

# JENA SCHWARTZ

Western Massachusetts \* 802-310-8525 \* [jenarschwartz@gmail.com](mailto:jenarschwartz@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Shalom Hartman Institute**, Jerusalem, July 2024 \* *Rabbinic Torah Seminar Participant*

**Jewish Studio Project**, Berkeley, CA, 2023-2025 \* *Creative Facilitator Training Fellow*

**Coaches Training Institute**, July 2003 \* *Core Co-Active Coaching Curriculum*

**Emerson College**, Boston, MA, 2000 \* *Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing*

**Barnard College of Columbia University**, New York, NY, 1995 \* *Bachelor of Arts, Russian Studies*  
Summa Cum Laude. Phi Beta Kappa. Centennial Scholars Program. Senior Thesis (“Soviet-Jewish Identity in the Former Soviet Union and the United States”) awarded third place, Peter S. Prescott Prize for Prose Writing.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**[Fierce Encouragement for Writing + Life](#)**, Amherst, MA, 2014-Present \* *Founder/Owner*  
Offer individual coaching to help individuals increase creative fulfillment and realize self-defined personal, artistic, and commercial success. Craft, design, and disseminate hundreds of original prompts. Conceive, create, administer, and facilitate online and in-person groups ranging from 12 to 100 participants for participants ages 13 to 83 of all genders. Plan, promote, and facilitate immersive retreats in Western Mass, Wisconsin, and Nantucket. Provide developmental and copyediting for authors across genres including poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction. Encourage consistent practice and greater ease of expression. Emphasize values of authenticity, courage, joy, learning, growth, interdependence, and community. Write all original website copy and Substack newsletter with nearly 1,000 subscribers. Seek out and secure grant funding for special projects and initiatives. Develop and market eCourses. Maintain website and active social media presence. Manage all financial and marketing aspects of business, with gross revenue of over \$100K.

**Jewish Community of Amherst**, Amherst, MA, 2020-Present \* *Poet-in-Residence and Board Member at Large*. Write and read original poems throughout Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Create and facilitate writing workshops for congregants to deepen personal connection to Elul/High Holidays and contribute their voices to services, culminating in an annual literary supplement. Lead personal prayer writing workshop for b’nai mitzvah students. Serving three-year term on the Board.

**Hampshire College, Career Options Resource Center**, Amherst, MA, 2012-2015 \* *Associate Director*. **University of Vermont, Office of Career Services**, Burlington, VT, 2005-2007 \* *Career Counselor & Work-Study Program Manager*. Provided individual career counseling. Introduced students and alumni to resources for jobs, internships, funding, and professional development opportunities. Created and facilitated relevant workshops and materials for students, supervisors, and family members. Maintained student and employer records. Worked closely with colleagues to

create a welcoming, supportive, warm environment. Administered and managed Federal Work-Study Program, serving approx. 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Built partnerships with non-profits, campus departments, and the America Reads and Counts program. Served as liaison to Office of Financial Aid. Oversaw and maintained related databases and web pages.

**Jvillage Network Inc**, Burlington, VT, 2010-2012 \* *Community Engagement Manager*

Researched, wrote, curated, and designed community engagement resources for clients' websites, including synagogues and other Jewish organizations.

**Strong Coaching**, Burlington, VT, 2003-2010 \* *Life Coach*

Launched first business. Developed all marketing materials, created website, and worked with individual clients, including parents, entrepreneurs, and young professionals.

**Hillel, University of Vermont**, Burlington, VT, 2000-2003 \* *Executive Director*

Provided leadership, strategic planning and vision, organizational development, and fiscal management to promote Jewish community on campus. Designed programs to develop and nurture student leadership and community partnerships, with an emphasis on diversity and social action. Engaged parents, alumni, and new alliances between students, faculty, staff, and community members. Strengthened board relationships and created job descriptions for paid staff and lay leaders. Hired and supervised staff and oversaw performance reviews. Solidified relationships with the Division of Student and Campus Life, Diversity and Equity Unit, upper administration, and local Jewish community. Worked closely with Hillel Council of New England and Hillel International to envision a vibrant future.

**Emerson College, Advising Center and ESL Learning Center**, Boston, MA, 1998-2000 \* *Academic Advisor*. **New England Writers' Workshop**, Boston, MA, Summer 1999 \* *Program Coordinator*. **The Putney School**, Putney, VT, Summer 1998 \* *Creative Writing Intern*.

**Nathan Cummings Foundation**, New York, NY, 1995-1996 \* *Jewish Life Program Assistant*. Worked with and for R' Rachel Cowan z"l. Managed daily administrative tasks. Interfaced with Board of Directors and partnered with colleagues. Vetted grant applicants and communicated with grantees. Deepened knowledge of Jewish philanthropy and non-profit work nationally and internationally.

## A D D I T I O N A L   W O R K S H O P S   &   P R O J E C T S

**Rabbinical Assembly**, Summer 2024 \* *Using 11s to Mitigate Burnout*. October 2021 \* *Poetry as Replenishment*. Workshop for clergy to write and replenish after the busy High Holiday season.

**Know Yourself, Free Yourself**, Centre for Holding Space, 2022 \* *Ecourse contributor*.

**Arizona State University Project Humanities**, September 2021 \* [The Future Loves You Already](#). Named by one participant "the best webinar I've ever attended."

**Your Messy + Beautiful Life in Progress** with Krista O'Reilly Davi-Digui, October 2021 \* *Autumn: Reclaim a Vibrant Life and Reignite Your Creativity*.

**The Roar Sessions**, 2015-2016 \* Conceived, launched, promoted, edited, and curated weekly blog series featuring diverse women's stories and voices.

**The Future Loves You Already**, 2021 \* Wrote, conceived, and produced short film and fundraiser in collaboration with artist Liz Kalloch and filmmaker Jen Lee. Raised \$7,500 to benefit the creative work of two women of color.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Healthy Boundaries for Kind People** with Randi Buckley. **Activism for Introverts and Highly Sensitive People** with Omkari Williams. **Freedom School** with Desiree Adaway. **Bread Loaf Writers' Conference**, Middlebury College.

## WRITING AWARDS

*Newsletter Contest Readers' Choice*, Goodreads, 2013. *Runner-Up*, Lyric Poetry Award, *Poetry Society of America*, 1997. *MFA Fellowship recipient*, Associate Alumnae of Barnard College, 1996. *Featured Poet*, Annual Student Contest, *Analecta*, UT-Austin, 1995. *Third Place*, National Writing Contest, The Holocaust Memorial Council, 1991.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Currently studying conversational **Hebrew**. Proficient in written and spoken **Spanish**. Formerly fluent in written and spoken **Russian**. One year each in college of **Czech** and **modern Hebrew**.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**Contributing Writer**, Amherst Indy, 2023. **Sanctuary Volunteer for Lucio Perez**, Amherst, MA, 2017-2019. **Jones Library English Language Tutor**, Amherst, MA, 2016-2018. **Center for New Americans 30 Poems in 30 Days fundraiser**, Northampton, MA, 2016. **Black-Jewish Dialogue Group**, Burlington, VT, 2003 \* *Co-Founder and Member*. **Burlington City Marathon Interfaith Service & Burlington Pride**, Burlington, VT, 2000-2003 \* *Guest Poetry Reader*, 2000-2003. Pima Country Adult Education Center, Tucson, AZ, 1998-1999 \* *ESL & GED Tutor*. **Center for the Adolescents of San Miguel de Allende**, Mexico, 1997 \* *American Jewish World Service Jewish Volunteer Corps*. **Taldom Children's Home**, Russia, Summer 1994, *Volunteer*. **Riverside Church English Language Program**, New York, NY, 1994-1995 \* *English language tutor*.

## PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS

### Personal Essays

[Dispatches from Daily Life](#), Substack

[I Don't Want to Win](#), Jewish Journal

[Love the Child You Have](#), Cognoscenti

[Salvo](#), Vox Populi

[Petrozavodsk, 1990](#), Emulate

[On Becoming Your Own Witness](#), Sunlight Magazine: Artists on Craft Series

[The Space Between Lives](#), Sliver of Stone  
[The Spaces Between the Consonants](#), On Being  
[Beyond the Lonely Bench](#), Full Grown People  
[Free Associating About Fear & Faith \(Or, What I've Forgotten\)](#), The Manifest Station, essay winner of Jen Pastiloff & Emily Rapp's Vermont Retreat  
[The Intrigue of Just Passing Through](#), Barnard College Magazine

### **Poetry**

Perhaps Today, Lev Shalem Siddur (forthcoming)  
[It Took a War](#), Jewish Writing Project  
[The Undefended Heart](#), Tikkun  
[Ancestral Memory](#), The Jewish Writing Project  
[Refuge](#), New York Times  
[Preparing for Sabbath](#), Vox Populi  
[The Well](#), Kol Aleph  
[Day After Yom Kippur](#), Tikkun  
[God Is Not Perfect](#), Vox Populi  
[Jacob](#), Tikkun  
[Return](#), Mabel Magazine

### **Writing Prompts**

[One Little Acorn](#), Vox Populi  
[The Book of Secrets](#), Vox Populi  
[Harold and the Purple Prompt](#), Proximity: A Quarterly Collection of True Stories

### **Op-Eds**

[The Public Is Not the Problem](#), Daily Hampshire Gazette  
[Protecting the Wrong People in Amherst](#), Amherst Bulletin  
[The Real Inconvenience Is Racism](#), Amherst Bulletin  
[The Chasm: Towards Greater Collective Care, Not More Billionaires](#), Tikkun

### **Anthologies**

Two poems, *Inheritance* and *The Tip of My Tongue*, [On Being 40\(ish\)](#). Lindsey Mead, Editor.

### **Interviews**

[If we are going to move towards peace, we have to practice containing multitudes](#), The Graphic, Amherst Regional High School  
[Real Fit with Pam Moore](#)  
[The Writer Within](#), More Happiness, Less Suffering  
[How Starting a Writing Practice Can Sharpen Your Mind](#), Considerable Magazine  
[Stepping Into Truth: Conversations on Race, Gender & Social Justice](#)