Russel Neiss

Currently based in St. Louis, MO

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 - 2004
- Certificate of Completion for Advanced Yiddish

YIVO Institute
Uriel Weinreich Program
New York, NY - 2003
- Certificate of Completion for Intermediate Yiddish

EXPERIENCE

Senior Product 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 & Coding Monkey • **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 2010-2018
- 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 early childhood through grade 8, through curriculum development, assessment of instruction, teacher training, sharing of best practices and crafting and enforcing school policies.

Librarian/Teacher • **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
Python
JavaScript
HTML/CSS
PHP/SQL
Perl

AWARDS

Covenant Award (2020)

Forward 50 (2017)

Covenant Foundation Fellow (2012-2015)

St, Louis Federation Millstone Fellow (2014)

Jewish Futures Competition Award (2010)

PresentTense Fellow (2009)

Association of Jewish Libraries Scholarship (2007)