

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



*Lewis J. Abrams, ACSW, LCSW, CASAC, CSAT*

Lewis J. Abrams has been treating those afflicted with addictions and mental health challenges including adolescents, adults, couples and families for the past 33 years. He has created and directed programs at all levels of care including traditional outpatient, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient and residential services throughout New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mr. Abrams was the Clinical Director of Marworth Treatment Center (1991 –2001), a nationally recognized system of addiction treatment services located outside of Scranton, Pennsylvania.



*Aryeh Buchsbayew, LCSW*

Aryeh Buchsbayew is a New York State licensed clinical social worker and has worked in the field of substance abuse and addiction since 2005. Aryeh is trained in CBT, DBT, and EMDR and specializes in trauma work. Currently serving as a clinical supervisor at OHEL Children’s Home and Family Services, Aryeh is also clinical coordinator at The Living Room (TLR), a program for Jewish young adults in recovery. Aryeh is co-author of *Stepping Out of The Abyss: A Jewish guide to Recovery*. Aryeh received his master’s degree in social work from Fordham University in 2012. Aryeh also maintains a private practice in Woodmere, NY where he lives with his wife and children.



*Sharon Burns-Carter, CAC*

Sharon Burns-Carter has extensive experience working with individuals suffering from Substance Use Disorders and their family members. Her focus is on innovative transitional protocols for clients as they move through the continuum of care, as well as ongoing guidance for family members as they heal. In addition to her skilled approach to recovery management, Sharon has extensive experience in program and staff development. On a personal note, Sharon Burns-Carter is a woman in long term recovery and the proud mom of two sons in long term recovery. Sharon believes that peer support, community and service is at the heart of sustained recovery and a fulfilled life.

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## *Rabbi Yakov Horowitz*

Rabbi Yakov Horowitz, Founding Dean of Yeshiva Darchei Noam and Director of The Center for Jewish Family Life, conducts child abuse prevention and parenting workshops internationally. He's the author of two books, published the landmark children's personal safety picture book *Let's Stay Safe!*, which has been adapted into Yiddish and Hebrew, and the *Bright Beginnings Chumash* and *Gemara Workbooks* which helps children acquire Judaic Studies skills in a fun-filled manner.

Rabbi Horowitz received the prestigious 2008 Covenant Award in recognition of his contribution to Jewish education.



## *Rabbi Schneur Kaplan*

Rabbi Kaplan, fondly referred to by his friends as "Shneiny", is the spiritual leader and rabbi of the Downtown Chabad Jewish Center in Fort Lauderdale FL. Together with his wife Devorah, they founded DJCC in 2001 and have been serving this diverse Jewish Community with devotion, love and acceptance embracing Jews from all backgrounds and ways of life! Rabbi Kaplan is a distinguished lecturer and inspiring teacher. He is also a cantor and musician, often performing uplifting and moving kumzits and spiritual farbrengens. In addition to his work in the Downtown Community, Rabbi Kaplan has devoted much of his time, energy and expertise in the world of recovery. He currently leads 2 groups in weekly spiritual sessions and is a personal mentor for numerous men

and women. He is beloved by many and respected for his tremendous work assisting and guiding the many who reach out to him for support. Rabbi Kaplan is married to Devorah Kaplan (nee Hecht) and is the father of 7 amazing children. BH!!



## *Devorah Kaplan*

Devorah Kaplan is the Rebbetzin and program director of the Downtown Chabad Jewish Center in East Fort Lauderdale. Together with her husband Schneur, they founded the DJCC in 2001. Devorah has whole heartedly devoted herself to the fruition of the Jewish community in Fort Lauderdale, particularly in the arena of Jewish education. She received her teaching degree in France at the age of 19 and has made education the benchmark of her life and work. She is the founder and Director of a thriving Reggio Amelia Preschool and flourishing Hebrew School. Devorah has taught children and adults of all ages for over 20 years. She teaches a weekly women's class (since 2001), covering a breadth of topics from kabbalah, Talmud and biblical sources that attracts

women from all walks of life, from 'stay at home moms' to Doctors, grandmas, lawyers and therapists. She has passionately embraced and connected with the diverse Jews of Fort Lauderdale with her love, wisdom and thirst for knowledge and growth. Her enthusiasm and 'Joi De Vivre' is contagious and palpable in all she does. Devorah is married to Rabbi Schneur Kaplan and has seven children.

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## *Rabbi Meir Kessler*

Rabbi Meir Kessler is the Director of the Jewish Recovery Center in Boca Raton Florida. He was ordained in 2001 by the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem. Rabbi Kessler began his Rabbinical career as a pulpit Rabbi in Delray Beach. Before long he came to the realization that the area is inhabited by a very unique and special population, people in treatment and those in early recovery. Rabbi Kessler & his wife Frumi decided to dedicate their lives to serving this community and founded the Jewish Recovery Center for this purpose.



## *Sarge Pickman*

Sarge Pickman is an extraordinary entertainer. SARGE has performed worldwide to adoring audiences. His sidesplitting comedy, touching vocals and stunning display of dexterity as a pianist have wowed crowds for decades. He is one of the highest energy, multi-talented acts in show business today. Not only a hysterical stand-up comedian, SARGE sings in his own voice and a dozen others including Harry Connick, Jr., Sammy Davis, Jr., Lionel Richie and Stevie Wonder. Additionally, his dead on impressions of Marv Albert, Mike Tyson, Kermit the Frog and Gilbert Gottfried leave audiences howling and clamoring for more. SARGE has been clean and sober since December 26, 1990, and he has dedicated himself to assisting others who are facing the battle of addiction.



## *Menachem Poznanski, LCSW*

Menachem Poznanski, a New York State licensed clinical social worker, has worked in the field of substance abuse prevention, addictions treatment, and recovery support for the past fifteen years. Since 2004, Menachem has served as Clinical Director of The Living Room (TLR), a recovery clubhouse for Jewish young adults. TLR, a division of Our Place of NY, Inc., was the first Jewish program of its kind, providing clubhouse style faith-based outreach and ongoing support services for Jewish young adults in and seeking recovery. Menachem received his master's degree in social work from the Yeshiva University urzweiler School of Social Work in 2005. He maintains a private practice in Cedarhurst, New York, where he lives with his wife and their children.

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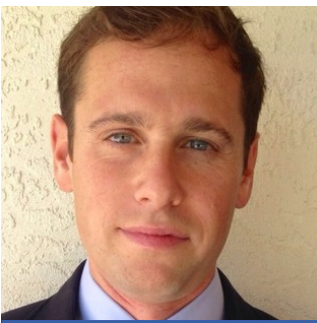
## *Rabbi Shais Taub*

Rabbi Shais Taub is the author of the bestselling *God of Our Understanding: Jewish Spirituality and Recovery from Addiction*. He was the keynote speaker on spirituality at the very first annual Convention on the Evolution of Addiction Treatment in Los Angeles. His work in recovery has been covered by major media outlets including National Public Radio and the New York Times. He lives in Pittsburgh, PA.



## *Arnie Wexler, CCGC LCADC*

Arnie Wexler, CCGC LCADC has presented educational work shops nationally and internationally. Arnie is a recovering compulsive gambler whose last bet was April 10, 1968. Arnie also runs a national help line (888.LAST.BET) and works at Recovery Road, a treatment facility in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida that specializes in the treatment of those suffering with gambling addiction.



## *Moshe A. Yachnes LMSW, CSAT, CASACT*

Moshe A. Yachnes LMSW, CSAT, CASACT, graduated from Fordham University with a masters degree in clinical social work. He has extensively trained in addictions therapy as well as fulfilled the requirements for a credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselor (CASAC). In 2007, Moshe was awarded with a specialization in education and training in substance abuse. He has worked with individuals and families struggling with abuse and addiction for ten years including two years as weekend supervisor at MLN National Jewish Youth Rehabilitation, an inpatient dual diagnosis residential facility for Jewish adolescents. Moshe has been trained by the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals (IITAP), and is a certified sex addiction therapist (CSAT). He has been acknowledged by the BECK Institute for his training in CBT interventions. Moshe served as clinical director of Madraigos in Woodmere N.Y where he was responsible to all therapeutic programming. He spent 3 years providing psychotherapy in private practice in Cedarhurst NY.