



ישיבת רבנו יצחק אלחנן

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary

An Affiliate of Yeshiva University

CENTER FOR THE JEWISH FUTURE

GUNDERSEN

NATIONAL CHILD
PROTECTION TRAINING CENTER

ADDRESSING CHILD ABUSE

Defining Roles, Enhancing Skills

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PRESENTER BIOS



Dr. Norman Blumenthal is education director of the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikha Honors Program at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University. A licensed clinical psychologist with a private practice in Lawrence, NY, Dr. Blumenthal is Zachter Family Chair in Trauma and Crisis Counseling and Director of OHEL Miriam Center for Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Response. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of trauma, loss and bereavement. Dr. Blumenthal is founder and chairman of the board of education of CAHAL, a partnership of 10 local yeshivot and Hebrew day schools providing special education classes for learning disabled children; coordinator of group psychotherapy training for interns and residents at the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System; and consultant to TOVA, a mentoring program for disenfranchised teens. Dr. Blumenthal received his MA and PhD from Adelphi University.



Alison Feigh came to Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (JWRC) initially in 2001 from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She remained with JWRC until 2009 working with students, parents, law enforcement and the media, with the ultimate goal of reducing abductions and abuse of children. She returned to JWRC in 2011, following the completion of her Master of Science in criminal justice at St. Cloud State University. As a part of her academic program, Alison studied sex offender treatment, criminal justice and the media, child internet exploitation, and sex crimes and sex offenders. Alison's research led to her current project, assisting Dr. Mary Clifford on creating a textbook about sexual violence prevention for Oxford Publishing. Alison also holds a Bachelor of Arts in communication and "Responding to Missing Children in the U.S." from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. While at St. Olaf, Alison co-chaired the Sexual Assault Resource Network and began a peer education training program to compliment the victim services being provided. As a subject matter expert on the topic of child and teen safety, Alison has done extensive media interviews including CNN, Fox News and local news stations. Her positive, accessible personal safety messages are featured in her children's books, "On those Runaway Days" and "I Can Play It Safe." Both titles were released nationally in 2008. As a classmate of Jacob Wetterling, Alison learned early on how important it is to protect our children and youth from exploitation. She believes strongly in avoiding fear-based approaches to empower children and teens to walk around smart and not scared. The high-energy presentations that Alison is known for are fed by her passion for working with children and youth. Alison previously worked as a minister to youth and children at a metro area faith community for six years. She continues to be inspired and reenergized by working directly with children and teenagers at camps, retreats and theater companies.



Gavriel Fagin, Ph.D, LCSW holds a degree in both Forensic Psychology and Social Work. Gavriel holds a designation as a Sexual Offender Treatment Specialist (SOTS), and is a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP). Additionally, he is certified as an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC-T). Gavriel also holds a designation as a Problem Gambling Specialist. Gavriel has both taken and taught many advanced courses on the treatment of sexual abuse survivors, with particular emphasis on Orthodox Jewish male survivors. Gavriel trained in forensic work at the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward and subsequently at Rikers Island. While at Bellevue, Gavriel trained under Dr. Sanford Drob and Dr. Andrew Shiva. Areas of focus included the objective evaluation of risk, competency issues, criminal culpability, and the treatment of individuals with SPMI (Severe and Persistent Mental Illness) and individuals in AOT (Aggressive Outpatient Treatment). While working at Riker's Island, Gavriel was responsible for a team of discharge planners. These responsibilities included programmatic oversight, and the evaluation and placement recommendations for both high and low risk inmates. Gavriel is currently the Director of Tikunim Counseling Services, PLLC (TCS), a for profit organization with offices in Brooklyn, Lakewood, Monsey, and Queens. His clinical focus is the objective evaluation and scientific treatment of sexual deviance, sexual victimization, gambling, religious conflict, and domestic violence. In addition to seeing individual clients, Gavriel supervises a cadre of wonderful clinicians through TCS. In addition to his therapeutic work, Gavriel is also an Adjunct Professor at the Yeshiva University Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Gavriel is a Clinical and Research Member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, a member of The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, a member of The National Organization of Forensic Social Workers, and a member of NEFESH.



Debbie Fox, LCSW is founder and creator of the internationally recognized Safety Kid program, where she has facilitated a unique partnership between schools, families and children to create a safer world for our community's youngest members; at home, school and at camp. Guided by her passion for keeping children safe, she established Magen Yeladim International: Child Safety Institute in 2013 and currently serves as its director, consulting throughout the world on abuse prevention and intervention. A licensed social worker, Debbie also lectures frequently and has published within her areas of expertise. Her work as a consultant has been utilized by county and state agencies in the areas of child, family and cross-cultural sensitivity training, for which she has received letters of honor and recognition.”



Rabbi Yaakov Glasser is the David Mitzner Dean of Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future, and the Rabbi of Young Israel of Passaic-Clifton. In addition to his broad Torah knowledge, he brings an incredible energy and enthusiasm to his work, as is attested by the hundreds who attend his explanatory Kinot on Tisha B'av and his Shabbos Hagadol and Shabbos Shuva lectures. He possesses extensive experience in youth work and informal Jewish education, having served as founding director of the Orthodox Union's Jewish Student Union in New Jersey – a network of public school clubs for Jewish teens. Rabbi Glasser has Yoreh Yoreh Smicha from Yeshiva University, as well as an M.S. in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. He is also a member of Yeshiva University's Kollel LeHoraah. He and his wife, Ruth, have four children.



Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz is the founder and dean of Yeshiva Darchei Noam of Monsey, and founder and Director of *Project Y.E.S.* (Youth Enrichment Services). He is recognized throughout the Jewish community as an authority on raising children in these troubled times. His bold and insightful presentations, workshops, CD's, and articles have helped to mold a generation of parents and educators. He is the author of two books, *Growing with the Parsha and Living and Parenting*, and has produced a whole host of best-selling parenting audio-visual materials. He is a regular contributor on Torah, educational, and parenting topics to *The Jewish Observer*, *The Jewish Press*, *Mishpacha*, and *Hamodia* periodicals.



Leora Joseph is the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Prior to that, she worked as a prosecutor handling cases involving intimate crimes and vulnerable victims. She was the managing chief deputy in the 18th Judicial District where she oversaw cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking and elder abuse. Previously, she was the deputy chief of the family protection and sexual assault unit in the Boston (Suffolk County) District Attorney's office. Leora has been a frequent lecturer around the country at synagogues, schools and universities.



Rona Novick, Ph.D., is Dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. She received tenure after serving on the faculty at Azrieli for seven years. She directed the Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Doctoral Program in Jewish Education and Administration for the past 6 years. Dr. Novick also holds the Raine and Stanley Silverstein Chair in Professional Ethics and Values. Dr. Novick is the Co-Educational Director of the Hidden Sparks program, providing consultation to day schools and Yeshivas, and holds a voluntary appointment in Child Psychology at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Novick received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University and completed her doctoral internship at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. She developed the Alliance for School Mental Health at North-Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center and served as its director for eight years, authoring the BRAVE bully prevention program for schools. She is recognized for her expertise in behavior management and child behavior therapy and has published scholarly articles and book chapters on school applications of behavior management, special education, children and trauma and bully prevention and social emotional learning in schools. She has delivered numerous presentations at national and international conferences, focusing on her research interests in parenting and parent-school partnerships, child anxiety disorders, social-emotional learning, special education and the behavior and development of young children. She is the author of a book for parents: *Helping Your Child Make Friends*, and editor of the book series *Kids Don't Come With Instruction Manuals*.



Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger is a rosh yeshiva at the Yeshiva Program/Mazer School of Talmudic Studies of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Neuburger is also the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield, N.J.

Rabbi Neuburger is an authority on issues related to marital relationships and the purity of the Jewish home. He offers his services to help young men train for married life and prepare to build a proper Jewish home built on Jewish law and spirit. From 1986 to 1990, Rabbi Neuburger was spiritual leader of the Jewish community at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Jack D. Weiler Hospital. Rabbi Neuburger received semikha from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1979. He is a graduate of Yeshiva College, and earned an MA in psychology from Columbia University.



Dr. David Pelcovitz holds the Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus Chair in Psychology and Jewish Education at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration of Yeshiva University. He is also special assistant to President Richard M. Joel. In addition, Dr. Pelcovitz is an instructor in pastoral counseling at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Serving for more than two decades as director of psychology at North Shore University Hospital-NYU School of Medicine and clinical professor of psychology at NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Pelcovitz has consulted extensively with the Jewish community in the United States, Europe and Israel on a wide range of issues facing children and adolescents. Dr. Pelcovitz, who received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, has published and lectured extensively on a variety of topics related to education, parenting and child mental health. His most recent publications are a co-edited book "Child Abuse in the Jewish Community" and peer reviewed publications on child physical abuse and emotional abuse.



Victor Vieth serves as senior director of Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center (Gundersen NCPTC) headquartered in Winona, Minn. In this position, Victor develops long-term strategy for expanding Gundersen NCPTC and its programs nationally and internationally. He also teaches, publishes, creates programs and works on public policy issues related to child protection. Victor has directed Gundersen NCPTC since its inception in 2003. During his tenure, he has trained thousands of child protection professionals from all 50 states, two U.S. Territories and 17 countries on numerous topics pertaining to child abuse investigations, prosecutions and prevention. In addition, he has been instrumental in implementing 22 state and international forensic interview training programs, and dozens of undergraduate and graduate programs on child maltreatment. Victor gained national recognition for his work in addressing child abuse in small communities as a prosecutor in rural Minnesota. He has been named to the President's Honor Roll of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. The Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association also named him one of the "21 Young Lawyers Leading Us Into the 21st Century." Victor has published countless articles related to the investigation, prosecution and prevention of child abuse and neglect. He is author of "Unto the Third Generation," a bold initiative that outlines the necessary steps we must all take to eliminate child abuse in America in three generations. Victor graduated magna cum laude from Winona State University and earned his juris doctor from Hamline University School of Law (HUSL). While studying at HUSL, he received the American Jurisprudence Award for achievement in the study of constitutional law and served as editor-in chief of the "Law Review." Victor speaks on numerous topics related to child abuse and neglect.