Meet the Habimah Teaching Artists!

Samantha Bramm holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education with a concentration in vocal/general music from Towson University. She recently finished her second school year as the choral/general music teacher at Mount View Middle School in the Howard County Public School System. She is thrilled to be back at Habimah for her fourth summer to create happiness through vocal music! Sam teaches voice.

Lisa Shifren is a portrait, events, and landscape photographer in the Baltimore area and has been taking photographs for over 25 years. Lisa majored in Imaging and Digital Art at the University of Maryland, and has also studied photography at the Maryland Institute College of Art. In addition to being a photographer and digital artist, Lisa works as a Jewish communal professional at Jewish Community Services in Baltimore, Maryland with Holocaust survivors, who are the subjects of her body of work entitled Grace. Dignity. Humility. Compassion. Photographic Portraits: The Holocaust Survivors of Baltimore.

Lisa has been invited to exhibit her work at the Pennsylvania State University in Harrisburg, Clarion University, The Rosenberg Gallery at Goucher College, The Baltimore City Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration, Gallery 788, The Social Security Administration, The Reeves Gallery, Roland Park Country School, The Norman and Sara Brown Art Gallery, The Maryland Institute College of Art, Amalie Rothschild Gallery, Creative Alliance Main Gallery, Load of Fun Studios, Herring Run Artists’ Network, School 33’s Open Studio Tour, Borrowed Blue Studios, Gallery 229, and The Center for Art and Visual Culture in Baltimore, MD.

Lisa’s work has been featured in The Baltimore Museum of Art Print, Drawing, and Photographic Society’s Newsletter, the Baltimore Jewish Times, Jewish Women International Magazine, JMORE Living Magazine, and on WYPR’s Maryland Morning. Lisa teaches photography.

Amy T. Hairston is in her 13th year as a music teacher in Montgomery County, Maryland. She joined the Children’s Theater Production Company in 2015, serving as musical director of Wizard of Oz, Seussical and Habimah 2016. At Springbrook High School, she teaches IB Music, AP Music Theory, Guitar, Piano, and Chamber Choir. She enjoys teaching many subjects, especially musical theater. Mrs. Hairston earned her Master of Arts in Music Education in 2011 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her musical theater experience includes vocal direction and coaching on many shows: Thoroughly Modern Millie, Footloose, Annie Get Your Gun, The Pajama Game, The Drowsy Chaperone, Little Shop of Horrors and Me and My Girl, Cinderella and Pippin. She also creates curriculum for and teaches musical theater classes for the UMD Summer Youth Music Camp. Amy lives in Columbia, MD with her husband and two sons. Amy teaches voice.
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Katie Reynard is a local dance instructor with Karen Sachs Academy of Dance. She has been teaching for eight years and thoroughly enjoys having the opportunity and the JCC Dance program with children between the ages of three and eighteen. Katie brings a positive atmosphere to each dance class as the beauty of the art can only be expressed if the kids are enjoying themselves and having fun. This will be Katie’s fourth summer teaching hip hop with us at the Habimah Arts Camp and she couldn’t be more excited to have the opportunity to come back and work with our wonderful campers again. **Katie teaches hip hop dance.**

MaryKate Newcomb, a specialist with Abrakadoodle, is an artist who has been teaching for nearly 20 years in a variety of settings, from preschool to community college students. She generally works in watercolor or oil pastel, but recently she has been working in 3-D with melted crayons, pouring them into molds and then carving them. It is great fun, and very messy! She lives in Timonium with her husband and two sons. **MaryKate teaches ceramics and fashion.**

Carol Anstett graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography. For many years she has worked as a freelance photographer in the Baltimore area. Some of her clients include Johns Hopkins, Kennedy Krieger, Catholic Charities, the Associated and *Baltimore Magazine* to name just a few. Her documentary style has served well as a means of illustrating annual reports, marketing brochures and editorial stories but her specialty has always been portraiture. Carol loves photographing and working with children and has been working as an art teacher for Abrakadoodle for the last ten years. She has three children and when she is not working or spending time with her family she can be found hiking with her two dogs. **Carol teaches photography and Art Masters.**
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Alan Rhody, a Baltimore-based visual artist. Alan primarily works as a stone sculptor, using traditional carving techniques to create contemporary handcrafted artworks. He mostly work with marble; however, he also enjoy carving limestone, alabaster and soapstone. His professional art portfolio also includes digital graphics, fused glass, and true 3D holograms. He recently completed an Artist-In-Residence at Ohio State University’s Physics laboratory, which enabled him to utilize specialized lasers and optical equipment to record holographic images of some of my stone artworks, creating a very unique mixed media display. His sculptures and other works are currently being exhibited at local and out of state galleries. (Alan Rhody Arts - arhody.com) Alan teaches stone sculpture and media arts.

Jamie Jennings (Eacker), is excited to join the Habimah Camp family! Jamie is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and has performed Off-Broadway, all over MD/DC/VA area and even CHINA! Signature Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Studio Theatre, Shakespere Theatre... just to name a few! Jamie recently just got off of The Elephant and Piggie’s We’re In A Play National Tour that took her everywhere from LA to Canada! Now she has the privilege of playing “MOM” to a baby girl; Jolene! Graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy of NYC. Jamie teaches musical theatre dance.

Grace White, is a Baltimore County Public Schools teacher. She enjoys all things art, earth and education. When she’s not teaching music, art, or environmental sciences, she enjoys writing/producing music and performing with her 3 bands. She believes kindness, compassion, and creativity are key! Grace teaches Art Masters.
Dave Thomen, as a WJZ-CBS News Baltimore’s Best Magician and National Theatre Stars of Magic recipient, local magician Dave Thomen of D’s Magic has been performing for all ages in our community, schools, businesses, and families for over 25 years. His magic lessons are suitable for anyone from the novice trickster to the emerging illusionist. Dave teaches magic.

Larry Dachslager, has worked in Theatre Arts education for over twenty-five years, and has his BA and MA in Cinema Studies. Many of Larry’s former students are currently working on the professional stage, film, and TV. In addition to his award-winning teaching and directing, Larry is a writer and lyricist whose lyrics have been performed by actor/singers including Audra McDonald (The Good Fight, Beauty and the Beast) and Santino Fontana (Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Frozen). Larry teaches acting.

Andrew Ross Wynn, has worked as an actor professionally for over twenty years. He has been seen on several stages in the D.C. metropolitan area including the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Round House, Imagination Stage, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and Theatre J. Mr. Wynn spent more than a decade in Los Angeles, California where he was cast in commercials, tv series, and films like the Academy Award winning Best Picture The Artist. He recently received his Master of Fine Arts in Performance Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and has been teaching theatre at Ronald Wilson Reagan Middle School in Prince William County Virginia. Mr. Wynn is thrilled to be joining the Habimah Arts Camp for the first time this summer! Andrew teaches acting.
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James Jager is the Creative Director for Global Journalist Security and an advanced actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD). He is the Resident Fight Choreographer for Theatre Untitled, and is the Lead Education Artist with Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. He has choreographed fights for numerous schools, professional theaters, and community theaters in the Maryland/DC area, and served as a fight consultant for the Synetic’s Helen Hayes award winning Three Musketeers. *James teaches stage combat.*

Dolores Ascon is an inspiring Abrakadoodle Art Teacher and a native of Peru. She speaks Spanish, French and English. Using a wide variety of materials, techniques and styles, Dolores leads youngsters through a robust, tested engaging art curriculum. *Dolores teaches Art Masters.*

Luke Koehler has recently joined Abrakadoodle as a Camp Associate. He is a student at Roanoke College, a spirited hockey team goalie, and he plays a mean bass guitar. *Luke teaches Art Masters.*
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Paul Diem is an actor/educator, an ensemble member at Single Carrot Theatre and a fiercely proud native of Baltimore. He did his undergraduate acting training at Towson University and his graduate theatre work at California State University in Los Angeles. You can also find him at the Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson where he is the Chair of the Theatre Department. In 2014 he was named “Best Actor” by the City Paper in their annual “Best of Baltimore Awards.” He finds the most important things in life to be family, art and community, and finds that each necessitates the other. Paul teaches acting.

Steve Bauer and Marianne Wittelsberger, better known as the Jokesters, have been performing and teaching for over 30 years.

They are professionally trained in the fine arts of Makeup and Costume Design, Mime, Clowning and Magic, and have been performing for audiences all over the United States with their Live Show since 1983, including 8 Command Performances at the White House for Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton and a Royal Command Performance for the King of Saudi Arabia.

Jokesters have taught Makeup and Special FX Design for seventeen years at Towson University where they headed up the Makeup Department and developed nine different Graduate and Undergraduate Courses and Curriculum.

As teaching artists, the Jokesters have presented hundreds of workshops and lectures nationally and internationally for such organizations as the Australian Outback association of schools, Club Med International Resorts, the Kennedy Center, Center Stage Theater, the Hippodrome Theater and Everyman Theatre, to name a few.

Both Jokesters graduated from Towson University as Theatre Majors with concentrations in Makeup Design, Costume Design and Mime and attended UCLA for post graduate study.

Kristi Schaffner, Kristi has been teaching, performing and creating theatrical work professionally since 2004. She holds an MFA from the University of Oklahoma and a BFA from Kent State University. She is an adjunct professor at the Community College of Baltimore County with a focus on Dance, and has been the program director for the JCC’s Children’s Theater Production Company since 2016. Currently you can see Kristi performing with Urban Pirates in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Kristi teaches musical theatre dance and acting.
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Carolyn Buck, a native Baltimorean, has been a theater educator for over three decades. She holds a BA in Theater and English from Mount Holyoke College. She trained as a director and stage manager at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts. For 30 years she taught theater and English at the Institute of Notre Dame (IND), Baltimore’s historic high school for girls. As IND’s theater director, Carolyn directed over 40 productions. Among her favorites are Les Miserables, Hairspray, Crimes of the Heart, The Miracle Worker, Fiddler on the Roof, The Secret Garden, Pride and Prejudice, and Peter Pan. A local writer, Carolyn’s op ed articles have appeared in The Baltimore Sun. She has been a frequent member of the Broadway Teachers Workshops in NYC. Carolyn also participated in the University of Virginia Symposium on Shakespeare at Oxford University, UK in 2006. Carolyn teaches storytelling and acting.

Gabi Faye is a professional actor and film producer in NYC. She is thrilled to spend part of her summer back in her hometown and share her passion for acting with children! She has taught dance for the JCC in prior years. Gabi received her degree in the performing arts from Rider University. Gabi can been seen in several feature films, and on TV on REELZ network as well as in various commercials. Gabi is also a trained singer and dancer. In her spare time Gabi enjoys practicing aerial and acro yoga and playing her ukulele. Gabi teaches acting and music.

Hannah Bank is a proud alumna of the Baltimore School for the Arts, the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (Teaching Artist Specialty) and the University of Southern California (M.A.T. Elementary, Multi-Subjects). Hannah has a passion for fostering creativity and developing problem-solving talents in children. She delights in tapping the imaginations of her campers and encouraging their thinking and expression in a variety of forms. Hannah teaches Makerspace.

Young Rembrandts Cartooning Explore the world of cartoon drawing with Young Rembrandts Cartooning this summer! Using a unique 30+ year method, campers will improve fine motor skills, patience and focus. Campers will gain new-found confidence in a skill they never knew they had and have fun in the process. Campers will follow our instructor step-by-step as they create silly characters and expressions, so don’t miss out–join us today!

Young Rembrandts is the art program with a difference. They view art not merely as a talent, but as a skill that can - and should - be learned by all children. The Young Rembrandts’ method focuses on teaching children to draw using demonstration and a structured step-by-step process. Children in Young Rembrandts receive foundational art literacy while developing technique, confidence, and self-esteem in each class. Join us this summer for some cartoon drawing fun creating silly characters and themes! Young Rembrandt’s teaches cartooning.
Yonatan Grinberg  International violinist Yonatan Grinberg creates meaningful and moving concert experiences for audiences around the globe. Committed to musical performance in different forms, Grinberg has performed as soloist, concertmaster and chamber musician in halls around the world including venues such as the Concertgebouw Hall in Amsterdam, the Israeli Opera Hall in Tel Aviv, and the Philharmonic Hall in Zagreb. Mr. Grinberg's performances have been aired on Israeli TV and Radio, as well as Slovenian Radio, and some of his notable chamber performances include a guest performance at a faculty concert in Towson University, the Jerusalem Music Center and a tour of chamber concerts in Holland as part of the Zeist Music Days festival. As a concertmaster Grinberg has performed with the Perlman Music Program, the Jerusalem Academy Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and has led no-conductor ensembles in concerts in Hebrew University and Tel Aviv with soloists such as Vadim Gluzman, Dr. Ron Regev and Dr. Asaf Zohar.

Since 2015 Grinberg has been the founder and musical director of the Chamber Encounters concert series in the Gordon Center for Performing Arts in the Greater Baltimore area, which has been hailed in its first year by Baltimore Style Magazine as Baltimore’s 3rd most exciting musicians crossing all genres. These concerts are artfully constructed by diverse programming, round theater seating and interaction between the performers and the audience to create a lively and dynamic experience for different audiences. **Yonatan teaches violin.**

Chava Sussman Goffin  Chavi is thrilled to be back at Habimah and she is excited to be a teaching artist this summer. She is teaching Daglanut, an Israeli flag presentation. She has choreographed some previous Daglanut presentations, usually performed on Yom Ha-atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. During the year Chavi teaches elementary school and works as a House Manager at the Gordon Center. **Chavi teaches Israeli flags.**

Carola  is the owner of “Sew Happy with Carola”, a sewing studio located in Towson. She is self-taught and calls herself a sewist which is someone who loves to sew anything and someone who sees sewing as an art. She’s been in business for two years and this summer it will be her third year offering Sewing Summer Camp. She has taught the before/after school clubs at a few BCPS and offers several workshops and classes for kids and adults. And now, She’s “sew” excited to be part of JCC summer camp!

More info about Sewing Camp and classes can be found on Facebook and Instagram (Sew Happy with Carola) Questions? Email sewhappywithcarola@gmail.com **Carola teaches sewing.**