



PRESENTER PROFILES

RABBI ADAM J. BERNER



Rabbi Adam J. Berner, Esq., MA, is a leading practitioner and trainer in Mediation and Collaborative Family Law, and founder of the Berner Law & Mediation Group, with offices in Midtown Manhattan and Hackensack, New Jersey. Having worked in a law firm specializing in matrimonial and family law, he brings to his practice the experience and familiarity with the law and its alternative processes for resolving disputes. Adam's practice of mediation, primarily in the areas of family, divorce, employment and workplace disputes, is based on the principles of facilitating understanding, enabling parties to work out their own agreements according to their own values, priorities and schedules. With over 25 years in the Matrimonial ADR field, he is Founding

President of the Collaborative Divorce Association of New Jersey, Past President of the Family & Divorce Mediation Council of New York, and a founding member of both the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals and the New Jersey Council of Collaborative Practice Groups. In addition to serving as Adjunct Professor for over two decades at Cardozo School of Law in Manhattan where he teaches Collaborative Family Law and Divorce Mediation, Adam is an instructor for various panels, bar associations, and private trainings. In the Jewish community Adam is a frequent lecturer, presenter and writer on mediation, conflict resolution and family law. In addition to having served as a *dayan* with the Beth Din of America, within Yeshiva University's RIETS, Adam trained and designed the conflict resolution program for rabbinical students. Of greatest importance, as a husband and father of 4, Adam realizes that our conflict resolutions skills remain a work in progress

DR. NORMAN BLUMENTHAL



Dr. Norman Blumenthal is education director of the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikha Honors Program at RIETS, and an Adjunct Professor at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and Wurzweiler School of Social at Yeshiva University. A licensed clinical psychologist with a private practice in Lawrence, NY, Dr. Blumenthal is the Zachter Family Chair in Trauma and Crisis Counseling and Director of OHEL Miriam Center for Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Response. He has over 25 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. He is also a past Vice President of NEFESH. Dr. Blumenthal received his MA and PhD from Adelphi University.

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 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 CHAIM JACHTER



Rabbi Chaim Jachter has earned an international reputation as a Get Administrator, consultant for community Eruvin and a prolific writer. His publications include a series of four well-received books entitled Gray Matter on contemporary topics in Jewish Law. He is a veteran teacher of Judaic Studies at Torah Academy of Bergen County, Rabbi of Congregation Shaarei Orah (the Sephardic Congregation of Teaneck) and Dayan on the Beit Din of Elizabeth. Rabbi Jachter has lectured on topics of significance at a wide variety of venues worldwide. Rabbi Jachter lives with his wife and five children in Teaneck, New Jersey.

RABBI NAPHTALI LAVENDA



Rabbi Naphtali Lavenda is currently Director of Online Rabbinic Programming at Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future. He has been working in Jewish non-profit for the past 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. Naphtali 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, Naphtali spent a number of years in New York until he made Aliyah in 2009. Naphtali currently lives in Yad Binyamin, Israel.

DAVID MANDEL



David Mandel has served as Chief Executive Officer of OHEL Children's Home and Family Services since 1995. He has provided many years of service to the social service community and is a renowned writer and international lecturer on a broad range of mental health and social service issues. He is Chairman of Touro College School of Social Work Professional Advisory Board and co-editor, with Dr. David Pelcovitz, of *Breaking the Silence: Sexual Abuse in the Jewish Community*. David has written over 250 articles in newspapers, magazines and journals on a broad range of topics including: mental health, stigma, addictions, sexual abuse, adolescent conflict and divorce.

RABBI SHMUEL MAYBRUCH



Rabbi Shmuel Maybruch, LSW, is a licensed social worker who coaches individuals and couples on how to succeed at all aspects of their relationships. Previously he was a magid shiur in the Stone Beit Midrash Program of Yeshiva University and Clinical Pastoral Counselor/ Sgan Mashgiach Ruchani of both the undergraduate division of Yeshiva University and RIETS' post-graduate ordination program, as well as founding Rabbi of the Shenk Shul of Washington Heights, New York. He is known for combining advanced Talmudic scholarship with his interpersonal connection and warmth for his clients, students, and congregants. In addition to coaching, educating, and mentoring individuals, couples, and communities about enhancing their relationships, Rabbi Maybruch specializes in coaching about anxiety (dealing with stress and/ or social discomfort), youth at-risk and individuals or couples struggling with pornography. Rabbi Maybruch is a recognized authority on Taharas Hamishpacha/ Jewish Family Law and has provided intensive courses to rabbinical students as well as preparatory courses to chasanim/ grooms before their weddings. He frequently fields halachic questions from Rabbis and laymen alike in matters of Taharas Hamishpacha/ Jewish Family Law, intimacy, and the interface between intimacy and Jewish Law. Rabbi Maybruch studied in Yeshiva Shaar Hatorah and then at Yeshiva University, where he graduated with a B.A. in Psychology. He subsequently studied for ordination at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He continued post-ordination intensive Talmudic and Halachic study in the Wexner Kollel Elyon there, where he concurrently pursued his education in psychotherapy and counseling. He holds a Masters from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Rabbi Maybruch is a popular lecturer in both halacha/Jewish law, mental health, and the nexus of the two.

YAAKOV NADEL



Yaakov Nadel is the founder of GuardYourEyes.com. A computer programmer by trade, he started the site in 2007 as a side project. Nadel himself was struggling to avoid inappropriate material on the internet and found various ways that helped him in this regard. Seeing many other Jews struggling with this, he decided to do something about it. He bought a domain and created a forum for observant Jews just like him. Today, GuardYourEyes has over thirty thousand members and is becoming known throughout the Jewish world as the number one resource for dealing with the growing problem of pornography on the Internet and related behaviors. The website's advisory board includes noted therapists Rabbi Dr. Abaham J. Twerski, Dr. David Pelcovitz and Rabbi Simcha Feuerman, and numerous rabbinical approbations, including several YU Roshei Yeshiva (Rabbi Hershel Schachter and Rabbi Mordechai Willig) and Rabbi Moshe Weinberger.

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 M. GARY NEUMAN



Rabbi M. Gary Neuman, LMHC is a licensed psychotherapist. He is a New York Times bestselling author of seven books, including “Helping Your Kids Cope with Divorce the Sandcastles Way”, and has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, over 50 times on the Today show, as well as Anderson Cooper, NBC, Dateline, Katie Couric, Steve Harvey, Good Morning America, the View and many others. Rabbi Neuman is also a former Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue. He lives with his wife, six children and two grandchildren in Miami Beach, FL.

DR. DAVID PELCOVITZ



Dr. David Pelcovitz holds the Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus Chair in Psychology and Jewish Education at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, where he is also an instructor in pastoral counseling at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. For over two decades he was Director of Psychology at North Shore University Hospital-NYU School of Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, at NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Pelcovitz has published and lectured extensively on a wide range of issues facing children and adolescents including child mental health, family violence, the impact of domestic violence, stress management, parenting, transmitting values to children and adolescents and coping with trauma and loss. His most recent publication is a book in collaboration with his father entitled, "Life in the Balance; Torah Perspectives on Positive Psychology" which follows their previous joint books, "Balanced Parenting" on parenting from a Jewish perspective and "Balanced Living: Torah Perspectives on Positive Psychology."

RABBI MENACHEM PENNER



Rabbi Menachem Penner is the Max and Marion Grill Dean of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University and the Men's Undergraduate Torah Studies programs at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Penner holds the title of Rabbi Emeritus of the Young Israel of Holliswood in Queens, where he served as the spiritual leader proudly from 1996 – 2015. Rabbi Penner received his semikha from RIETS in 1994 and his BA from Yeshiva College in 1991.

BRANY ROSEN



Brany Rosen is the Director of Member Services for the A TIME/MENORAH Adoption Program. A TIME (A Torah Infertility Medium of Exchange) is a New York-based non-profit support group for Orthodox Jewish infertile couples, which works to educate doctors in halachic matters, rabbis in the latest fertility treatments and provide support for those experiencing infertility. A TIME was established in Brooklyn, NY in 1993 by Rabbi Shaul and Brany Rosen. Currently, the organization has over 7,700 registered members and branch offices operate in the United States, Canada, England and Israel.

RABBI HERSHEL SCHACHTER



Rabbi Schachter, a noted Talmudic scholar, has had a distinguished career with RIETS for over 50 years. He joined the faculty in 1967, at the age of 26, the youngest Rosh Yeshiva at RIETS. Since 1971, Rabbi Schachter has been Rosh Kollel in the Marcos and Adina Katz Kollel at RIETS and also holds the institution's Nathan and Vivian Fink Distinguished Professorial Chair in Talmud. In addition to his teaching duties, Rabbi Schachter lectures, writes, and serves as a world renowned posek. A prolific author, he has written more than 100 articles, in Hebrew and English, for such scholarly publications as HaPardes, Hadarom, Beth Yitzchak, and Or Hamizrach. Seferim written include Eretz HaTzvi, B'ikvei HaTzon, Ginas Haegoz, and Nefesh HaRav, MiPninei HaRav and Divrei HaRav. At age 22, Rabbi Schachter was appointed assistant to the renowned Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt"l. Rabbi Schachter earned his B.A. from Yeshiva College, an M.A. in Hebrew Literature from the Bernard Revel Graduate School in 1967, and was ordained that same year.

RABBI DR. JONATHAN SCHWARTZ



Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Schwartz is Rabbi at Adatah 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.

KESHET STARR



Keshet Starr is the Executive Director of the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA), the only nonprofit organization addressing the agunah (Jewish divorce refusal) crisis on a case-by-case basis worldwide. At ORA, Keshet oversees advocacy, early intervention, and educational initiatives designed to assist individuals seeking a Jewish divorce, and advocates for the elimination of abuse in the Jewish divorce process. Keshet has written for outlets such as the Times of Israel, The Forward, Haaretz, and academic publications, and frequently presents on issues related to Jewish divorce, domestic abuse, and the intersection between civil and religious divorce processes. A graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Keshet lives in central New Jersey with her husband and three young children.

DR. BINYAMIN TEPFER



Dr. Tepfer received his doctoral degree in Educational Psychology from The Graduate Center, CUNY. He received advanced training at The Beck Institute (cognitive therapy), the Albert Ellis Institute (rational emotive behavioral therapy), The William Allison White Institute (Interpersonal Psychoanalytic methods), The Ackerman Institute for the Family (family therapy), The Psychodrama Institute of New York (experiential modalities), and The Gottman Institute (marital therapy). He has extensively trained with Dr. Don-David Lusterman PhD, one of the national experts in the field of family therapy and couple infidelity, and Dr. Patrick Carnes, founder and director of the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals (IITAP), where he received his certification as a sex addiction and multiple addictions therapist (CSAT, CMAT). He is also a certified sex therapist (AASECT), completing his advanced training at The Council for Relationships, in Philadelphia, where he trained extensively with Dr. Steven Betchen, a pioneer in integrating marital and psychodynamic therapy models. Currently, Dr. Tepfer maintains a full time private practice in Cedarhurst, Brooklyn, and Lakewood, where he counsels individuals, couples, and families, and runs weekly recovery groups. He is the founder and clinical director of Tepfer & Associates, and supervises the counseling team at both locations. Dr. Tepfer currently serves as a supervisor for the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals (IITAP), and is professionally affiliated with The Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health (SASH), and Nefesh.

LISA GOODMAN TWERSKI



Lisa Twerski, LCSW, received her Masters in Social Work from New York University's School of Social Work in 1990, and has advanced certification in pre-marital counseling and education. She has been working with victims of domestic violence for almost 30 years and has held numerous positions in and out of the Jewish community, both with victims as well as in programs for abusers. Mrs. Twerski is on the Board of Directors of Nefesh, The International Network for Orthodox Jewish Mental Health Professionals, maintains a private practice in Brooklyn, consults to Shalom Task Force and lectures locally and nationally on many subjects including domestic abuse, marriage, and dating. Mrs. Twerski wrote a book entitled, "I'm So Confused, Am I Being Abused? Guidance for the Orthodox Jewish Spouse and Those who Are Trying to Help".

RABBI SHLOMO WEISSMANN



Rabbi Weissmann received rabbinical ordination from RIETS in 2001 and advanced rabbinical ordination (Yadin Yadin) in 2014. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Rabbi Weissmann has served as the Director of the Beth Din of America since 2008. In this role, he utilizes both his secular and Jewish legal expertise to manage all aspects of the Beth Din's activities, and to oversee a forum for dispute resolution that seamlessly integrates the Jewish jurisprudential tradition with secular norms of procedural due process. Rabbi Weissmann also serves as a mediator and arbitrator at the Beth Din, and has mediated and arbitrated over 100 cases since joining the organization. Rabbi Weissmann is a frequent speaker on topics relating to religious arbitration, and has delivered lectures at law firms, law schools, religious institutions, and universities. Prior to joining the Beth Din of America, Rabbi Weissmann served as a commercial real estate attorney at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, and before that at Day Pitney LLP and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

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.

RABBI ELIEZER ZWICKLER



Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler is senior Rabbi of Congregation AABJD in West Orange, NJ, as well a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice with a focus on couples therapy. Rabbi Zwickler is also an Adjunct Professor at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. He received ordination from RIETS, and holds Masters Degrees in Social Work from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, and in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Zwickler has extensive training in Emotionally Focused Therapy, Internal Family Systems, and Sexual Addiction. He has served on the boards of the Beth Din of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, and is currently the Vice President of the Vaad

of Metrowest.