



THE ELECTRONIC EDUCATOR-
A weekly update of information for you and your school!
A service of the NJ Region USCJ Dept. of Education
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NJ Region, USCJ, Dept. of Education

Presents a

ONE DAY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Cong. Neve Shalom, Metuchen, 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Something Different! New Presentations!

For teachers, principals, cantors, rabbis, school boards, synagogue lay people who have an interest in bettering Jewish education in their synagogue

*** Presentation, consultation and display by TERRY KAYE, of BEHRMAN HOUSE PUBLISHERS**

*** DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, presenting techniques from her new book, ACTIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES**

*** SETTING UP A QUALITY HEBREW HIGH with RABBI RON ISAACS, creator and director of one of the best in the region**

*** WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS with CARYN BRUCKHEIMER**

***TEACHING PRAYER THE "4MAT" WAY, using SIDDUR SIM SHALOM with ALEX WEINBERG, author of Siddur Sim Shalom, Remix 2.0**

MORE TO COME!

Save the Date!!

BIRCHAT HACHAMMAH

According to our tradition, every 28 years the sun returns to the same spot as when it was created. Therefore, every 28 years ceremonies blessing the sun have been held. The rite helps us focus on the solar system and increases our awareness of the sun as a source of energy and our appreciation of God's gifts. It sensitizes us to how lucky we are. It is celebrated on April 8, which this year falls on erev Pesach. If you would like to create a Birchat HaChammah ceremony, here are some suggestions you might want to incorporate and ideas of others. Of course, any ceremonies you do create we would appreciate it if you

could send us a description and any copies of printed materials so we can keep in our resource files and share with others:

*Over the last 28 year cycle, we have seen tremendous pollution and the deletion of natural resources. See this as an opportunity to co-create the next cycle by seeking alternative solar energies and learning how to honor the earth. Make a commitment to a purer environment. Use this occasion as a time to renew yourself and the earth, and to bring a fresh start to the world. Let this be a time when we are roused from our lethargy and complacency and force ourselves to actually reflect on this cosmic phenomenon.

*In the US, 14 Jewish organizations have joined to launch BlessTheSun.org, a website that links to various educational materials and ideas for activities. 5 of the groups are also sponsoring an art competition for works exploring the relationship between Judaism and the environment.

* USCJ has designed a 68 page text study guide on the prayer emphasizing environmental themes. Check out www.USCJ.org.

* The actual prayer, whose origins lie in the Talmud, blesses God "who makes the work of creation;" it is the same blessing said over other rare natural phenomena, such as lightning or a meteor.

*In Sefat, Israel this year, an 8-day festival is planned featuring several environmentally and kabbalistically-inspired events, including the ceremonial burning of *chametz* by concentrating the sun's rays through an optic lens.

*Include psalms that say such things as, *Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?*

*Have everyone bring a kite to fly as a way to draw attention upward to the sky and the sun. Appreciate the warmth and light it provides.

*Send balloons into the air. You could put messages in them.

*Under the leadership of its educational director, Renee Wallach Dean, Cong. B'nai Israel of Toms River is hosting a "solar energy project fair." The projects will be made by families and placed on view.

*Get project ideas by viewing www.builditsolar.com.

Celebrate Passover with

BabagaNewz

In This Issue

[Pesach Highlights](#)

AfikoMan Game

Share [AfikoMan](#) with your students! The game reviews the Ten Plagues and the symbolism of each item on the Seder plate.

Quick Links

[BabagaNewz.com](#)

[Check out games](#)
[Send an e-card](#)

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March 19, 2009/ 23 Adar 5769

The holiday of Pesach begins Wednesday night, April 8, 2009 (15 Nisan 5769). Visit the [Pesach](#) section of the BabagaNewz [teachers' site](#) to find abundant resources for teaching the holiday. [Pesach Central](#) is full of additional content for students and families.

NEW: Depicted here is Track 4 - *Yahatz* (Breaking the Middle Matzah) of [Pesach Playlist](#), a new activity for you to use in the classroom and for students to use with their family at the Seder. Pesach Playlist is a set of printable bookmarks (available for download [here](#)), each of which asks students to learn about and reflect on a different part of the Seder.

Hag Sameah,

Teach your students an important value of Pesach: *hakhnasat orḥim* (hospitality). This lesson plan shows how students can welcome family and friends with goodie baskets, door hangers, and more.

- [Welcome Kit instructions](#)

More Pesach Links

- [Send an e-card](#)
- [Download Seder Bingo](#)
- [Download Seder Lingo](#)
- [Play Jewpardy! Holiday Edition](#)
- [Play Holli Days Putt-Putt World](#)
- [Pillow Craft](#)
- [Matzah Munch Recipe](#)

COMBING THROUGH MY FILES:

Passover in earnest!!!

Seders of all kinds:

Chocolate seders, walk-through seder ideas, a 2-minute seder, ideas for a women's seder, and traditional seders

Recipes lists of lunches for kids to take to school

Preschool activities preschool haggadah

Passover stories, plays, and riddles

MATZAH BAKERY

Educational games of all kinds:

Card games, puzzles, hand-out packets, lotto.

From Slavery, to Freedom

The Gold's Miss-matched seder (one of my favorites!)

Songs & parodies crafts graphics

Passover Parchesi Fool Pharaoh (review)

How to teach the 4 Questions, the Passover Kiddush, the order of the seder, the 4 Children

Feeling creative but need help designing an idea? Call us!

For these, and other ideas, contact Nita at Levin@USCJ.org