



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

The department of education adds a new feature to our list of offerings

From time to time, we will be arranging conference calls for your convenience. You don't have to leave the comfort of your home or office to participate, don't have to worry about the high cost of gasoline, or extra time spent in travel. And, you don't have to be concerned about getting lost or traveling to the other end of the region!

We are calling this feature *L'hit-kasher*, which has a double meaning: *to connect*, and *to call on the phone*.

Here are the up-coming calls for this semester:

1. Talk with Lisa Micley, Director of Education, *Babaganewz Magazine*—Monday, March 17, 10 a.m. Subject: ISRAEL AT 60—for teachers and principals of religious schools
2. Speak with Serene Victor, National Consultant for Synagogue Education, USCJ—Monday, April 28, 10 a.m. Subject: WORKING WITH MY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: What I Need to Do to Help Them Be Good At the Job. For RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ONLY. Limited registration.
3. LET'S TALK: a monthly discussion among PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS, with other directors around the country, with Maxine Handelman, Consultant for Early Childhood Education. The first session will be Wednesday, March 5, 1 pm.
See detailed information below

Registration is free, a benefit of your school's membership in United Synagogue. To register, contact Michelle Rich, Director of Education and Youth Activities:
Rich@USCJ.org, (732) 738 – 4301

Preschool corner L'HIT-KASHER

*I went to visit a USCJ school in Gainesville, and the director, Debby Kinman-Ford, and I got to talking about how nice it would be to be able to connect with other directors on issues we all deal with, more often and less expensively than gathering at NAEYC or CAJE or the JEA. So I introduce the new USCJ EC Director's Chat. These will be monthly conference calls. Let's shoot for the first Wednesday of every month, at 1pm NY time (noon central time, 11am Mountain and 10am Pacific). We'll start on **Wednesday, March 5**, and we'll make day or time adjustments in future months if need be. We can use this list serv to generate topics for the calls. Please throw out ideas for the March call - I will start by suggesting sharing great ideas for Purim and Passover (NOT the best way to make a seder plate, but perhaps the best versions of the stories to tell).*

The call in number is 646-519-9394.

Wednesday, March 5

1 pm NY time (noon Central, 11am Mountain and 10am Pacific)

When you call, you will not hear anything if you are the first one on the call, not even ringing. Just hum a little until someone else gets on.

We will plan an hour for the call. If you can only join for a little bit, come for what you can.

Please RSVP to me or the list so I know approximately who to expect.

B'Shalom,

Max

Maxine Handelman

Consultant for Early Childhood Education

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

847-641-9963

Fax: 773-929-4387

www.uscj.org

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

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What do you need for Purim? Anything?

We have a Purim pamphlet designed just for preschoolers, crafts, stories and shpiels. Contact Nita at (732) 738 – 4301 or Levin@USCJ.org for any of these.

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Pay a visit to our Early Childhood Education Monthly Shiur archive! Share with your Early Childhood staff.

<http://www.uscj.org/Archive7067.html>

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I looked at the full moon with my kids a few days ago (as we watched the total lunar eclipse) and was able to tell them - this full moon means that Purim is only a month away! So here is a Staff Meeting Shiur to get your staff talking about Purim. If you'd like to read an article which more fully expands on the ideas in this shiur, go to www.morim.org and search my name (Maxine Segal Handelman).

Enjoy, and remember I love feedback!

Max

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Up-Coming Mini-Courses

Please share this list with your faculty and encourage them to attend any courses that would be of benefit to them

COURSE # 6: **HELPING NON-CONSERVATIVE TEACHERS TEACH**
INSTRUCTOR: **RABBI RON ISAACS**
DATE: **Mon., March 3, 6 – 7:30 p.m.**
LOCATION: **Cong. Beth Israel, Scotch Plains**

COURSE # 4: **COOPERATIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUES**
INSTRUCTOR: **DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN**
DATE: **Wed., March 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**
LOCATION: **Beth El Synagogue, E. Windsor**

COURSE: 7: **INFUSING PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS WITH JEWISH VALUES**
INSTRUCTOR: **JANICE JUMBO**
DATE: **Friday, March 21, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**
LOCATION: **Cong. Beth Shalom, Livingston**

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L'HIT-KASHER
Connecting with Conference Calls
(L'hit-kasher: to connect; to make a phone call)

Join us for a conference call—or more!—from the comfort or wherever you are comfortable.
Learn from the experts. All for free!

1. **COURSE:** ISRAEL AT 60
FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TEACHERS & PRINCIPALS of 4th through 8th grades
INSTRUCTOR: LISA MICLEY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, BABAGANEWZ MAGAZINE
DATE: Monday, March 17, 10 a.m. **CALL NUMBER:** 1-888-247-2572, pin: 9607#

Join us to talk about the BabagaNewz@60 supplements as you think about ways to connect your students to Israel and its history during this special anniversary. The 3 supplements offer a window into Israel's rich history and culture, from 1900 - the present, featuring different aspects of Israeli society and timelines. We will focus on the second supplement entitled; *A Proud Nation Establishes Roots: 1949 - 1967.*

Lisa Micley is involved in the development of the magazine, teachers' guide, and web site for BabagaNewz. She works with teachers and principals in schools across the country, helping them to use the magazine's innovative, multi-media, full-color, glossy, attractive and inviting design. Lisa joined the BabagaNewz team after 28 years on the faculty of a Solomon Schechter Day School. She received undergraduate degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University before coming to Boston to pursue graduate studies at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was also a Senior Educator at the Melton Center of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The articles are a "living laboratory" of Jewish values-in-action that encourage and guide students to view all aspects of life through a Jewish lens. **Designed for middle schoolers**, "Baba" does the research for us on what's hot and what's not with this age group. It is a joy to see the students' faces as they mumble, "I didn't know that s/he was Jewish." It makes them more willing to listen to what Judaism has to say.

2. COURSE: WORKING WITH MY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: What I Need to Do to Help Them Be Good at Their Job. *FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ONLY*

INSTRUCTOR: SERENE VICTOR, National Consultant for Synagogue Education, USCJ.
DATE: Monday, April 28, 10 a.m. PHONE NUMBER TO BE ANNOUNCED

Serene Victor has been the National Consultant for Synagogue Education at USCJ for 10 years. She developed and runs the New Director's Institute every summer. Serene is very knowledgeable and innovative and has helped countless educators with her insights and knowledge. Everywhere, you will hear educators exalt her for what they have learned from her and are willing to learn from her again on any topic. We are proud to have her join us in this conference call, but especially since she is moving on at the end of June. Registration is limited to 6 people (religious school principals only), so you don't want to delay.

3. COURSE: LET'S TALK *FOR PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS ONLY*
A monthly conference call at 1 p.m. The first call will take place on March 5.
PHONE NUMBER: 646-519-9394.

L'HIT-KASHER is free, a benefit of your school's membership in USCJ.
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Or Rich@USCJ.org

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1-800-DREIDEL is about to have their biggest ever clearance sale!!!! If you wish to be notified, please put this address in your address book.

Lauree at 1-800-DREIDEL
One800dreidel@gmail.com

Last chance to register for our 3 part series, *NO JEWISH CHILD LEFT ASIDE*, dealing with special needs students. The course is free. Registration is required, as is commitment to all three sessions. Contact Michelle Rich at (732) 738 – 4301 or Rich@USCJ.org.

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