

Alumni Positive Jewish
Marriage Enrichment Retreat

2013 Presenters

Alex Bailey, Psy.D.

Dr. Alex Bailey is a licensed clinical psychologist practicing in Teaneck, New Jersey. He specializes in the field of communication and relationships, focusing on couples, parents and children, and families and schools. He also provides psycho-educational testing and evaluations. Dr. Bailey has been a member of the Positive Jewish Parenting and Marriage faculty for many years. In addition, he has given numerous workshops to parents and teachers at Jewish institutions across the country. Most recently, Dr. Bailey has developed a pre-/early marriage workshop for couples that focus on dispelling the common myths of marriage that can lead to discord and enhancing the communication skills integral to a strong and successful marriage.

Rabbi Reuven Boshnack, LMHC

Rabbi Reuven Boshnack LMHC is the OU's JLIC educator at Brooklyn College Hillel. An alumnus of Yeshiva University, RIETS and Touro College, he has written four sefarim on Jewish Thought, Halacha, and marriage. He lectures regularly on Jewish Thought and Halacha. Through his work on campus he has taught over 40 Chasanim, combining Halacha and awareness of interpersonal dynamics. He is also a licensed mental health counselor, practicing in Flatbush and Cedarhurst. He has received training in fertility and Halacha from the Puah Institute and Yeshiva University, and has held a clinical appointment at New York University medical center as part of their clinic for sex therapy.

Shira Boshnack, MS, E.D.

Shira is the OU's JLIC educator at Brooklyn College Hillel. An alumna of Stern College, and Nova Southeastern University, she brings with her over 10 years of formal and informal educational experience. Shira received her Kallah Teacher training under Mrs Peshie Neuburger and Bonnie Mansour. She has taught over 60 Kallot, combining Halacha and awareness of interpersonal dynamics. She has published a guidebook for Kallot. Shira lectures regularly on topics of Jewish thought, and relationship issues.

Scott Chudnoff, M.D., MS, FACOG

Scott Chudnoff, M.D., MS, FACOG is a board certified OB/GYN, assistant professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Associate Director of Gynecology at Montefiore Medical Center and an AASECT certified sexuality counselor. Dr. Chudnoff is an accomplished researcher with multiple research grants and publications, and is an editor for the Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology. In his practice, Dr. Chudnoff has treated many *frum* couples with intimacy related problems. He is a highly sought after speaker on the topics of Intimacy and Sexuality, and has spoken to both lay and professional audiences throughout the country on these and other topics.

Deb Hirschorn, Ph.D.

Dr. Deb, best-selling author of *The Healing Is Mutual: Marriage Empowerment Tools to Rebuild Trust and Resepect--Together*, believes in marriage. In spite of challenges, it is possible to completely transform troubled ones into marriages of true friendship, trust, respect, and even passion. She has a doctorate in Marriage & Family Therapy, a discipline which sees problems in the context of the system in which they are found. That means the question she helps people solve is not, "What is wrong with you?" but "What strengths and resources can we tap to make this work?" While the past is part of who we are and is on the table, the here and now is the main focus of therapy.

Rabbi Judah Isaacs, M.S.W.

Rabbi Judah Isaacs is the Director of Community Engagement at the OU. In this capacity, he oversees the Orthodox Union work with synagogues, communities and day schools throughout North America to enhance Orthodox Jewish life. Rabbi Isaacs focuses on enhancing the role of professional and lay leadership within synagogues, providing guidance and best practices. He also oversees communal programming, designed to bring awareness and support for significant issues facing Orthodox Jewish communities in North America.

Prior to joining the Orthodox Union, Rabbi Isaacs was the Director of Day School Leadership and Sustainability at the Jewish Education Project. For over twelve years, he served as the Director of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Alliance for Jewish Education. Prior to that, he served as a Senior Planning Associate at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Fair Lawn Coordinator of the Jewish Federation of North Jersey. He also is a past President of the Young Israel of Oak Park, where he also served as Chair of the Rabbinic Search Committee and Youth Committee Chair. Rabbi Isaacs holds a MSW from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University, and semicha from Yeshiva Gedolah of Detroit. He resides in Teaneck, with his children, Uri, Gavi, Eitan and Chana.

Jonathan Lasson, Psy.D.

Dr. Jonathan Lasson is a psychotherapist in private practice in Baltimore, Maryland. His pivotal work on the creation of the first premarital education program for Orthodox Jewish couples has been used by hundreds of educators throughout the country. Based on years of research with Orthodox families, Dr. Lasson created the C.A.K.E. PREP (Chosson and Kallah Education and Preparation) program to help engaged couples learn the secrets of marital success. Dr. Lasson writes extensively and speaks on topics related to marriage and family and is currently writing a book on the topic of guilt.

Rachel Pill, L.C.S.W.

Rachel Pill, L.C.S.W., maintains a private practice in Lawrence, NY. She is the co-founder and co-director of The Long Island Guidance and Wellness Center, a mental health agency providing groups and workshops on topics such as parenting and marriage. She is also formerly an adjunct professor at Touro College School of Social Work, and RIETS Semicha Program (Yeshiva University). Rachel has been involved with the Positive Jewish Parenting and Positive Jewish Marriages programs of the Orthodox Union as a speaker for many years.

Lauren Roth, L.S.W.

Lauren Roth, LSW is a psychotherapist in private practice in Lakewood, New Jersey, who speaks extensively across the United States on many topics, including: marriage, parenting, healthful eating, and a variety of inspirational and Torah topics. Mrs. Roth holds a BA in Molecular Biology from Princeton University, and a Masters in Social Work from Rutgers. She was the recipient of the Mark Forman Memorial Award for excellence in academics and in clinical work.

Michael J. Salamon, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael J. Salamon is the founder and director of the Adult Development Center, an organizational consulting group and ADC Psychological Services, a multilevel practice mental health center in Hewlett, New York. He has written extensively about consulting, counseling and psychotherapeutic issues including personality development, marriage, parenting and life assessment issues and is the co-author of the Life Satisfaction Scale and the Addiction and Dependency Scale. Dr. Salamon is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, and has been on the editorial board of several professional journals. He also serves as a consultant to several academic institutions is on the clinical staff of North Shore University and Long Island Jewish Hospitals in Manhasset, New York, was a consultant to the Mount Sinai Narcotics Rehabilitation Center and is currently Co-Chair of the Professional Advisory Board of P'TACH. Dr. Salamon has appeared on such television shows as News 4 New York, Fox News and News 12 Long Island as well as many radio shows and is an Op-Ed contributor to the Jerusalem Post, the Jewish Press, The Times of Israel and the Jewish Star. His latest books include *Abuse in the Jewish Community*, *The Shidduch Crisis: Causes and Cures* and *Every Pot Has A Cover: A Proven System for Finding, Keeping and Enhancing the Ideal Relationship*