

THE MATANEL PRIZE FOR EDUCATION – 2013

THE LAUREATES

Inas Deeb

Inas Deeb is currently the educational director at the Hand in Hand- center for Arab-Jewish Education in Israel.

In 1997, Inas finished a Master's degree from the Hebrew University in Language Education, in 2000 she completed a second Master's program in Adult Education and Organization Development from St. Joseph University in Philadelphia (USA), and in 2010 she earned a PhD degree from Bar-Ilan University in Social Psychology.

For fifteen years, she worked as a teacher counselor in schools and organized alternative teacher training programs in different pedagogical areas. Her PhD research was on the "*Impact of Integrated education on Jewish and Arab children's conception of ethnic categories and essentialism*". Her research interests include bilingual and integrated education, multicultural education and diversity.

She has presented widely in local and international conferences and has also published articles in national and international journals.

Wovite Worku Mengisto

My name is Wovite Worku Mengisto. I am married to Yossi and I am the mother of two charming daughters. The older, Lenoy, is in the 4th grade and the younger, Tehila, is five-and-a-half years old.

I was born in a village next to the city of Gondar, in southern Ethiopia and am the youngest of seven siblings.

My father, the late Worku Tasma, died in Ethiopia when I was three years old and my mother, the late Fatagia, died four years after our immigration to Israel when I was in the 9th grade.

When I was eight-and-a-half years old, we commenced our journey to Israel on foot via Sudan. This journey took two years.

I studied at the Ort Yamin High School in Haifa. Afterwards, during the National Service, I was an assistant teacher and helped with the absorption of Ethiopian immigrants who immigrated during the Shlomo Campaign in 1991.

I studied for my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Education at the Bar Ilan University. I am currently studying for my doctorate at the Hebrew University and I am writing my doctorate project under the guidance of Prof. Gabriel Hornchik. My research deals with young Ethiopian immigrants and the relationship between ethnic identity, perceived discrimination, patent and latent dropping out of the educational system and risk behaviors. I enjoy my studies, especially the research work.

Concurrently I work for the Ministry of Education as a national inspector for advancing at-risk and disconnected youths. My functions include:

- Developing work programs for at-risk Ethiopian immigrant youths according to needs in the field.
- Formulating training and enrichment study programs for people working with Ethiopian immigrant youths.
- Developing and assimilating unique programs and activities for young Ethiopian immigrants.
- Instructing and guiding workers with young Ethiopian immigrants.
- Organizing national conventions about young Ethiopian immigrants.
- Coordinating information and relevant knowledge in the field on a national level.
- Representing the department in discussions about dealing with young Ethiopian immigrants in the various ministries and the third sector.
- Following up and control over the implementation of work programs.

Ella Berchansky

Ella Berchansky is a social and educational psychologist. She is involved in individual and group psychotherapy of the repatriated youth from the former USSR , guidance for parents, group dynamics of adolescents, parents and, especially, multicultural groups. In addition, she performs psychological and psych didactic diagnoses. Ella provides recommendations and lectures for School staff about delicate aspects of multiculturalism and bilingualism in the different places of Israel.

She is involved in individual and group psychotherapy in the Youth Counseling Center of Petah Tikva, works in the Psychology Service of Ehud and she is also the Psychological Consultant of association "Geshar Hinuh" (Educational Bridge). This association is involved in education and psychotherapy for the Russian-speaking

population in Lod. The association "Gesher Hinuh" organized unique projects for groups of adolescents, parents, groups with heterogeneous population in the Lod and other cities. Based on extensive experience, Ella and the other members of association "Gesher Hinuhi" developed the program "Psiphas" (Mosaic) for group dynamics with multicultural populations. Ella works with responsibility, enthusiasm and dedication with the normative adolescents and also with the youth at risk, as well as with their parents. She contributes a lot to their progress and to improve their quality of life and their success in the educational and the social-emotional spheres. She is also trying to develop new approaches and methods at work based on the recent research and creativity. Ella repatriated to Israel at the age of 16 from Kiev, Ukraine. She graduated from high school in Israel and made National Service. Ella got her BA degree in Psychology from the Bar Ilan University and her Master's degree in Social Psychology from the University of Tel Aviv. She finished many training and instruction courses on working with adolescents, group psychotherapy, group dynamic and more.