

Merav Berger, Ph.D.

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Professional Education & Therapy Experience

- **Truvie.org**, Online Currently
Online Jewish education; ShoresArt and Improv with Merav; preteens
- **Congregation Beth Am**, Los Altos Hills, California Currently
Hebrew Coordinator, Jewish Educator, & Theatre Director
3rd - 7th grade program; Hagigah director (Judaism through theatre); Israel education, 5th grade Hebrew
- **The Kitchen (Freedom School)**, San Francisco, California Currently
Jewish Educator
Family group learning through expressive arts, focus on Jewish values and blessings, parents and K/1 kids learn together
- **Congregation Shir Hadash**, Los Gatos, California 2020-2021
Jewish Educator
Kulanu 6th grade Hebrew and Kulanu JET leadership track for teens
- **“Improv with Merav”** Bay Area, California Currently
Facilitator
Drama enrichment program for ages 3-18
- **South Peninsula Hebrew Day School**, Sunnyvale, California 2015-2018
Early Child Educator & Consultant; Enrichment Class Facilitator
Emphasis on Jewish learning through expressive arts; focus on socialization and independence, problem solving, critical and creative thinking, life-long learning; parent and family engagement; middle school boys’ debate team
- **Jewish LearningWorks**, San Francisco, California 2016-2017
Shalom Explorers Program Coordinator
Create, market, implement, and support curriculum design for Jewish family learning; Jewish learning through expressive and creative arts; building community; interfaith and inclusive settings; national partnership model
- **Oshman Family Jewish Community Center**, Palo Alto, California 2012-2015
Educator & Jewish Resource Specialist
Focus on socialization, collaboration, problem solving, critical and creative thinking, life-long learning; Summer camp drama specialist; Jewish Resource Specialist
- **Congregation Kol Emeth, Palo Alto, California** 2013
Enrichment Facilitator
7-week improvisation and drama workshop for primary school children
- **Peninsula Volunteers: Rosener House**, Menlo Park, California 2011-2012
Activity Leader
Recreational and therapeutic activities for adults with special needs; assessment and treatment; activity planning; Establish, implement, and facilitate Expressive Arts group: "Expressive Memories;" Brain Games facilitator
- **Laniado Hospital**, Netanya, Israel 2008-2010
Psychodramatist
State-supported long-term and terminal nursing unit; oncology out-patient unit; diabetes out-patient unit: Group and private facilitation for both patients and families; assessment and treatment
- **WIZO “Garden and View” Youth Village**, Petach Tikva, Israel 2008-2009
Psychodramatist
Group and private psychodrama with at-risk urban children. Work with primary and preteen population utilizing psychodramatic and intermodal interventions to nurture and develop interdependence and self-awareness
- **Talpiot Children’s Community Foster Care**, Hadera, Israel 2008-2009
Psychodramatist/Mentor
Psychodrama a’deux with teen foster-care girls

Professional Development Workshops and Conference Presentations

“Tools for Creative Online Connection,” Online Offering of tips and techniques to bring creative and experiential group processes to an online format	Ongoing
“Play On: Bringing Creative and Experiential Learning Online,” SF Bay Area, CA Experiential workshop to support teachers in classroom management, student advocacy, and teaching efficacy	Ongoing
“Hevruta with a Twist,” SF Bay Area, CA Experiential application of creative teaching strategies to deepen Jewish learning in classrooms of all ages	Ongoing
“Show Me Don’t Tell Me: Documenting the Learning,” SF Bay Area, CA Theory and application of documentation in the classroom. Experiential.	Ongoing
“Playwork: Action Methods in the Classroom,” SF Bay Area, CA Experiential professional development on intentional teaching and learning through arts-based pedagogy. For educators.	Ongoing
“ShoreshArt” Online Hebrew through artmaking; all ages	Ongoing

Publications:

- Berger, M. (2019). Spontaneity training with children: Action-based learning. In A. Blatner (Ed.), *Action explorations: Using psychodramatic methods in non-therapeutic settings* (pp. 133-146). Seattle, WA: Parallax.
- Berger, M. (2020). Havruta with a Twist. *The Jewish Educator, Fall 2020/5781*.
<https://thejewisheducator.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/havruta-with-a-twist.pdf>

Professional Managerial & Administrative Experience:

- **ORT Israel**, Tel Aviv, Israel 2006-2008
Executive Secretary, Resource Development and Foreign Relations
Israeli nationwide school network. Director-General's Office. Responsibilities included translation, copywriting, website management, events planning, community relations, scheduling, and light administrative duties
- **W.A.C. Research** (Qualitative and quantitative market research), New York, USA 1999-2001
Project Manager
Qualitative research department. Managerial responsibilities in creating and directing client-based focus groups in various commercial fields; new client accounts; direct client relations; recruiting; logistics; and light administrative duties. Clients included MTV, Addidas, and LEGO
- **"Terragu" Tea-Bar Restaurant**, Emek Hefer, Israel 2002-2006
Owner and General Manager
Full restaurant and event catering with focus on loose-leaf tea. Management of staff (20+), suppliers, billing and salaries, daily operations
- **Tea Lounge**, Brooklyn, New York 1999-2001
Co-owner
Tea shop with over 100 loose-leaf teas, quality coffee, beer and wine, pastries; Management of staff (10+) and daily operations including billing, suppliers, salaries

Education:

Lesley University , Cambridge, Massachusetts Ph.D; Expressive Arts Therapies – focus on Expressive Arts-based Jewish Education	2022
Lesley University , Netanya, Israel (Cambridge, Massachusetts) MA; Expressive Arts Therapy and Mental Health Counseling – specialty: psychodrama	2010
Boston University - School for the Arts, Boston, Massachusetts BFA; Acting	1997

Additional Education & Experience:

IEATA – Board Member and 2022 Conference Chair, San Francisco, CA PR & Publications co-chair; Dissemination of information to and about the region, online communications 2022 Conference chair; 3-day, international online conference	Currently
BBYO-BBG , Sunnyvale, California Advisor to teenage girls’ local chapter: Jerusalem Shel Zahav BBG #1516	Currently
NewCAJE , Boston, MA Recordings Rental Initiative chair Board of Directors	Currently
Intel Museum , Santa Clara, California Docent and instructor; interactive tours and experiential learning labs	Currently
San Francisco Shakespeare & Silicon Valley Shakespeare Festival , San Francisco Bay Area, CA Guest artist and educator; teach Shakespeare 2 nd - 12 th grade	Currently
Jewish Federation & Endowment w/ Jim Joseph Foundation , San Francisco, CA Jewish Resource Specialist training	2013-2015
De Anza/Foothill College , Cupertino/Palo Alto, California Education	2014-2015
Symposium for Early Childhood Jewish Education , San Francisco, California “Constructivism in Early Childhood Education;” Keynote speaker: Dr. Rabbi Meir Muller	2015
Pedagogical Institute of Los Angeles Conference , Santa Monica, California “Children as Creators of Culture”	2015
FEPTO - 6th Annual International Conference, Neve Shalom, Israel Member of the Local Organizing Committee	2011
Dr. Sue Jennings Drama Therapy Workshop, Kadima, Israel 16 training hours	2011