**The Ayeka Story**

In 2006, after teaching Jewish texts to adults for 20 years, Rabbi Aryeh Ben David founded Ayeka: Center for Soulful Education. Ayeka affirms that the goal of learning Jewish wisdom is to affect and evoke our better selves. To do this, we need to recognize that the mind learns differently than the heart, that learning needs to engage our souls, and that the ultimate goal of acquiring Jewish knowledge is to impact our everyday lives.

Ayeka developed an innovative educational approach that enables us to bring Jewish wisdom from our minds to our hearts, to our souls, and into our lives – while honoring that every individual is on his or her unique path, at his or her unique pace. We are all works-in-progress, and Jewish wisdom can be the ideal guide on our journeys toward becoming our better selves.

While all teachers want their students to personally connect with Jewish texts, Ayeka is unique in developing a step-by-step system that educators can employ with any text they are teaching. Steps include:

1. How to learn a text spiritually
2. How to teach a text spiritually
3. How to enable each student to personally process and integrate the subject material
4. How to spiritually begin and end each class.

During the last 5 years, Ayeka has partnered with 14 middle and high schools across North America to train their faculties and leadership in Soulful Education.

***Becoming a Soulful Educator Testimonials from Teachers***

*“Students always used to say, ” Why do we have to learn this?” Since Ayeka, I don’t hear that anymore. “*

*“It has made me appreciate the internal voices of my students, opened my mind and heart to the unique diversity of my students’ voices. My students trust me more. They will learn/experience almost anything I provide. It has made me try new things; go out of my comfort zone. ”*

*“It is incredibly valuable to have a cohort of high caliber colleagues with whom to reflect and share. This is the most impactful part of the program to me. I enjoy working with these particular people and have appreciated everything we have learned from one another. ”*

*“I have become a more honest teacher and I am much more open to feedback from my students.”*

**Aryeh Ben David, Founder and Director, Ayeka**

Aryeh Ben David was born in the United States and moved to Israel where he received Rabbinic Ordination. He taught at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem for 20 years, serving as Director of Spiritual Education. He is the author of: *The Godfile - 10 Approaches to Personalizing Prayer*, *Around the Shabbat Table* - *A Guide to Fulfilling and Meaningful Shabbat Table Conversations*, *B*e*coming a Soulful Educator – How to bring Jewish wisdom from the Mind to the Heart to the Soul and into Life*, and most recently a book of spiritual reflections, *Prayers of the Lost & Found.* Aryeh is married to Sandra- they have 6 children and a bunch of grandchildren.