



## Years Of Sharing Ideas



8th International ETAI Conference  
July 3-4, 2019, Jerusalem, Israel

Conference Selections



For a lifetime of shared  
professional development

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### ETAI Mission Statement

Our mission is to enrich and empower English language educators and to promote professionalism in English teaching at all levels of the educational system in Israel.

### ETAI Statement of Purpose

ETAI (English Teachers' Association of Israel) is a grassroots, voluntary organization concerned with the professional development of its close to 1000 members. ETAI members work in all sectors and at all levels of education – elementary, junior high and secondary school, college and university.

ETAI offers professional support, information, forums for discussion and practical suggestions and resources to help English teachers deepen their expertise and grow in their careers through its local events, regional and national conferences and its journal, the ETAI Forum.

The aim of all the organization's activities is to enable teachers to seek the appropriate avenues to keep up-to-date with the latest research in the field, materials, methodologies and technology essential for their lives as English language teachers.

It is our job as a teachers' association to supply a variety of arenas to foster professionalism. These include organizing events throughout the country, keeping in touch with the English Inspectorate and the Ministry of Education and maintaining our connections with international English teachers' organizations as an affiliate of TESOL and an associate of IATEFL.

### ETAI Membership Dues

<b>Members</b>	<b>200 NIS</b>
<b>Full-time students</b> (must present a valid student ID card)	<b>150 NIS</b>
<b>New immigrants / New teachers / Retirees</b>	<b>150 NIS</b>
<b>Group membership (2-7 teachers)</b>	<b>160 NIS each</b>
<b>Group membership (8 or more teachers)</b>	<b>150 NIS each</b>
<b>Overseas membership</b>	<b>\$70, €55</b>

New member / Membership renewal form can be downloaded from the ETAI site:  
[etai.org.il](http://etai.org.il)

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## *Mini Conferences – Hackathons*

Monday, December 9th, 2019 – Hadera

Monday, December 30th, 2019 – Beit Shemesh

Wednesday, January 1st, 2020 – Kiryat Motzkin

Sunday, February 16th, 2020 – Sur Baher



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

During the last school year, ETAI celebrated our 40th birthday. At the wonderful summer conference at Ramat Rachel, we expressed our gratitude to the late Raphael Gefen who was the original inspiration and motivation for founding our organization. Ever since that first conference 40 years ago, we have been sharing ideas and inspiring each other to become the best EFL teachers possible. We look forward to continuing this tradition and reaching new heights in engaging and enriching many more teachers at our conferences.

This year, we hope to initiate a new kind of mini-conference in the format of a hackathon about teaching vocabulary. We have been busy working on the details and we look forward to lively and exciting events, resulting in the creation of many practical, engaging materials for use in our classrooms. Stay tuned!

Once again, we have managed to arrange for PD credit (*Gmul*) for those who attend 30 hours of conferences – one mini, one full day, and the two-day summer conference in the 2019-2020 academic year. Thanks to Tziona Levi and Daphna Cohen for helping us to arrange this credit.

Please visit our site – <http://www.etai.org.il/> – frequently to stay up to date with details of this year’s conferences and PD Gmul plan. Think about what you can do to contribute to the effort of making ETAI a strong and vibrant organization.

Finally, we’d like to express our appreciation to Jane Cohen, Lindsey Shapiro and Raviv Schwartz, who have stepped down from the ETAI Board after their great contribution to the success of ETAI. We’d also like to welcome Bridget Schvarcz, our new Vice Chair, and Debbie Gabai our new Board member, to the team of those working hard to continue to make ETAI the best professional organization possible.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at this year’s conferences.

Best wishes for a successful and satisfying school year,

*Mitzi Geffen*  
*ETAI Chair*

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear ETAI Members,

School has started and we are all busy with our students, lessons and meetings. The Summer ETAI Conference seems ages ago and yet we are still basking in its sun as well as the “Back-to-School” ETAI Conference held in Akko in August. This edition of *The Forum* is dedicated to Conference reports in general and specific articles written by some of the Conference presenters.

Included are reports on; the ETAI Summer Conference, “Back-to-School” Conference, the Winter Mini-Conference, Mini Conference in Beit Hanina and Spring Conference. Mitzi Geffen, our Chair, reports on updates on receiving the Gmul Hishtalmut for attending ETAI Conferences this year and there is now the possibility of receiving a full Gmul credit for publishing an article in the *ETAI Forum*; which you may read about in this edition.

You are sure to be inspired by your colleagues’ articles on; using Art in teaching, dealing with sensitive subjects in the classroom, Let’s Talk program ideas, Chant-Gesture based teaching techniques, games to play in the classroom to enhance English language acquisition, using descriptive feedback to improve students’ writing and unlocking creativity in your students by using authentic children’s literature. In addition, we encourage you to read Claude Goldenberg’s (plenary speaker at the Summer Conference) article on the teachers’ role in managing the transition in English language education in Israel.

At this time, we would like to recognize Sara Gabai’s excellent work over the past five years as the Layout Editor for the *ETAI Forum*. Sara’s sharp eye and commitment to excellence have been traits that have enabled the *ETAI Forum* to continue to publish a quality publication for the English teachers in Israel. We sincerely thank her for all her hard work and wish her the best of health.

Lisa Marti Leebhoff will be taking over the role of Layout Editor. She is a woman of many talents; educator, conference presenter, ETAI Forum contributor (Lisa has an article in this edition) and master teacher of all age groups. We are fortunate to have her on-board!

We hope to publish our next *ETAI Forum* edition in the spring and we encourage you to send us your articles (see p.32 for details) so that your fellow teachers may learn about the work that you are doing in the classroom, as well as research that you might be conducting, to enrich all of our experiences as English language teachers in Israel.

Wishing you all a productive school year,

*Karen Guth and Lisa Leebhoff*  
*ETAI Forum Editors*

## **ETAI INTERNATIONAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE – JERUSALEM July 3rd-4th, 2019**

In July, 2019 ETAI returned to the Ramat Rachel Hotel and Conference Center, in Jerusalem, for its annual summer conference. However, this year there was a difference; it was an international conference celebrating ETAI's 40th anniversary! We welcomed over 350 English Language Teaching (ELT) professionals from Israel and around the world who came to share ideas and be part of the community of English teachers.

Professor Claude Goldenberg opened the conference by highlighting the critical role teachers must play in managing upcoming changes in ELT education. Other plenary sessions were given by Sarah Gordon, who introduced us to Israel Connect, which links students and mentors in the English speaking world; and Anne Sibley O'Brien, from Maine, USA, who was brought to us by the American Embassy and the American Center in Jerusalem. Dr. O'Brien shared her experience of being raised bilingual and bicultural, which was the catalyst for her passion for human diversity.

Conference talks and workshops included three keynote presentations by Peta Jones Pellach, Rabbi James Kennard and Dr. Carmit Altman. There were also over forty sessions on subjects ranging from comic books to journals, from dyslexia to classroom management, from debating to music methodology and of course grammar, vocabulary and literature.

To celebrate ETAI's 40th anniversary milestone we invited past and present chairs to reminisce about the past and to look into the future in a fun evening of nostalgia, trivia and songs. Joining us was a very special guest, Yael Geffen, whose late husband, Raphael Geffen, was Chief Inspector for English when ETAI was founded and who was instrumental in its birth.

*Susan Bedein and Eleanor Satlow*  
*Conference Conveners, ETAI Board Members*

## **ETAI MINI CONFERENCE – OR YEHUDA SPEAKING OF COMMUNITY – SHARING IDEAS, DECEMBER 4TH, 2018**

On December 4th, 2018, the 2nd day of the Hanukkah vacation, ETAI convened a mini conference at the Branco Weiss High School in Or Yehuda, located not far from Ben Gurion International Airport. The school, founded 10 years ago, caters to youth at risk, many of whom have gone through multiple schools before winding up at Branco Weiss. Some 120 participants were in attendance, including a sizable delegation of Education students from the Achvah College.

Branco Weiss Principal, Amir Saar, welcomed the conference participants and explained to them the special nature of the school. Branco Weiss is a small school, it is home to some 85 students, all of whom are encouraged to complete matriculation in as many subjects as possible. In each graduating class, a number of them obtain a complete matriculation diploma – despite the many hardships they experience. He also affirmed the importance of English study for Branco Weiss students – from the perspective of their achieving matriculation points in the subject and, more importantly, to be able to function as global citizens in today's world. He noted how the school features two areas of concentration, Media Studies and Tourism, fields for which English proficiency is vital.

The conference program commenced with a keynote lecture by David Noam. Noam initially enjoyed a career in the Israel military (Lt. Col. in the Artillery Corps) and later served in the capacity of CEO for a number of different companies operating in the areas of agriculture, irrigation, logistics and military industries. His involvement at Branco Weiss began some six years earlier when he started volunteering as a tutor for English and math. Within two years, he became a full-time math teacher and homeroom teacher and was an integral member of the staff until his retirement one year ago. David's remarks focused on the importance of forging a personal relationship with each and every student and the implications of this for their academic performance and personal development. Based on the response of the audience and the questions that followed, his lecture was both informative and moving. During his lecture, he screened the following clip about one of his students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZvT2ICV9Is>.

Following the first plenary session, participants attended one of two parallel presentations offered. These included a presentation by Michelle Korenfeld about *Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)* in a creative and caring learning environment. Her presentation emphasized the five steps (Explore, Experience, Examine, Elevate and Express) in making the learning of English conversation relevant. It included, modeling caring and supporting creativity for better attitudes and grades. The other presentation, *Forgiveness Education: What it is and why we need it* by Peta Pellach, discussed the tools students should be equipped with in order to cope with unfairness, bullying, trauma and conflict.

The second and final plenary session consisted of a presentation by ETAI Chair Mitzi Geffen: "*What Does Intonation Have to Do With It?*" Her talk demonstrated the connection between intonation and meaning and included amusing exercises to motivate and encourage students to gradually achieve English (conversational) proficiency.

All in all, the mini conference, held for the first time in Or Yehuda, was an unqualified success and a fitting way for teachers and students of education to begin the Hanukkah vacation.

Raviv Schwartz

*Mini-Conference Convener, ETAI Board Member (Past)*

## **ETAI MINI CONFERENCE – BEIT HANINA**

### **SPEAKING OF COMMUNITY – SHARING IDEAS, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2019**

A mini conference was held on Sunday, February 24th at Beit Hanina Comprehensive School for Girls. Around 80 teachers from East and West Jerusalem participated in this Conference. Chief Inspector of English, Dr. Tziona Levi, talked about "*The Policy of Speaking and Vocabulary: Learning, Teaching and Assessment*" in her plenary session followed by three parallel sessions.

Pat Talshir, English Inspector, Jerusalem and Elinor Karsagi, led a session entitled, "*Correctiquette*." In this workshop they talked about the dilemma of accuracy at the expense of fluency and they presented a proposal for guidelines for a correction code which can be adapted to various ages and levels.

Lisa Leebhoff led a session entitled, "*Meaningful, Manageable and Measurable Ways to Get Your Students to Talk*." She led a workshop which focused on many different ways to facilitate teachers' work in classes so that the students speak more than the teachers.

Mai Abdo led a third parallel session called, "*Interactive English Lessons*". This presentation was aimed at Elementary school teachers (Grades 4-6) and demonstrated how to make the English lesson an interactive one full of activities and fun games.

Leo Selivan talked about "*Speaking of Alliteration – When Sounds Form Communities*," in his closing plenary. He explained how alliteration is used across all genres; poetry, nursery rhymes, advertising and pop-culture, as well as in everyday life. The aim of this light-hearted talk was to raise the teachers' awareness of this fascinating phenomenon in English and to demonstrate some activities for classroom use.

Nihad Aweidah

*Mini-Conference Convener, ETAI Board Member*

## ETAI SPRING CONFERENCE – ASHKELON

### SPEAKING OF COMMUNITY – SHARING IDEAS, APRIL 15TH, 2019

When asked to convene my first conference, I was daunted, to say the least. But I can thankfully say that due to the incredible support I received from the ETAI Board (especially Mitzi); the event was a roaring success.

The topic of the conference was ‘**Speaking of Community – Sharing Ideas**’ and the speakers’ line up was impressive, including Dr. Lindsey Shapiro Steinberg and Elias Faraj.

Professor Lindsay Shapiro Steinberg did not fail to inspire us in her plenary session on negotiating meaning in vocabulary acquisition. Our parallel sessions were on numerous topics including; learning with songs, unlocking creativity through literature and how speaking leads to vocabulary acquisition. Our presenters, Bridget Schvarcz, Howie Gordon, Bruria Greenboim, Jane Cohen and Jennifer Hoyzman, Kara Aharon and Lisa Leebhoff left the participants with much food for thought. The day ended with an interesting plenary session by Elias Faraj, who showed us how debate and model UN sessions to promote English language skills.

I wish to thank all the presenters who participated in this great event, the wonderful hosts at Kfar Silver and the dedicated teachers who left their Passover/Spring cleaning mode in order to gain new insights and skills. I look forward to convening again in the near future.

*Ella Ben Emanuel  
Conference Convener, ETAI Board Member*

## ETAI ‘BACK TO SCHOOL’ CONFERENCE – AKKO

### AUGUST 21ST, 2019

This year’s Back to School conference was held at Ort Darsky School in Akko on Wednesday, August 21st. Nearly 200 teachers took time from their summer vacation to attend the event. Pre-registration was very successful with 150 teachers paying in advance. The compliments, received after the event, speak for themselves:

*“It was one of the best ETAI conferences I have ever attended – amazing vibe, very well organized, very enthusiastic participants.”*

*“Thank you for a very interesting and well-organized conference. It was extremely intensive with so much information and many new ideas, preparing us well for the new school year.”*

The theme of the conference was *Words, Words, Words – Vocabulary, Speaking and More*. There were three top-notch plenary speakers:

- Elisheva Barkon talking about the Lexical Bands in the National Curriculum and how they fit in with the CEFR (The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is an international standard for describing language ability).
- Arona Gvaryahu giving us practical ideas on how to teach vocabulary in our classes and, in particular, on how to deal with our weaker students.
- Penny Ur presenting on choosing which lexical items to teach and how.

In addition, there were two rounds of parallel sessions which gave the attendees the opportunity to choose what they wanted to listen to from a choice of four different talks. The presenters spoke on a variety of interesting issues and there was something for everyone at all levels.

There was an extensive Book and Materials Exhibition open throughout the day which took place in a spacious, well air-conditioned room. It also included the refreshments’ corner and participants were able to sit and chat around coffee tables placed in the center of the room which added to the friendly atmosphere of the day.

Thanks go to the northern ETAI team (Gail Singer, Debbie Gabai, Leah Doryoseph and Kara Tenzer) who organized the conference and were on-hand during the day to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

*Tracy Piada  
ETAI Northern Coordinator*

## WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE ETAI 2019-2020 GMUL PLAN

This year the *ETAI Gmul Histalmut* program will be hosted by the Tel Aviv Teachers' Center (Pisga).

- Registration for *Gmul* will be online through the *Pisga*.
- Pre-registration for participation must also be done through the ETAI office.

Requirements: Each participant will attend **3** events and submit **1** written task.

### A Participation Requirement:

1. One Mini Conference / Hackathon (of their choice)
2. One Full Day Conference (of their choice)
3. The Two-Day Summer Conference
1. **One** Mini Conference / Hackathon (4 hours) of their choice:
  - Mini Conference – Hadera – December 9th, 2019
  - Mini Conference – Bet Shemesh – December 30th, 2019
  - Mini Conference – Kiryat Motzkin – January 1st, 2020
  - Mini Conference – Sur Bahar – February 16th, 2020
2. **One** full day conference (8 hours):
  - Spring Conference – Hemdat Hadarom College – April 1st, 2020
  - The Back to School Conference – Tiberias – August 24th, 2020
3. The Summer Conference (16 hours) – Himmelfarb High School in Jerusalem – July 13th and 14th, 2020

### B Written Requirement:

Each participant will complete 1 Written Task: Choose ONE (A or B).

#### A. (All 4 elements are required!)

1. Choose one session from each conference attended, and briefly (one paragraph) summarize each of the chosen sessions. You will complete three summary paragraphs in total. **Please note that the session may not be one that you or your partner have presented.**
2. For **one** of the sessions summarized, create a lesson plan based on the ideas presented in the sessions. Include:
  - a. the goals of the lesson – what you hope the students to learn, what skills they will acquire
  - b. how they will demonstrate their new knowledge.

**Don't simply repeat the example that was given in the session. Think of a group of students you teach and adapt the idea from the session to be appropriate for your class level and material you are teaching.**
3. Carry out the lesson plan with your students. Make **an audio or video recording of at least part of the lesson.**
4. Reflect on how the lesson went. What was successful and what wasn't and what would you do differently next time (one paragraph).

**Length of task – no more than 2.5 pages. Use Font – Ariel 12**

#### B. (All 3 elements are required!)

1. Briefly describe the lesson plan your team or another team created at the hackathon you attended.
2. Carry out the lesson plan with your students. Make **an audio or video recording of at least part of the lesson.**
3. Reflect on how the lesson went. What was successful and what wasn't and what would you do differently next time (one paragraph).

**Length of task – 1 page. Use Font – Ariel 12**



**TRIBUTE TO RAPHAEL GEFEN PRESENTED AT ETAI SUMMER CONFERENCE  
JERUSALEM, JULY 4TH, 2019**

(Adapted from Yael Gefen's Speech)

**Background**

Raphael Gefen and his wife, Yael, made Aliyah in 1953. During the first years in Israel, Raphael was an English high school teacher and a teacher trainer at Oranim College. In 1967 he became the Chief English Inspector for English in primary schools and at teacher training colleges. In 1971 Raphael moved into the position of Chief English Inspector for the Ministry of Education. During this period he made significant changes in how English was taught in Israel; from English being learned as a literary subject to becoming an important tool for international communication.

Raphael's view of the purpose for teaching English is, "... so that students can read and understand English for university studies and professions with great emphasis on oral expression as a means of communication. Teaching English was not to impart the culture of a foreign country but to enable students to communicate in the English language" (Rosenbaum).

Even though Raphael retired in 1993, he remained active in the EFL world. When he passed away in 2019, the Ministry of Education created an award in his memory, the "Exceptional English Teacher Award".

Adapted from the Jerusalem Post, August 9th, 2019 Alan Rosenbaum

**The Speech**

Once when I was British Council Librarian in Jerusalem and running the lending library of multiple sets of readers to schools, I knew nearly all of the English teachers in Jerusalem, alas no longer.

As I look around this hall, I realize that probably no-one here ever stood in front of a black – later white board in the days of "chalk and talk". That was at least 40 years ago, before Raphael was appointed Chief Inspector, and even before Israel was on the world map acknowledged for its innovative ideas and success in the teaching of English as a foreign language. Raphael was sent by the Israeli Ministry of Education to advise the Singapore Ministry of Education on the creation of a new syllabus and series of textbooks. He was also invited by the Dutch and German Ministers as an advisor.

So, although I want to talk about ETAI I want first of all to go back in time to describe the English syllabus as it was before the "Raphael Age".

English in high schools was being taught (note the use of the passive voice in the past continuous – have I got that right?) as grammar that was strictly drilled for 10 minutes at the beginning of every lesson in kita tet.

As I said, English, pre "Raphael Age" was seen as a pathway to a different and "better culture". However, Raphael believed that English should be a medium for international communication; spoken, read and written.

Thus, Shakespeare and the literature of the 18th and 19th centuries, for example, Macaulay's letter to his son, gave way to 20th century writers of short stories, poems, plays and topical songs of the era. This was the time of protest songs by Pete Seeger and Joan Baez, among others. These materials, which Israeli students could identify with, think, talk and write about enabled students to learn English as an international means of communication.

The changing syllabus was the first revolutionary step instituted by Raphael. Now, I come to the second change; **MORE POWER TO THE TEACHERS**, and thus, ETAI was born. I must emphasize that Raphael saw ETAI as an organization of and for teachers, independent of the Ministry of Education and the Inspectorate.

As soon as ETAI was up and running Raphael took a step back and henceforth ETAI was run, very capably, by Ephraim Weintraub, a Jerusalem high school teacher. Raphael continued to attend the opening sessions of ETAI conferences and sometimes gave the keynote address. He spoke about changes in the examination system and many other topics.

However, he was there essentially to listen to the teachers who wanted to express their ideas and opinions. The syllabus and its ideology were "fixed" but he was always ready to listen to teachers and learn from their experience in the classroom.

I loved him of course, but so did his inspectors and teachers. After he retired he continued to attend ETAI conferences' opening ceremonies. At one conference, a teacher came up to him and said, "Can I ask you a question?" Raphael immediately answered, "Of course." She then asked, "Why are all these people coming up to you, shaking your hand or giving you a kiss?" This incident touched my heart because I knew that Raphael's legacy had lived on well beyond the "Raphael Age".

### Reference

Rosenbaum, A. (2019, August 9). Veterans. The Jerusalem Post. Retrieved from <https://www.pressreader.com/israel/jerusalem-post-magazine/20190809/281530817649942>

## Plenary Talk

### TEACHERS' CRITICAL ROLE IN MANAGING THE TRANSITION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

by Claude Goldenberg ([clauddeg@stanford.edu](mailto:clauddeg@stanford.edu))

I chaired two committees charged by the Israeli Council for Higher Education (MALAG) to make recommendations for how to improve English teaching and learning in Israeli colleges and universities. The first committee examined the preparation of English teachers in the academic colleges; the second looked at teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP) in colleges and universities. Other committees examined various aspects of English language education in elementary and secondary schools. In addition, the English curriculum in primary and secondary schools is being revised, and a *Professional Teaching Framework for English Teachers* is nearing completion.

Although for the most part each committee operated independently, it is extremely important to see them as pieces in a larger mosaic – a broad and ambitious effort to raise the level of English teaching and learning throughout the entire Israeli education system. My goal here is to identify some of my committees' most significant recommendations, provide the background and rationale for them, and perhaps most importantly, describe the role for teachers in this essential and ambitious national effort. Let me be clear about my thinking on this last point: What elementary and secondary teachers do and think will be critical to the success of this effort. Without the solid engagement of teachers nationwide, this effort will not succeed. I am certain of this.

My committees visited colleges and universities throughout Israel involved in either training English teachers or teaching college students so that they might get their exemption. What did we see and hear? A lot. Most of this will not surprise you; maybe none of it will.

1. First and foremost, **large numbers of Israeli students enter and exit college with low levels of English Language Proficiency (ELP)**. This was also true of students preparing to be English teachers. Although their proficiency levels were higher than those of typical students, unless they were native English speakers, the English proficiency of future English teachers is generally too low. This low English proficiency among many students, and particularly among future English teachers, was a major concern among everyone we spoke with. The problem is particularly severe in programs that prepare English teachers in the periphery, where the gaps in student preparation at college entrance and program completion are very large.

Simply raising the level of English required for entry to college or to teacher preparation programs overnight is not a solution. It will exclude large numbers of students, which in turn will limit their career opportunities and further aggravate the shortage of English teachers in parts of the country. Raising entry requirements requires that we first raise the ELP of students when they graduate from high school, which in turn requires improving curriculum and the preparation of English teachers in elementary and secondary schools, which in turn requires teachers with high levels of English proficiency – precisely what many students who enter and graduate from English teacher preparation programs lack. It's like an Escher drawing – where is the beginning?

Although there is an urgent need to address these challenges now, they will require long-term solutions beginning long before future English teachers pass through college portals.

*You've reached the end of free preview.  
The full print version of ETAI Forum is available to ETAI members only.*