



Presenters and Respondents

Charlotte Katz Abramson

Charlotte Katz Abramson, currently serves as the project director for The Jewish Day School Standards and Benchmarks Pilot Project, at the Melton Research Center for Jewish Education of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Charlotte served as Dean of Studies at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union, Upper School and principal of its Middle School.

Marc Brettler

Marc Brettler is Dora Golding Professor of Biblical Studies and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He has published on biblical metaphors, biblical historiography, and gender and the Bible, and most recently has co-edited The Jewish Study Bible (Oxford University Press).

Allison Cook

Allison Cook, a Wexner Graduate Fellow, has received her Ed.M. from The Harvard Graduate School of Education and M.A. in Jewish Studies from Hebrew College. Since 1997, Allison has been working at Keshet, a Jewish after-school program in Cambridge, in several different capacities including Director of Education, Head of Teacher Development, Coordinator of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program, and teacher.

Beth Cousens

Beth Cousens is a PhD candidate and Wexner Graduate Fellow studying the Sociology of Jewish Education at Brandeis University. Her dissertation research, in progress, is titled "Educating Generation J: The Jewish Growth of Adults in their Twenties and Thirties."

Gail Zaiman Dorph

Gail Zaiman Dorph, PhD, is the director of the Mandel Foundation's Teacher Educator Institute, an innovative two-year professional development program for senior Jewish educators. Her special interests are teacher development and the relationship between Judaic content and pedagogy. Her writing--on issues of professional development, curriculum, and teacher education--has appeared in a variety of publications.

Sharon Feiman-Nemser

Sharon Feiman-Nemser is the Mandel Professor of Jewish Education and director of the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University. A scholar and practitioner of teacher education, she has co-founded and directed innovative programs that serve as sites for research on learning to teach at the University of Chicago, at Michigan State University, and now at Brandeis.

Everett Fox

Everett Fox is Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies and Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at Clark University. He received his undergraduate and graduate training at Brandeis. Professor Fox is the translator of The Five Books of Moses, published by Schocken Books in 1995, and Give Us a King! A New Translation of the Book of Samuel, which appeared in 1999. He co-edited Scripture and Translation (Indiana University Press, 1994), a collection of essays by Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, with Prof. Lawrence Rosenwald of Wellesley College. The next volume of his Bible translation, The Early Prophets, will appear next year.

Naava L. Frank

Naava L. Frank, Ed.D. is the Senior Project Director at PEJE. She holds a doctorate from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and has published numerous articles in the field of education. Naava is leading PEJE's initiative to launch Communities of Practice and is enthused about helping organizations design and implement effective CoPs.

Wesley Gardenswartz

Rabbi Wesley Gardenswartz is an Associate Rabbi at Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA, where he has been since 1997. He was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1998 and received his B.A. from Harvard College in 1983 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1986. He is a Wexner Graduate Fellow, and his sermons have been published in three volumes of Living Words: Best High Holiday Sermons put out by Sh'ma. He is married to Shira Goodman and is the father of Nat, Sam and Jordana.

Penny Schine Gold

Penny Schine Gold is Professor of History at Knox College, teaching courses in Jewish history, comparative religious studies, women's history, and European history; she has also taught children in her congregation's religious school. She is the author of Making the Bible Modern: Children's Bibles and Jewish Education in Twentieth-Century America (Cornell University Press, 2004).

Mark Gottlieb

Rabbi Mark Gottlieb is Principal of the Middle and Upper Schools at Maimonides School in Brookline, MA. He received ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University, a Masters in Philosophy at the University of Chicago, and is currently completing his doctoral dissertation on the problem of translation and the limits of cosmopolitanism. His interests include the theology of pedagogy, teacher education, and practical reasoning and judgment in Jewish education. Rabbi Gottlieb also teaches for the Ikkarim Program of the Adult Learning Collaborative of the CJP of Greater Boston.

Lisa Grant

Lisa D. Grant is Associate Professor of Jewish Education at the Hebrew Union College in New York. Her Ph.D. in Jewish Education is from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. She is the lead author of A Journey of Heart and Mind: Transformative Learning in Adulthood (JTS Press: 2004), with Diane Schuster, Meredith Woocher, and Steven M. Cohen.

Edward Greenstein

Ed Greenstein is Professor of Biblical Studies and Chair of the Department of Bible at Tel Aviv University. Prior to his aliyah in 1996 he taught Bible for twenty years full-time at the Jewish Theological Seminary and occasionally at Columbia, Yale, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and other institutions.

Marion Gribetz

Marion Gribetz is the Director of institutional and professional development at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Boston. She works closely with Jewish educators, across denominations, in congregations, day schools and other educational settings throughout the community to enhance and enrich Jewish education. She is an alumna of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows.

Ahuva Halberstam

Ahuva Halberstam is High School Head at The Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York. She was one of the founding faculty members of Ma'ayan and Me'ah and currently teaches a Bible class to adults through Heschel.

Shirah Hecht

Shirah Hecht, Research Associate with the Mandel Center and Lecturer in Sociology at Boston College, is a sociologist of religion who received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago. Her current projects include exploring pluralism in Jewish education through her work at the Mandel Center, teaching at Boston College and volunteer involvement in a newly founded non-denominational mikveh in the Boston area, Mayyim Hayyim.

Nathaniel Helfgot

Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot is the chair of the Bible and Jewish Thought Departments at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York City. He has published numerous essays in English and Hebrew in the areas of Bible and exegesis, and is the editor of the forthcoming (February, 2005) Community, Covenant and Commitment: Selected Letters and Communications of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik (Toras HoRav Foundation/Ktav Publishing Co.). He is an alumnus of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows.

Barry Holtz

Dr. Barry Holtz is the Theodore and Florence Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His most recent book, Textual Knowledge: Teaching the Bible in Theory and in Practice, won the National Jewish Book award in education for 2004.

Shira Horowitz

Shira Horowitz teaches first grade at the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Stoughton, MA. During her ten years of teaching at SASSDS, she has explored ways of teaching *parshat hashavua* to kindergartners and first graders, integrating early literacy skills with Torah study.

Jeremy Kahan

Jeremy Kahan, Ph.D. directs the Teaching Fellowship Program at the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute. Dr. Kahan, a 1988 graduate of Harvard College, is particularly interested in professional practice schools as partners in the preparation of high quality teachers.

Susan M. Kardos

Susan M. Kardos is Post-doctoral Research Fellow in Education at the Mandel Center at Brandeis and a Senior Research Affiliate at the Project on the Next Generation of Teachers at Harvard University. An experienced teacher, she is co-author of Finders and Keepers: Helping New Teachers Survive and Thrive in Our Schools (Jossey-Bass, 2004).

Judith Kates

Dr. Judith Kates is Professor of Jewish Women's Studies at Hebrew College, currently teaching Bible and Jewish traditions of commentary for the new Rabbinical School at Hebrew College. She edited (with Gail Twersky Reimer) two collections of Jewish women's commentary on Biblical texts, Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story (Ballantine, 1994) and Beginning Anew, A Woman's Companion to the High Holy Days (Simon and Schuster, 1997).

Marcia Lapidus Kaunfer

Marcia Lapidus Kaunfer, a 1992 Covenant Award winner, has been a curriculum writer for the Melton Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary and head writer for the MaToK Bible Curriculum for day schools. She has served as head of Judaic Studies at the Alperin Schechter Day School of Rhode Island where she currently teaches Humash in lower and middle School.

Orit Kent

Orit Kent is a PhD candidate and Wexner Graduate fellow in Jewish education at Brandeis University. Her dissertation research, focused on how teachers and students make meaning of Jewish texts, is titled "Studying Teaching & Learning in the Beit Midrash: A Traditional Form in a Modern Context." Orit has taught extensively in a variety of Jewish settings and currently teaches in the DeLeT program.

Cherie Koller-Fox

Cherie Koller-Fox is Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Eitz Chayim in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She served as the Interim President of the Academy for Jewish Religion. Cherie is a founder and past National Chair of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education and served as Chair of its Advocacy Taskforce.

Debbie Kram

Debbie Kram is a Consultant at the Bureau of Education of Greater Boston, providing support and guidance in the area of Family Education. Kram served as the founding director and on the faculty of Ma'ayan, an award-winning program in Boston offering intense engagement with Jewish texts. She is an alumna of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows.

Allan Lehmann

Rabbi Allan Lehmann is Jewish Chaplain and Rabbinic Hillel Director at Brandeis University, and Adjunct Instructor in Meah and the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College. A graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, he was rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel (Conservative) in Gainesville, FL for over twenty years.

Daniel L. Lehmann

Daniel Lehmann is the founding headmaster of Gann Academy. An Orthodox rabbi, he has served as principal of the Beth Tfiloh Community High School in Baltimore, and as a fellow at the National Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL), and was the founding president of the North American Association of Jewish High Schools. He is also the founder and executive director of the Berkshire Institute for Music and Arts (BIMA), a summer arts program for Jewish teens.

Dov Lerea

Dov Lerea is currently the Dean of Judaic Studies at the A.J. Heschel School, in New York City. He was educated at Brown University and received rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Yeshiva University. Rabbi Lerea also holds an ABD from the Harvard School of Education He has served as the Director of Secondary Education at the Hebrew College in Boston, and faculty at the Wexner Heritage Institute.

Jon A. Levisohn

Jon A. Levisohn, chair of the conference, directs the Initiative on Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy in Jewish Studies at the Mandel Center. An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and a philosopher of education, he is assistant research professor of Jewish Education at Brandeis, where his research focuses on the interpretation of texts, sacred and otherwise, in the contexts of teaching and learning. He holds degrees from Harvard and Stanford in Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Education; has also studied at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, the Shalom Hartman Institute, and the Hebrew University; and has taught Jewish Studies in a supplementary school, a day school, and to adults.

Barry Levy

Barry Levy is Professor of Biblical Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University in Montreal; his most recent book is [Fixing God's Torah: The Accuracy of the Bible Text in Rabbinic Law](#) (Oxford University Press). A former day school principal and director of McGill's Jewish Teacher Training Program, he also serves as an educational consultant and curriculum writer.

Lesley Litman

Lesley Litman is the Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Israel in Boston. Lesley has served in many capacities in the field of Jewish education including: Regional Educator for the Northeast Council of the Union for Reform Judaism, writer of the new URJ CHAI Torah curriculum for grades 2-7, Judaic Studies Coordinator and Family Educator at the Rashi School in Newton. She is an alumna of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows.

Jeremy S. Morrison

Rabbi Jeremy S. Morrison is the Director of The Riverway Project, an outreach and engagement initiative for unaffiliated Jews in their 20s and 30s. Since 2001, he has been a member of the clergy of Temple Israel in Boston.

Joe Reimer

Joe Reimer is an associate professor in the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University, where he also directs the Institute for Informal Jewish Education. This year, he is serving as chair of the conference of the Network for Research in Jewish Education, which will be held at Brandeis in June.

Benjamin J. Samuels

Benjamin J. Samuels is Rabbi of Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. Rabbi Samuels is a Genesis Scholar at Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston and a Master Teacher at Maayan: Torah Initiatives for Jewish Women, as well as a Adjunct Instructor of Rabbinics and Meah at Hebrew College and a curriculum developer and instructor of Ikkarim. He holds a BA in English literature and an MA in both Bible and Medieval Jewish History from Yeshiva University.

Stephanie Samuels

Stephanie Newman Samuels teaches Tanakh to Middle School students at the Maimonides School in Brookline, Massachusetts. In addition to her teaching, she mentors novice teachers through the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute's Teacher Training Program. She holds a Masters Degree in Medieval Jewish History from NYU, and a BA in English Literature and Education from Barnard College. She resides happily with her husband and three sons in Newton, MA.

Aviva Scheur

Aviva Scheur is the Acting Chair of the Tanakh Department at the Gann Academy in Waltham, MA. She has spent 20 years in both teaching and administrative positions in Jewish education, and is a graduate of the Brandeis NEJS masters degree program.

Alex Sinclair

Alex Sinclair is an Assistant Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He received his doctorate on Bible education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; he has worked as a Tanakh teacher in a Solomon Schechter Day School; and his interest in Bible education continues through a number of recently published articles on the subject. He is an alumnus of the Mandel doctoral fellowship program.

Moshe Sokolow

Dr. Moshe Sokolow is the Fanya Gottesfeld-Heller Professor of Jewish Education at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration of Yeshiva University.

Jonathan Spira-Savett

Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett has taught Chumash, English, and American History to high school students in day schools and other settings. His M.A. thesis at JTS explored the anthropology, teaching theory, and various impacts of a Shabbat afternoon Torah study group for teens that has been in existence for more than twenty years. In 1998 he chaired a conference for the Solomon Schechter Association probing the nexus between current biblical scholarship and Jewish education. In recent years he has been a student teacher mentor for the Davidson School at JTS.

David Starr

Dr. David Starr currently serves as the Dean of Me'ah at Hebrew College, where he is also the Assistant Professor of Jewish History. He received his Ph.D. in History and Jewish Studies from Columbia and his rabbinic ordination at JTS. Previously, he has served as the rabbi at the Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel, and as adjunct lecturer at Brandeis in the Hornstein Program.

Susie Tanchel

Susie Tanchel is the chair of the Tanakh department at the Gann Academy. She is also a doctoral candidate in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University. She teaches for the DeLeT program at the Mandel Center at Brandeis and for the The Curriculum Initiative; in addition, she teaches adult education classes at Hebrew College and at various synagogues in the greater Boston area.

Joshua Waxman

Rabbi Joshua Waxman is the spiritual leader of Or Hadash: A Reconstructionist Congregation in Fort Washington, PA. He also serves on the faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA, where he teaches in the Department of Biblical Civilization.

Andrea L. Weiss

Andrea L. Weiss is an Assistant Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She received a Ph.D. in Bible from the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania.