citizens of the world, and G-d. In service to them I will operate as a light of the Jewish tradition perpetuating: love, justice, hope, and wisdom. I will value people over programs and relationships over numbers. I will always strive to sanctify life and treat all of creation as holy.”

**Heidi Soussan**, MS, OTR/L, has been practicing in pediatrics since 1998. Her practice has included hospital settings, private clinics, in-home therapy, and school-based practice. She was a lead Occupational Therapist for SMMUSD's integrated pre-school classrooms and oversaw OT services at multiple sites. Now running her own private pediatric practice, Heidi Soussan Pediatric Therapy and Associates, in Sherman Oaks, CA, she focuses on child-centered, play-based techniques that support the whole-child and the family unit. Heidi’s approach is inclusive to all aspects of the child’s life, creating specific pathways of growth for each family she works with. She is passionate about fostering the best success for each child, guiding families with all of the resources, strategies and opportunities that are within the community. Heidi Soussan received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and her Masters of Science degree from Florida International University in Miami. She has training and certifications in several pediatric-specific areas such as Hand Writing Without Tears, The Therapeutic Listening Program, and Infant Massage. She has developed and presented workshops on sensory processing and other pediatric issues to schools throughout her community. Her workshops are designed to build better awareness for teachers and caregivers in order help children become successful and empowered. Heidi finds much of her practice to be inspired by her two beautiful children, Sydney (10) and Hudson (4). Her kids are great testers of new games and swings!