

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ETAI News		
Letter from the Vice Chair	Bridget Schwarcz	3
Letter from the Editors	Karen Guth & Lisa Marti Leebhoff	4
ETAI 2019-2020 Hackathon Mini Conferences		
A New Experience in a Conference!	Mitzi Geffen	5
Webcon 2020 Report: First ETAI Web Conference		
'Pedagogy, not Technology'	Leo Selivan	6
In Memoriam		
Tribute to Tamar Feuerstein	Dr. Hagit Evan-Rifinski	7
In The Classroom		
Students Teach: Peer Teaching of Debate in ESL	Noa Libman	8
The Impact of Using Educational Games in the EFL Classroom:		
From a Teacher's Perspective	Rawan Rishq	11
Why Teach William Golding's Novel, <i>Lord of the Flies</i>		
in The EFL Classroom?	Daniel Ashkenazy	13
Multisensory Literacy Teaching in Multilingual Environments	Oksana Yaverbaum	16
Writing for Challenged Readers in the EFL Classroom	Bambi Spicer	21
Out of the Classroom		
Poetry in the Park		
You Can Take Your Students and Turn Them into Poets!	Lisa Melamed	24
Linguistic Landscape: Taking Language Learning Outside		
the Classroom	Bridget Schwarcz	28
Teacher Training		
Innovating EFL Teacher Education through the EPOSTL	Holli Schauber	33
Personal Perspective		
Seven Lessons Learned from Becoming a Language Learner Again	Ella Ben Emanuel	38



For a lifetime of shared
professional development

National Chairperson	Mitzi Geffen		
Vice Chair	Bridget Schvarcz		
Treasurer	Debbie Lifschitz		
Office Manager	Karen Berzon		
National Executive Committee			
	Maizie Avihayil	Debbie Gabai	Tracy Piada
	Nihad Aweidah	Mitzi Geffen	Eleanor Satlow
	Susan Bedein	Lisa Marti Leebhoff	Leo Selivan
	Ella Ben Emanuel	Debbie Lifschitz	Bridget Schvarcz
Past Chairs			
	Raphael Gefen	Brenda Liptz	Mitzi Geffen
	Elite Olshtain	Nava Horovitz	Michele Ben
	Natalie Hess	Susan Holzman	Eleanor Satlow
	Eveline Ezra	Penny Ur	Susan Bedein
	Ephraim Weintraub		
Editors	Karen Guth, Lisa Marti Leebhoff		
Advertising	Karen Berzon		
Layout	Eric Cohen Books		

The *ETAI Forum* is published by ETAI (English Teachers' Association of Israel)
 POB 36206, Jerusalem, 9136101. Tel: 02-5001844; e-mail: etaioffice@gmail.com;
 Website: www.etai.org.il ISSN 2409-188X

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

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

New member / Membership renewal form can be downloaded from the ETAI site:
etai.org.il

LETTER FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

These days we are witnessing the unforeseen impact of the COVID-19 on our communities and educational establishments. Teachers have been dramatically affected as schools have closed, and a switch to on-line teaching has been required. Teachers are suddenly expected to make the leap from traditional face-to-face teaching to delivering lessons, managing classrooms and forming connections in front of computer screens, often without equipment and fast internet provided. This abrupt change in educational procedures may even be termed, 'emergency teaching'. As teachers, we were required to make decisions on on-line teaching, based on this emergency situation COVID-19 has forced upon us. We had very little time to prepare for a form of teaching that takes time and training to develop.

ETAI also adapted quickly to the new reality. We turned our Spring Conference into a very successful web conference, which was attended by over 300 teachers from all over Israel and from abroad.

We hope that the back-to-routine measures will allow us to hold our Summer Conference in July, in Jerusalem (dates TBA) and our Annual Back to School Conference on the 24th of August, in Tiberias, face to face.

I sincerely hope that you will remain safe and that we will all be able to re-connect at this year's ETAI conferences.

Bridget Schvarcz

ETAI Vice-Chair

Head of the English Unit, Afeka College of Engineering

ETAI'S Summer Conference

Join us on line

Monday, July 27th from 15.30-19.30

and

Tuesday, July 28th from 10.00-14.00

Check our Website and Facebook pages for updates and details.



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear ETAI Members,

To say these are challenging times is certainly an understatement! For the past two months we have been “meeting” our students through our computer screens (“masakeem”) and as we slowly begin to return to our schools, we will be meeting our students with our masks (“masakote”) and our hand sanitizers, our new teaching uniforms. If nothing else, teachers are flexible, moving from our from our screens / “masakeem” to our masks / “masakot” seamlessly!

This edition of the Forum came out later than we had planned; however, we are proud to bring you a variety of articles, both academic and classroom oriented. This issue includes articles on: how to become a language learner and apply that knowledge to our teaching; learning how to let our students become teachers; teaching writing to readers who are challenged; taking our language learning outside of the classroom; innovating EFL teacher education through the EPOSTL; using educational games in the ESL classroom; teaching *Lord of the Flies* to a strong ninth grade class and a poetry in the park unit. In addition, we have reports on ETAI conferences, including the very successful on-line conference in the spring, and a tribute to Tamar Feuerstein, whose loss will be felt by many of us in the field of English language teaching in Israel.

We want to thank all of the educators who took the time to contribute to the Forum. We realize how much effort goes into teaching and researching and we appreciate it when you take that extra step to write – up your results and findings, or polish – up your lessons, so that they can be published in our journal. We encourage other EFL educators to become part of our community and share their quality activities and studies which contribute to our body of knowledge and skills.

There are many lessons we have learned over the past two months about EFL teaching from a distance. We would like to invite you to share these experiences, lessons, research, and stories in our next edition of the Forum – hopefully to be dubbed the ‘Coronavirus Edition’. Have we learned new skills that we will take with us when we return to our classrooms? Has this experience made us better teachers, better students, or better teacher trainers? It is worthwhile to reflect upon challenges that we experience in our lives. Change is inevitable and how we manage the change is a choice that we all make. What other changes can we aspire to? We are proud to be a part of a community that was only recently (as of this writing) acknowledged as essential! Of course, we knew and have always known how essential we are to the present and future of our country!

We want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy summer. Hopefully, we will have some holiday time to spend with family and friends, before the new school year beckons us all to return. We look forward to reading and learning from your stories and reflections on these past months.

“Educators are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the Earth.”

Helen Caldicott

Warm regards!

Karen Guth and Lisa Marti Leebhoff
Co-editors, ETAI FORUM



ETAI 2019-2020 HACKATHON MINI CONFERENCES A NEW EXPERIENCE IN A CONFERENCE!

What is a (teachers') Hackathon?

They were events where many teachers from all over Israel and from all different types of educational settings worked together to come up with solutions to the pedagogical challenge, how to effectively teach vocabulary.

What was the goal of ETAI's Vocabulary Hackathons?

To create a bank of lesson plans, games, and engaging activities to teach and have students practice vocabulary effectively.

What was done?

Teachers in collaborative teams created and planned vocabulary games and activities. Together their groups shared feedback and created a document that was made available for all participants. Attendees left the Hackathon with a set of ready-to-use plans for the classroom, as well as prizes and goodies.

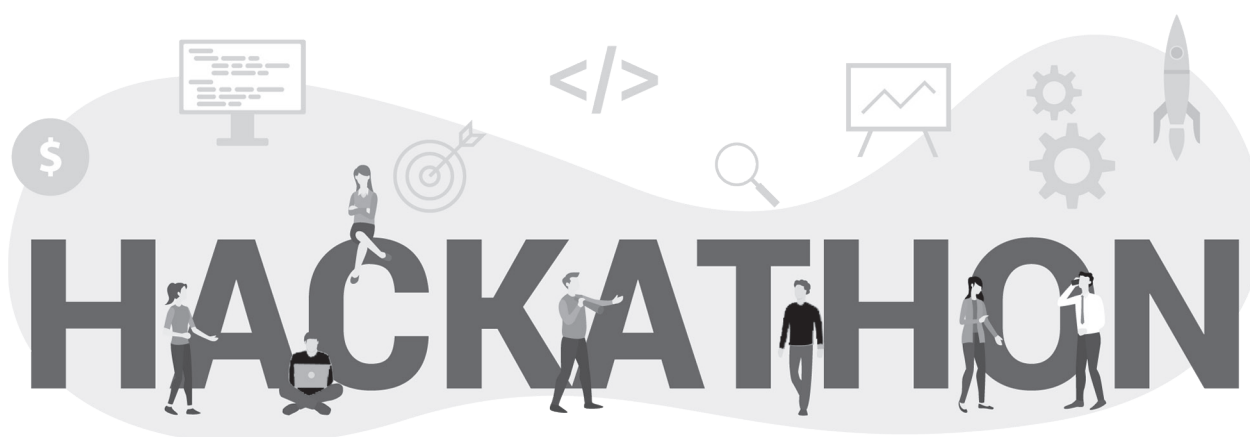
With the support of UPP, ECB and Morfix, four Hackathon events were held this fall. They were wonderfully successful and enjoyed by all who attended. We were delighted by the impressive turnout at each event, way beyond our expectations. Susanna Galante was the energetic and inspiring speaker at the first two events at the Hadera and then Kiryat Motzkin Pisgaot. Upp provided a delicious dinner and birthday cake in honor of their 50th anniversary.

The third event was held in the Mifal Hapayis building in Beit Shemesh, where Bruria Greenboim gave an interesting plenary talk, and ECB and Morfix joined forces to provide a tasty dinner and dessert. Teachers worked enthusiastically in teams, using the guidelines prepared by Morfix, to prepare engaging learning units.

Our final event was held at the Ibn Rushd School in Sur Baher. Eran Williams, RELO, US Embassy, Amman, Jordan, was the plenary speaker and informed the many participants of the varied support programs available from the US Embassy. ECB provided the delicious dinner and dessert, and all of the participants worked in teams to prepare engaging learning units.

ETAI is very grateful to the Pisga in Hadera, the city of Beit Shemesh and the Eshkol Payis staff, the Pisga in Kiryat Motzkin and Haithem Salameh and his staff, at Ibn Rushd School, for their very generous help. They all provided free venues and constant support throughout the events in order to help make them the successes they all were.

*Mitzi Geffen
ETAI Chair
Hackathons Organizer*



WEBCON 2020 REPORT: FIRST ETAI WEB CONFERENCE 'PEDAGOGY, NOT TECHNOLOGY'

Following the unfortunate but inevitable cancellation of the ETAI Spring Conference on April 1st, ETAI was looking for ways of supporting our members, all of whom are now teaching remotely, by delivering relevant, continuing professional development. The result was the 1st ETAI Web Conference which took place on April 22nd.

Since Zoom has currently become the platform of choice, not only for distance learning but for just about everything from family dinners to yoga lessons, we chose it for our purposes too. A couple of weeks before the event we had a Zoom meeting with the speakers to discuss the logistics: How do people go into parallel sessions? How do we share the links? What happens when the rooms reach their participation capacity? What happens in the coffee breaks: Do people just switch off or do we have our coffee in front of the camera? What do we do if a session is zoom-bombed? (There have been some cases reported in the media.)

On the day of the conference there were some glitches, as is often the case with online events on this scale, but generally things ran pretty smoothly. Susana Galante kicked off WebCon 2020 with an engaging plenary in which she outlined the principles of effective online teaching. She made it quite clear that effective online teaching requires planning, and what most of us are engaging in is more of "emergency teaching". The Zoom room quickly reached its 300-person capacity, but thanks to the overflow live-streaming we'd set up on Facebook, many more people could tune in - by our estimates, another 300! This was followed by two rounds of 40-minute parallel sessions delivered by speakers from Israel, Spain and Ireland. The topics ranged from using online tools, such as Google Sites and Flipgrid, to integrating creative activities, such as art and movie-making. No less important, we included a session focused on teachers' well-being.

The conference concluded with a round table discussion featuring the plenary speaker Susana Galante, Amanda Caplan, and a guest speaker from the UK, Gavin Dudeney, who some of you might remember from the Summer ETAI conference (and a pre-conference event) in 2012. Among the topics discussed was the staggering number of digital tools teachers are expected to be proficient in, as well as other pedagogical and human challenges to 'coronavirus teaching'.

An ETAI conference wouldn't be complete without a materials exhibition, which we normally refer to in the program as 'break and browsing'. The WebCon was no exception. The participants were given a chance to browse around an online exhibition, organized with the help of the publishers who were willing to experiment and try out various new formats. We are grateful for their help! The browsing took place over a cup of coffee - or for some attendees, a glass of wine! It was a great success due to the flexible and global format, the professional speakers, as well as all of our patient and enthusiastic participants.

If you don't believe all of this is possible in an online conference, visit our website to see the photos from the event: www.etai.org.il/webcon.

Leo Selivan
ETAI Board Member
Co-Convener



YET ONE MORE OF TAMAR FEUERSTEIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS – TEACHING READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS IN ESL/EFL

by Hagit Evan-Rifinski (rifinski@gmail.com)

We have lost one of the pillars of English language teaching and teacher training in Israel. Tamar Feuerstein passed away on October 5, 2019. Tamar no doubt shaped the teaching of English of thousands of English teachers in the country, not only as teacher trainer at Kibbutzim College and head of the TESOL program at Tel-Aviv University, but also as a coursebook writer, instructional materials developer and pioneer in the field of computer-assisted language learning in Israel.

Perhaps her greatest contribution was in the field of reading comprehension. Tamar was always ahead of her time in every field. Many of the principles of teaching reading, which we apply today, were introduced and advocated by Tamar decades ago. She preached for establishing a purpose for reading, for using pre-reading and post-reading activities, focusing on vocabulary and reading critically – practices we take for granted today.



Tamar Feuerstein Z'L

Picture printed with permission of the author.

In addition to stressing that reading should be made meaningful, enjoyable, interesting and mind-broadening, Tamar also emphasized the importance of teaching reading skills and strategies explicitly and systematically. In other words, lessons that focused on reading comprehension to increase the students' ability to read a variety of texts of different genres in English. The book, *Teaching Reading Comprehension Skills in ESL/EFL- A Practical Teachers' Guide*, which she wrote with her colleague Dr. Miriam Scholnik (Scholnik & Feuerstein, 2018), is a practical guide that provides teachers with a clear taxonomy of skills and strategies and countless suggestions for implementing them in their courses. The book covers the various reading skills in depth, addressing both print and digital reading. Each reading skill is first explained, and then supporting strategies are given, followed by sample texts and activities.

It seems to me that we have recently neglected this area and many teachers fall into the trap of teaching test-taking skills instead of reading comprehension skills, which are so important in our digital world today. Using this book, Tamar's last gift to us, will enrich our knowledge in the field and enable us to equip our students with effective reading comprehension skills.

I was fortunate to have been Tamar's student, co-writer and friend. I know she was a mentor to many of you, too. Let's make sure her legacy lives on.

References

Scholnik, M., & Feuerstein, T. (2018). *Teaching reading comprehension skills in ESL/EFL: A practical teachers' guide*. Ra'anana, Israel: *University Publishing Projects*.

Dr. Hagit Evan-Rifinski is the Head of the TESOL Certification Program at Bar-Ilan University, a lecturer at Talpiot College and a high school teacher at Alliance TA.



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