



PRESENTER PROFILES

RABBI JOSH BLASS



Rabbi Josh Blass is a Mashgiach Ruchani at RIETS in Yeshiva University, where he has been serving for the last 13 years. He also is the rabbi of Kehillas Beis Yehuda in Monsey, NY. Rabbi Blass received his semikha from RIETS and is currently finishing his Masters in Jewish Philosophy from the Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies. Since receiving his ordination, Rabbi Blass has taught in a number of high schools, including MTA and Bruriah. In the year 2000, he became the Rav of the Albert Einstein School of Medicine where he worked for four years, before joining Kehillas Beis Yehuda. During his twelve years in Monsey, Rabbi Blass has been involved in an advisory or leadership capacity with a number of organizations including Tomche Shabbos, Project Tikvah, the Chevra Kadisha, RCA Beis Din and others. He is also very involved in the world of shiduchim and guiding students at YU on issues of dating and as a chosson teacher.

JONATHAN CAPLAN



Caplan Capital Management, Inc. was founded by **Jonathan D. Caplan**, a financial industry veteran with over three decades of experience. Formerly a Wall Street executive at major investment banks, Jonathan's entrepreneurial spirit inspired him in 1996 to launch an independent investment advisory firm. A proven, talented trader on Wall Street, Jonathan utilized his "Wall Street" expertise to hone his skills as a successful portfolio strategist and risk manager on "Main Street." He derives great satisfaction in the deep relationships he has developed with his clients, many of whom have witnessed significant growth in their investment portfolios. In 2018, Caplan Capital Management, Inc. affiliated with Atlas Wealth Alliance LLC, a registered investment advisory firm, that has helped to broaden the suite of products and services to match client needs. Through its affiliation with Atlas, Caplan Capital now offers clients comprehensive services including financial planning, insurance, annuities and many other products and services. Mr. Caplan, who serves as President and Chief Investment Officer, holds a Master of Business Administration degree from New York University's Stern School of Business. He has served as a board member and advisor to many local community organizations. He resides in Edison, New Jersey.

DR. SCOTT CHUDNOFF



Dr. Chudnoff is Stamford Health's new Chair of the Hugh K. Miller, MD, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology (OBGYN). He is responsible for the overall direction of obstetrics, gynecologic oncology, maternal/fetal medicine and reproductive endocrinology, as well as advancing the Women's Health programs at the Hospital and Tully Health Center. Board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Chudnoff specializes in women's health, gynecology, minimally invasive surgery, medical technology and medical education, and is certified as a sexuality counselor by the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT). Prior to joining Stamford Health, Dr. Chudnoff was Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health, Associate Residency Director at Einstein/Montefiore and the Director of Gynecology at Montefiore. A graduate of Yeshiva University, he received his medical degree from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey, and his Master of Science degree, residencies in Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health and a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

SARA DIAMENT



in Bergenfield, NJ.

Sara Diament is the Director of School Services at Hidden Sparks. She holds a Masters' degree in Jewish Studies from Yeshiva University and a Masters' degree in Health and Behavior Studies from Columbia University. Sara has taught girls and young women in both yeshivas and public schools on topics ranging from puberty to intimacy and relationships, and works individually with young women who are getting married and need personalized education and coaching. In addition, she conducts workshops for parents and educators on talking to children about intimacy. Sara has published a journal article on curriculum design when teaching Orthodox young women about sexuality and is the author of the book "Talking to your Children about Intimacy." She lives

ZAHAVA FARBMAN



Zahava Farbman, LMSW, is a veteran traumatologist, having worked in this field for close to two decades. Formerly she held the position as a director of Camp Simcha, Chai Lifelines overnight camp for children with cancer and other medical challenges. Zahava's current position, which she has held for much of her career, is the Associate Director of Project Chai, the Crisis Intervention, Trauma and Bereavement Department of Chai Lifeline, where she focuses on helping families and communities prepare for and respond to the full range of crises, traumas and tragedies. Zahava has authored and presented papers across the nation in her areas of expertise. She is widely recognized as the "go to" professional in responding to crisis in the Jewish community. Zahava is also currently Director of the Yeshiva University Crisis and Trauma Center, and Adjunct Professor at the YU Wurzweiler School of Social Work, where she is also pursuing a PhD in Wurzweiler with a focus in grief and trauma. In addition, Zahava is the responder for mental health emergencies for Hatzolah of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway in NY. She is also the crisis and bereavement consultant for Achiezer Community Resource Center and ATIME. Zahava lives in Woodmere NY.

RABBI DANIEL FELDMAN



Rabbi Daniel Z. Feldman is a Rosh Yeshiva at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University, as well as an instructor in the Sy Syms School of Business, and has taught for the Wurzweiler School of Social Work and the Katz School of Continuing Education. He also serves as the Executive Editor of the RIETS initiative of YU Press. He is an alumnus of Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh and received his ordination (Yoreh Yoreh and Yadin Yadin) from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he was a fellow of the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon. Rabbi Feldman is the author of *The Right and The Good: Halakhah and Human Relations* (Jason Aronson, 1999; expanded edition, Yashar Books, 2005); *Divine Footsteps: Chesed and the Jewish Soul* (Yeshiva University Press, 2008); *False Facts and True Rumors: Lashon Hara in Contemporary Culture* (YU Press/Maggid Books, 2015); as well as five volumes of Talmudic essays entitled *Binah BaSefarim*, which have been published with the approbations of R. Avraham Schapira, R. Ovadiah Yosef, R. Natan Gestetner, R. Zalman Nechemiah Goldberg, R. Asher Weiss and others. The most recent volumes deal with Chanukah and with the obligation to honor one's parents. Rabbi Feldman is the co-editor of more than ten volumes of Talmudic essays and Jewish Thought and serves on the editorial board of Tradition, and has also written for publications such as Jewish Action, The Orthodox Forum, and the Oxford Handbook of Judaism and Economics. He is a frequent lecturer in locations across America and abroad. Rabbi Feldman is the spiritual leader of Ohr Saadya of Teaneck, NJ, where he lives with his family.

RABBI SIMCHA FEUERMAN



Rabbi Simcha Feuerman, LCSW-R serves as President of Nefesh International. In addition, he has a private psychotherapy practice, specializing in high-conflict couples and families and the effects of addiction and infidelity in relationships. He has written several books, including *Marriage 911*, and *Direction: Finding Your Way in Relationships, Parenting and Personal Growth*, both co-authored with his wife Chaya Feuerman, LCSW-R, and a sefer *עת לפרוש ועת לאדוקב*.

DR. RUTH GLASSER



Dr. Ruth Glasser Dr. Ruth Glasser is the Rebbetzin of the Young Israel of Passaic. She is also the School Psychologist at Naaleh High School for Girls. Previously, she served as the School Psychologist at the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy. In her role as a school psychologist she not only provides individual support and guidance to students, faculty and parents, but also devises curricula and programs to address the students' overall social and emotional development. Dr. Glasser received her BA in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Child Clinical Psychology from St. John's University. She has worked clinically in a variety of settings, including community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, and residential treatment centers. She has also taught AP Psychology, and has served as a faculty member on several NCSY summer programs.

RABBI YAAKOV GLASSER



Rabbi Yaakov Glasser is the David Mitzner Dean of Yeshiva University's 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 Semikha from Yeshiva University, as well as an M.S. in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.

RABBI NAPHTALI LAVENDA



Rabbi Naphtali Lavenda, MBA is currently Director of Online Rabbinic Programming at Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future. He has been working in Jewish non-profit for over 15 years, first at the Orthodox Union and currently at YU, coordinating programs and resources for rabbis, including several online continuing education courses for rabbis. Rabbi Lavenda graduated from Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business, received rabbinic ordination from its Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and completed studies at the Bar Ilan International MBA program. Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Rabbi Lavenda spent a number of years in New York until he made Aliyah in 2009. He currently lives in Yad Binyamin with his family.

RABBI KENNETH HAIN



Since 1988 **Rabbi Kenneth Hain** has served as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom in Lawrence, New York. Prior to that he served in congregations in New York City and Houston, Texas. A native of Danville, Virginia, Rabbi Hain was educated and ordained at Yeshiva University – Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He has taught Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University's Stern College and served as a director of YU's Division of Communal Services. From 1999-2001, Rabbi Hain served as President of the Rabbinical Council of America and has also served as President of RIETS Rabbinical Alumni. In 2008 he was named among the Top 25 Rabbis in America by Newsweek Magazine.

RACHEL HERCMAN



Rachel Hercman, LCSW is a psychotherapist specializing in relationships, sexual intimacy, and trauma. She maintains a private practice in Manhattan and provides therapy and consultation for individuals and couples. Rachel regularly lectures in communities locally and abroad, and she serves as a consultant for rabbis, educators, and mental health professionals. She has trained Kallah teachers through programs of Shalom Task Force, the Orthodox Union, RCA, Chabad, Yeshiva University, and Nishmat Institute. A graduate of CUNY Queens College, Rachel earned a Master's Degree in Social Work as a merit scholar at Wurzweiler School of Social Work. She has post-graduate advanced training in sex therapy, EMDR, somatic interventions, IFS, CBT, mindfulness, and she completed an internship in couples therapy at the Ackerman Institute in New York City.

RABBI YAKOV HOROWITZ



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.

DAVID MARK



David J. Mark, MS, LCSW, is the founder and director of the Long Island Couples Institute. He has been working with couples for the past 20 years. David is a certified Gottman Therapist, having trained directly with John and Julie Gottman at the Gottman Institute, where he received Level 1 and 2 Training in Gottman Method Couples Therapy, and Level 3 certification in Practicum Training, as well as in Couples and Addiction Recovery. He also studied directly with Sue Johnson in Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT), and is currently pursuing a certification in EFT. David received his undergrad from Yeshiva University, an MSW from YU's Wurzweiler School of Social Work and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Jewish Education at the Azrieli School of Jewish Education and Administration. Additionally, he earned a bilingual school psychology degree from St. Johns. Over the last few years, David has led several Gottman trainings specifically geared for the RIETS semicha students and their wives.

RABBI YAAKOV NEUBURGER



Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger is a Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University-RIETS. Rabbi Neuburger is also the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield, NJ. Rabbi Neuburger is an authority on issues related to marital relationships and the purity of the Jewish home. He offers his services as a Chosson Teacher 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 rabbi 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.

RABBI LARRY ROTHWACHS



Rabbi Larry Rothwachs has served as rabbi at Congregation Beth Aaron in Teaneck, NJ since August 2002. Rabbi Rothwachs is a graduate of Yeshiva College, the Azrieli School of Jewish Education and received his semicha from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. From 1998 through 2016, Rabbi Rothwachs taught Talmud at Yeshiva University High School for Boys and the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey and he currently serves as head rabbi of Camp Morasha. In April 2016, he was appointed Director of Professional Rabbis at RIETS at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Rothwachs has served as president of the Rabbinical Council of Bergen County and on the executive committee of the Rabbinical Council of America. In May 2016, he was named by the Jewish Forward among ‘America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis.’ Rabbi Rothwachs has delivered many lectures on a wide spectrum of topics of Jewish interest.

DR. MICHAEL SALAMON



Dr. Michael J. Salamon, Director of ADC Psychological Services in Hewlett, NY, is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a 2018 APA Presidential Citation Awardee recognized, among other things, for his clinical work in the field of trauma, abuse and resiliency. He holds a dual Doctoral degree in both Clinical Psychology and Applied Research Design and Methodology. He serves as a consultant to several academic institutions and organizations, is on the clinical staff of North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York (a Division of Northwell Health), was a consultant to the Mount Sinai Narcotics Rehabilitation Center and is currently Co-Chair of the Professional Advisory Board of P’TACH. He has been on the editorial board of several professional psychology journals and has written extensively about consulting, and psychotherapeutic issues including: the effects of abuse, personality development, marriage, parenting and assessment issues and is the co-author of the Life Satisfaction Scale and the Addiction and Dependency Scale. He is also an internationally recognized trauma specialist having consulted and lectured internationally. Dr. Salamon has appeared on a variety of television and radio shows and is a contributor to the Jerusalem Post, the Jewish Press, Jewish Week, Haaretz, Arutz Sheva and the Times of Israel. His books include: *Home or Nursing Home: Making the Right Choice*, *The Shidduch Crisis: Causes and Cures*, and *Every Pot Has a Cover: A Proven System for Finding, Keeping and Enhancing the Ideal Relationship and Abuse in the Jewish Community*.

RABBI DR. JONATHAN SCHWARTZ



Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz is Rabbi at Adath Israel in Elizabeth, NJ. Rabbi Schwartz previously served as the Assistant Rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan, Rabbinic Intern at the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates, Rosh HaKollel of Great Neck Synagogue's summer Kollel Program, and coordinator of the Moshe Soshtain Beis HaMedrash in Woodmere. Rabbi Schwartz received his B.A., M.A., and Psy.D. degrees from Yeshiva University. In addition, he received his *semicha* from RIETS. Rabbi Schwartz has also served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology. A licensed psychologist, Rabbi Schwartz is the Clinical Director of the Center for Anxiety Relief in Union, NJ (www.njanxietyrelief.com). He has also served as a staff therapist at various critical community clinics, including the Bronx VA Medical Center, Tikvah at Ohel, and Pesach Tikvah in Williamsburgh. He has written and published psychologically-oriented articles spanning the Jewish lifecycle and focused on anxiety and mood-related issues. A respected authority on Anxiety Disorders and OCD, Rabbi Schwartz has presented lectures and workshops on psychological and Judaic themes around the world.

RABBI EZRA SCHWARTZ



Rabbi Ezra Schwartz is a Rosh Yeshiva and Associate Director of RIETS at Yeshiva University, from which he holds five advanced degrees, including Yadin Yadin. He also restructured RIETS' program in Contemporary Halacha. Additionally, Rabbi Schwartz is the rabbi of Mt. Sinai Jewish Center in Washington Heights, where he has served since 2009. Previously, he was also member of the staff of YU President Richard M. Joel, where he served as Assistant to the President for Research and Communications.

RABBI RONALD SCHWARZBERG



Rabbi Ronald L. Schwarzberg, CPT has served as the Director of the Morris and Gertrude Bienenfeld Department of Jewish Career Development and Placement, a division of Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), since July 2005. During this period of time he has placed hundreds of RIETS and RCA rabbis in their positions and helped them with their contracts and many other issues rabbis face in the active rabbinate. Rabbi Schwarzberg served from 1986-2005 as senior rabbi of Congregation Ahavas Achim in Highland Park, NJ, and prior as associate rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, NY. Rabbi Schwarzberg serves as an active member of the RCA Retirement Plan Committee and encourages its members to take advantage of the plan in support of providing themselves with financial security in the future for retirement. Rabbi Schwarzberg has served as co-chair of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County and as chair of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Communities. In July of 2016, Rabbi Schwarzberg was the keynote speaker at the United Kingdom's first ever Inspired Jewish Leadership Conference hosted by the United Synagogue. In April 2015, Rabbi Schwarzberg earned his National Academy of Sports Medicine Certification in Personal Training (CPT). In recent years he has been focusing on the importance of the synergy between physical well-being and spiritual health. Rabbi Schwarzberg, a graduate of YU's Yeshiva College and Ferkauf School of Psychology, received his ordination from YU's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS).

He remains active in the Highland Park Jewish community where he serves as Rabbi Emeritus of his former congregation.

DR. EFRAT SOBOLOFSKY



Ten years ago, **Dr. Efrat Sobolofsky** helped launch YUConnects, a Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future initiative to increase opportunities for single men and women interested in dating and relationship building. The program runs large social events, hosts a matchmaking website, has over 100 trained connectors worldwide, and offers support to those traveling through the dating system. YUConnects has celebrated almost 350 engagements to date. In addition, Efrat serves as the Coordinator of Respite Services at the Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities (J-ADD) in Paramus, NJ, which supports the needs of families who have children with disabilities. She holds both a MSW and Ph.D degree in Social Work from Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Efrat is married to Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky, Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University and Rabbi of Congregation Ohr HaTorah in Bergenfield.

RABBI MORDECHAI WILLIG



Rabbi Mordechai Willig is a Rosh Yeshiva and Rosh Kollel at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he is the Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Contemporary Halachah. Rabbi Willig has served as spiritual leader of the Young Israel of Riverdale in the Bronx since 1974. He is the author of *Am Mordechai* (on Brachot, Shabbat and Yom Tov), and has authored many articles in Torah scholarship journals. Rabbi Willig is also the Deputy Av Beis Din of the Beth Din of America. Rabbi Willig received a BA in mathematics from Yeshiva College in 1968, an MS in Jewish history in 1971 from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and was ordained that same year at RIETS.