



THE ELECTRONIC EDUCATOR-
A weekly update of information for you and your school!
A service of the NJ Region USCJ Dept. of Education
Michelle Rich, Director of Education and Youth Activities
Nita Polay Levin, Field Worker
Lisa Harris Glass, Executive Director

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Another first for NJ Region USCJ!

We have arranged for a MINI-COURSE by CONFERENCE CALL!

On Monday, March 17, we will participate in a conference call with Lisa Micley, Director of Education, at *Babaganewz Magazine*.

The topic will be *Israel at 60*, a very relevant topic. EVERYONE will receive the first supplemental issue of *Babaganewz* dealing with this subject. People who sign up for the conference call will also receive the second issue.

For those of you who are not familiar with *Babaganewz*, let me introduce it to you by telling you it is one of the best things to ever happen to Jewish education. It is a glossy, colorful magazine designed for middle schoolers. Each issue has the theme of a Jewish value. Inside, some of the articles delve into the pop culture that teens and preteens are familiar with and puts a Jewish spin on them. (they do it for us—they know what's cool—or whatever the word is that preteens use!) They interview Jewish stars about their relationship with Judaism and Jewish values. For instance, in this month's issue, about *B'tzelem Elohim, In the Image of God*, the creator of *The Invincibles* talks about how Jewish values informed his creation of the story. It is such a pleasure to see kids' faces light up and exclaim, *WOW! I didn't know he was Jewish!*

To say the least, Lisa is an excellent educator, and amazingly creative. She and her staff have a pulse on middle schoolers and know exactly how to reach them.

Look for more information in upcoming *Electronic Educator* editions. Meanwhile, save the date!

TOPIC: ISRAEL AT 60
INSTRUCTOR: LISA MICLEY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, BABAGANEWZ

DATE AND TIME: MONDAY, MARCH 17, 10 a.m. (it will go to 11 or 11:30 a.m.)

Preschool Corner

Recently, a question was posted on the Preschool Directors Listserv asking for ideas for teaching about Israel this year. Here is one of the responses. If you would like to be a part of the listserv, ECDIR@USCJ.org. feel free to respond to these, ask other questions, etc.

Debbie,

You will probably get a more detailed email from other people, but in the Philadelphia area Jewish Early Childhood community we are doing a few things:

ON Sunday, May 18, the Jewish Federation is sponsoring a big community even in Philadelphia. The early childhood community has started to get together to plan our part. For one thing, we are issuing T-Shirts with all the Preschool names on it and a logo. We are all learning the song – Kahol v'Lavan (music and Hebrew Lyrics by I. Reshel). We will sing at the event. In preparation for the big day, we are focusing our learning around the following themes:

- Home
- Flag
- Diversity
- Birthdays

I hope this is helpful.
Eileen

Eileen S. Kupersmith, M.Ed.

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Early Childhood Directors at the JEA 2008

A baker's dozen Early Childhood Directors from around the country braved the snow in Chicago to join together for the USCJ Early Childhood Director's conference at the JEA. EC Directors had the advantage of hearing international speakers such as Chancellor Arnold Eisen, Daniel Pekarsky, and Zohar Raviv. They also were able to gather for focused, intimate learning on relevant issues in early childhood in the Conservative movement. Over the course of the conference, the early childhood directors were joined by over 15 other participants of the JEA, representing 9 regions of the USCJ, to tackle such topics as the relationship between early childhood and education directors, visioning in early childhood, working with one's board, and The Guidelines for Conservative Early Childhood Programs. Early Childhood directors have many conferences to choose from, but those who chose the EC Director's Conference at the JEA were able to network closely with colleagues with who, when one director asked, "What time do you close on Fridays?" there was no need to explain. Next year's JEA conference will be in Scottsdale, AZ, January 25-28, 2009. Plans include a school visit, more time dedicated to fewer topics, and more dedicated networking time. Contact Maxine Segal Handelman for more details or to help plan – Handelman@uscj.org or 847-641-9963.

Hope to see you there!

Max

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I'd stop eating chocolate but I'm no quitter.

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IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT

PURIM!!

*We have GAMES, SHPIELS, STORIES, TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, RECIPES,
PUZZLES, CRAFTS, WHOLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS, CARNIVAL IDEAS,
For early childhood through high school students.*

Contact Nita at Levin@USCJ.org or (732) 738 - 4301

Due to illness, yesterday's workshop, the first in a series of 3, on *No Jewish Child Left Aside*, had to be postponed. The new dates for the workshops are: March 4, April 1, and May 6. All are Tuesday mornings at our Edison office from 10 a.m. to 12 N and include a bagel + spreads breakfast. The course will yield certification with the NJ State Dept. of Education and participants will receive a binder of articles and techniques. It is being presented by Wendy Dratler, a consultant in special needs education.

The series is free of charge to religious schools affiliated with United Synagogue. We have been thrilled with the registration, which will impact 23 religious schools, yet, *If you have not signed up for this course and would like to, we will still take registration.* Contact Michelle Rich at Rich@USCJ.org or call (732) 738 – 4301. Please understand that this course is for **Education Directors and Principals ONLY** and we are not accepting registration from teachers.

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