



## 2013-14 Hidden Sparks Without Walls/Parent Connection

*As of September 2013—please refer to website for latest listings*

Register at [www.hiddensparks.org](http://www.hiddensparks.org)

Phone-only participant? Other Questions? Please contact the office at 212-767-7707

Or Margaret Sarro at [margaret@hiddensparks.org](mailto:margaret@hiddensparks.org).

### "Nobody Wants to Be My Friend!"

Children spend most of their waking day in school among classmates. For many students, making and keeping friends is a struggle that may seem even more daunting than the most challenging learning difficulty. This webinar will help parents understand some of the basic categories, criterion, and constructs that are involved in having good social skills. Practical strategies will be suggested so that parents can empower their children to be accepted and achieve success with peers.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2013

**Instructor:** Zipora Schuck

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### Children and Screen Time: A Practical Guide to Media Use with Young Children\*

In today's technology-enhanced world, there are many options available for our children: children's shows, apps, movies on Netflix and more. Participants in this webinar will learn about the effects (both positive and harmful) of screen time for different age ranges: birth to 2, early elementary and late elementary/beyond. Participants will evaluate their own use of screen time with children, discuss the different types of screen time, and develop practical strategies for using screen time with children of all ages.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013

**Instructor:** Jeannie Crowley

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### Sustaining Motivation - A Delicate Balance

Ever wonder about how to encourage and support your child's motivation? Is there a possibility that your child will do her chores without nagging or his homework without needling? In this webinar we will explore the differences between extrinsic and intrinsic motivation. We will discuss strategies for increasing intrinsic motivation and techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of the external reinforcers, such as praise, behavior charts, rewards and punishments that parents and teachers often utilize.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013

**Instructor:** Meryl Silver

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### Passive v. Active Screen Time (for elementary school age)\*

Not all screen time is created equally. Some screen time for young children can be harmful and other uses of technology can help young learners expand their critical and creative skills. Participants in this webinar will learn how to distinguish between passive and active uses of screen time and develop a toolkit of resources to use with young children.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2014

**Instructor:** Jeannie Crowley

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### Sibling Sniping, Bedtime Battles, Homework Hassles...Are We Having Fun Yet?

Do you try to avoid threats, bribes, and punishments, but find yourself using them anyway, just to survive the day? Join us for a webinar with parenting expert Joanna Faber and learn how to help your child cope with difficult feelings, engage your child's cooperation without sacrificing good will, and resolve conflicts without punishment. You'll come away with new skills you can use immediately to make your life with children easier and more satisfying.

**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2014

**Instructor:** Joanna Faber

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



### **Promoting Social Skills and Social Growth\***

This webinar will consider how most children develop their social skills, and how to help those children that struggle to do so. The role of parents and educators in supporting such skill development, and the use of formal educational and informal opportunities to help children grow in this area will be explored.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014

**Instructor:** Dr. Rona Novick

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### **What's Behind Children's Challenging Behavior and What Can We Do to Help?\***

This webinar provides a practical overview to the Collaborative Problem Solving approach to working with children who lack the skill to behave well. All children, parents and teachers want to do well. But even with the best intentions, unpleasant confrontations may arise at home or in school with children who have social, emotional and behavioral challenges. These children can be exasperating to parents, and teachers who are involved in dealing with the consequences of children's inability to meet expectations.

**Date:** Wednesday, March 5, 2014

**Instructor:** Claire Wurtzel

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### **Making Bar and Bat Mitzvah Preparation More Joyful!**

For twelve and thirteen year olds with learning differences and disabilities, the preparation for bar and bat mitzvah can be more stressful than joyous. For some, a learning process focused on Hebrew decoding, memorizing and speech writing can be an obstacle. For others, the celebration, often marked in the context of a "packed" synagogue on a Shabbat morning, can be terrifying. This webinar will help you prepare for this important life cycle event by tapping into your child's interests and strengths, and introducing approaches such as adaptive technologies, music and art to help make the process more enjoyable for all.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2014

**Instructor:** Jeannie Crowley

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### **Supporting the Joy of Reading at Home**

An important goal of education is to enable children to become readers. Becoming a reader not only includes learning *how* to read, but also learning how reading can help us understand our lives and learn from others, including great thinkers and leaders. Learning *how* to read can be relatively easy or challenging. Regardless of skill level, by experiencing the pleasures and benefits of reading at home, parents can make it easier for their children to become lifelong readers. This webinar explores what parents can do at home to support and cultivate the joy of reading.

**Date:** TBA

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Fox

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

*\* These webinars are also being offered as part of the HSWOW program for teachers.*



## 2013-14 Hidden Sparks Without Walls Instructors

**Howard Blas**, MA, MSW, is the Director of the Tikvah Program at Camp Ramah in New England, providing camping and vocational experiences for young adults with special needs. He is also a consultant on special needs camping programs for the National Ramah Commission and is a Jewish studies and bar/bat mitzvah teacher for students with special needs. He holds masters degrees in social work and special education. Howard is a contributor to the Connecticut Jewish Ledger, the Jerusalem Post, DASH, the Times of Israel and Babaganewz. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Time Out New York and various parenting publications and professional journals. Howard received the S'fatai Tiftakh Award from Boston Hebrew College and the 2013 Covenant Foundation Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

**Jeannie Crowley**, MA, MS, is the Manager of Digital Media and Learning at Bank Street College. Her background includes years as a K-12 special education teacher and teacher trainer in the Bronx. With master's degrees in both elementary education and digital media design and learning, she works with educators to create innovative, constructivist digital learning experiences for students. She was awarded the Samsung Hope for Education and the ING Unsung Heroes awards for her work with young children and technology.

**Joanna Faber**, MS, is the daughter of Adele Faber, internationally acclaimed, best-selling author of many parenting books. Joanna received her master's degree in Education from Lehman College and went on to teach at PS 161 in West Harlem. She is the recipient of an outstanding teacher award from City College. She lectures on communication skills and conducts workshops around the country based on her mother's work and her own extensive experience. She contributed heavily to Faber and Mazlish's most recent, award winning book *How To Talk So Kids Can Learn – at Home and in School*, and wrote a new section, "The Next Generation," for the 30th Anniversary Edition of *How To Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*.

**Elizabeth Fox**, Ed.M., is the Director of Education of Hidden Sparks. Through the Education Alliance at Brown University she has designed workshops for teachers in all subject areas to deepen their understanding of reading processes. Elizabeth has also designed and taught a course in the teaching of reading for graduate students at Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Rona Novick**, PhD, is the Director of the Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Doctoral Program at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration at Yeshiva University and holds an appointment in clinical child psychology at North Shore Long-Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Novick also serves as a Co-Educational Director of Hidden Sparks, providing consultation to day schools and yeshivot. Dr. Novick 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. Dr. Novick is the author of the book *Helping Your Child Make Friends* and editor of the book series *Kids Don't Come With Instruction Manuals*.

**Zipora Schuck**, MA, MS, is the founder of Pathways Consulting Services LLC, an agency providing professional development services to teachers, principals, therapists and parents. She is a NYS Certified school psychologist holding masters degrees in both special education and school psychology. Mrs. Schuck is currently the Director of the Learning Center at the Beth Rochel School. She is a Catapult premium provider as well as a Torah Umesorah trainer whose popular workshops are usually standing room only! Additionally, she serves as adjunct faculty for Mercy College in their school of Education and Psychology.

**Meryl Silver**, MS.Ed, received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Queens College and holds a master's degree in special education from Bank Street College of Education. Meryl is currently the Project Coordinator for the Teach NYS High School Academic Resource Center which assists high school students with learning differences secure publicly funded services. She has close to 15 years of teaching experience, including four years as a resource room teacher at Yeshiva Har Torah and three years as a learning specialist for P'tach at the Yeshiva University High School for Girls. Meryl has also worked as a co-facilitator for Schools Attuned and is a graduate of the SAFDA program and has also served as a Hidden Sparks External Coach at the Yeshiva of Central Queens and Shaare Torah Elementary School for boys.

**Claire Wurtzel**, MS, Co-Educational Director of Hidden Sparks, recently retired as the Director of Faculty Development for the Churchill School and Center in New York. Prior to this position, Ms. Wurtzel was the Director of Faculty Development for the New York City Schools Attuned initiative for All Kinds of Minds, an institute co-founded by Dr. Mel Levine and Charles Schwab to help educators work effectively with struggling learners. In her capacity as Director, she oversaw Schools Attuned courses, mentor training and facilitator training for over 400 New York City schools.