

Russel Neiss

Jewish Educator & Technologist

EDUCATION

Brooklyn College

School of Education
Brooklyn, NY - 2010-2012

- Masters of Science in Educational Leadership

Queens College

School of Library Science
Flushing, NY - 2007-2008

- Masters of Library Science
- Thesis: "Reference Books for Students of the Book: A Content Analysis of Judaic Reference Works for Fourth through Eighth Graders"

Queens College

Macaulay Honors College
Flushing, NY - 2001-2005

- Bachelor of Arts - Phi Beta Kappa
- Jewish Studies & Religious Studies
- Thesis: "Nu, What's the Good News: An Analysis of Henry Einspruch's Yiddish Translation of the New Testament"

University of Vilnius

Vilnius Yiddish Program
Vilnius, Lithuania - Summer 2004

- Certificate of Completion for Advanced Yiddish

YIVO Institute

Uriel Weinreich Program
New York, NY - Summer 2003

- Certificate of Completion for Intermediate Yiddish

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer • Sefaria

St. Louis, MO - 2015-Present

- Assist in the development, and maintenance of code to create a free living library of Jewish texts and their interconnections, in Hebrew and in translation.
- Create new, interactive interfaces for Web, tablet and mobile, allowing people to engage with the Jewish textual tradition.

Director of Educational Technology • G-dcast

San Francisco, CA - 2012-2015

- Developed, and maintained the organization's portfolio of digital products including mobile apps, interactive eBooks, and websites, serving more than 100,000 individuals annually.

Co-Founder • Not-a-Box Media Lab

Brooklyn, NY - 2009-2012

- Co-founded and served as lead coder and educator for an educational technology venture that sought to raise the quality of Jewish learning by offering easy access to 21st century technologies.
- Selected Products included: MediaMidrash.org (sold to Behrman House Publishers in 2011), PocketTorah (recipient of a Jewish New Media Innovation Fund Grant), & the Aleph Bet App (a recipient of a Covenant Foundation Ignition Grant).

Summer Faculty • Brandeis University

Waltham, MA - Summers 2010-2016

- Worked with the University's Office of High School Programs to create and teach a course in their Genesis program combining technology & Judaism, harnessing the resources of the university to craft high level learning experiences for teens from around the world.

Academic Director of Technology • Rodeph Sholom School

New York, NY - 2010-2012

- Managed the academic technology and integration of technology in a pedagogically sound manner throughout the curriculum for 600+ students and 60 educators ranging from ECE through grade 8, through curriculum development, assessment of instruction, teacher training, sharing of best practices and crafting and enforcing school policies.

Librarian • Rodeph Sholom School

New York, NY - 2007-2010

- Reinvigorated & rebranded the library at the school, transforming it from merely a room of books to a communal hub that assisted students and teachers (grades 2-8) in finding information, knowledge and skills and helping them utilize it effectively for personal and professional purposes.

Education Fellow • Institute of Southern Jewish Life

Jackson, MS - 2005-2006

- Worked with a team to provide Jewish educational resources and supervised volunteer educators in 33 small and isolated Jewish communities throughout Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas & Louisiana,

LANGUAGES

Yiddish
Hebrew
HTML/CSS
PHP/MySQL
Python

AWARDS/GRANTS

Covenant Foundation
Fellow (2012-2015)

St. Louis Federation
Millstone Fellow (2014)

Jewish New Media
Innovation Fund (2011)

Covenant Foundation
Ignition Grant (2011)

Jewish Futures Competition
Award (2010)

PresentTense Fellow (2009)

Association of Jewish
Libraries Student
Scholarship (2007)