

The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund is a philanthropic catalyst, connecting Bay Area Jews - of all ages, backgrounds, and perspectives - to the power we have as a community to improve the world. We partner with donors, organizations, and foundations to address the pressing issues facing our community, and develop innovative strategies that result in deep and lasting impact locally, in Israel, and around the world.

Our work is guided by the timeless Jewish values of kehilla (community), tzedakah (giving with just intention), and tikkun olam (repairing the world).



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# EAST BAY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CONFERENCE

*Our Diverse Community; the Values of our Village*

FEBRUARY 14, 2020



Thank  
You

A special thanks to Liz Kaufman, East Bay ECE Directors Facilitator and to all of the East Bay ECE Directors for their vision and input to bring this conference to life.

NOTES



## SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS (cont.)

### How To Bring Loose Parts Into Your Classroom

We will explore the endless possibilities of loose parts and how to use them in a classroom setting. We will also look at how we can use these materials to engage children with a range of learning styles. Educators will have the opportunity to experience and experiment with diverse materials and formulate what is suitable for their own classrooms.

*Instructor: Mercedes Macedo*

### What Do We Mean by "Jewish Values"

We will explore ways to incorporate Jewish values into Jewish early childhood education. But what do we mean by "Jewish values?" What's particularly Jewish about those values? What happens when Jewish values come into conflict or tension with the values of the society in which we live? Join Rabbi Greninger will introduce an engaging conversation and text study exploring these questions, helping to deepen our understanding of what it means to incorporate "Jewish values" into our classes.

*Instructor: Rabbi Nicki Greninger*

### Kehillah: The Value of Community

Using Jewish textual approaches to community, we will explore how to build community in a classroom, how to build community in a congregation, how to integrate preschools into the broader congregational community, and perform a little bit of singing.

*Instructor: Rabbi Mark Bloom*

### Is Kavod (Respect) Possible in Jewish Preschools?

We will discuss the true meaning of Kavod, how to make sure it happens for all stakeholders, and explore why is it so difficult to implement in modern-day society. There will be time left for questions and answers.

*Instructor: Bathea James*



## SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00

Register and Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15

Welcome

Rabbi Pearlman

9:30 - 11:00

Session 1 Breakouts

11:00 - 11:20

Break

11:20 - 12:45

Session 2 Breakouts

12:45 - 1:30

Lunch and Wrap-up

1:30 - 3:00

Optional Staff Meeting Time



# SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

## SESSION 1

### **Little People of the Book: Using Diverse Children's Literature to Teach Jewish Values**

We will explore a diverse selection of books through a Jewish lens, gleaning Jewish values to support the learning in our classrooms. Participants will work in large and small groups to find factors that unify us as Jewish educators. Story stones, loose parts, and the books themselves give participants opportunities to interact with one another and reflect upon our practices.

*Instructors: Ellen Brosbe and Jodi Gladstone*

### **Gender Expansive Classrooms Through a Jewish Lens**

You will be given a primer on how to work towards building a classroom that will embrace and nurture trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming children—as well as allowing all children to become allies to those affected by the constraints of gender. We believe children have the right to explore gender through play and exploration, just as they experience everything in an ECE classroom. Through activities and conversation, we will challenge ourselves to change our perspective and brainstorm on how to support one another as staff in order to do this work. We will also discuss: the 6 genders named in historic Jewish texts; relate how traditional Jewish values align with nurturing gender expansiveness; and the progressive Jewish lenses that encourage us to do this work.

*Instructors: Eliza Stuber, Kitat Alon Preschool Teacher;  
Lydia Warren, Kitat Zayit Preschool Teacher*

### **Is Kavod (Respect) Possible in Jewish Preschools?**

We will discuss the true meaning of Kavod, how to make sure it happens for all stakeholders and explore why it is so difficult to implement in modern-day society. There will be time left for questions and answers.

*Instructor: Bathea James*

### **Who Can It Be Knocking at My Door? The Jewish Value of Hachnasat Orchim/Welcoming Guests**

Welcoming Guests is an integral part of our early childhood programs. As our schools and communities become more and more diverse, does everyone feel welcome? What is your part in making all the children and families feel a part of the community? What is the community's role in making you, the educator, feel welcome? Can we bring Jewish in a way that everyone is comfortable with? We will explore these questions and more as we strive to embrace all that we are.

*Instructor: Adam Lowy*

## SESSION 2

### **Process Versus Product: A Story of Building Community Through Art**

In the Reggio Emilia approach, we will speak about the importance of the process versus the product. In this talk, we will narrate the story of how we use our new art studio at Gan Shalom for clay explorations and for making individual and group statues with our children. We will also describe how these projects strengthen a sense of community at Gan Shalom. We will show how children have been able to express and learn about their unique selves and their community through this process. We will describe how working on a specific “product” in a Reggio Emilia inspired way has built a sense of belonging and encouraged child and parent participation in the community of Gan Shalom. It has also created a sense of wonder, joy, and curiosity about Jewish learning and teaching among the children and the teachers.

*Instructor: Dr. Beatrice J. V. Balfour and Molly Greenberg*