



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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In this Week's Issue:

Conference on Synagogue Education
IT'S FINALLY HERE!
 Preschool Corner

Save the Date---

Our "One-Day Conference" now has a NAME!

CONFERENCE ON SYNAGOGUE EDUCATION

But all the other details are the same!

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

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

Something Different! New Presentations! High Quality Education!

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

- * **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*
- * **SUZI ADELSON WAINER** on Multiple Intellegences and How to Ask Questions that Challenge
 * *consultation and display* by **TERRY KAYE**, of **BEHRMAN HOUSE PUBLISHERS**

Save the Date!!

For several years now you have been learning so much about Active Learning from the incomparable SHOSHANA SILBERMAN at our Mini-Courses. Now, you can have HER tips at YOUR finger tips, because,

IT'S FINALLY OUT!!

ACTIVE JEWISH LEARNING

By Mel and (our own) Shoshana Silberman
Contact Torah Aura (Orders@TorahAura.com) for your copy!

Preschool Corner

Here are the notes from today's EC Dir. Chat call. Thanks to everyone who joined in, and everyone who thought about us in the midst of your preschool seder.

EC Dir Chat – April 1, 2009

Main Topic – Registration and budget

Budgets and delayed/declining enrollment are at the top of everyone's list of worries; commonly, camp enrollment is down and registration is way behind where it was at this point last year.

Afternoon/enrichment enrollment is way way down. There's lots of thoughts about combining classes, and lots of parents who can not commit to register their child until last minute.

Please remember this potential source of help:

Legacy Heritage Emergency Fund for Jewish Education will enable schools to assist families committed to Jewish education to keep their children in schools despite significant financial difficulties due to the current economic environment. Targeted to schools located in small or medium sized Jewish communities; day schools and community/Hebrew schools are eligible to apply. Funds are intended to support families who have experienced a significant change in employment status and who have expressed the need to withdraw from the school due to inability to pay tuition for the coming school year. Funds will be provided to schools, not families. For further information and an application, please go to www.legacyheritage.org or contact Marci Karoll at 212-578-8190, ext. 126.

Debbie said one interesting thing, which y'all may already do. Regardless of the budget she submits, come the fall, she rewrites her budget for herself, based on the actual number of kids she has, not the estimates she used to create the budget.

On the question of the director taking on some teaching responsibilities in order to save money:

- All agreed it was a bad precedent
- It also may not be allowed. Each state in its licensing codes, sets the maximum number of students a school can have and have a director/teacher. For example, in NY, if you've got kids or more, you must have a full time director.

Where can a budget be cut?

- Snack (there are some cons, like parents bringing in junk, and it may not save that much cash)
- Specialists
- Ask families to bring in challah and juice each week

Fund raiser ideas:

- Hot lunch (charge 3.50 to 5 bucks – make more cash if you cook it yourself)
- Enrichment – be conscientious about this – offer things the parents are already prepared to pay to do elsewhere, but would do it by you to save the shlepping
- Sell challah – ordered from the bakery, or buy the frozen stuff and bake it yourself

- Paint ceiling tiles – 20 bucks a family, their artwork stays in the school ceiling forever.
- Tree mural in prominent place, can always add a branch or leaf for another family or sibling
- Esther Cohen has done make a plate workshops with families – here's 2 resources (thanks Esther!)
 - Make-A-Plate www.makit.com or 1-800-248-9943.
 - Original Artworks www.originalworks.com or 1-800-421-0020
- Max's kids' school did a fundraiser with Art to Remember, which is good if you want to take kids' art past the plate stage
 - www.arttoremember.com, 800-895-8777
- Yearbook fundraiser – do all the work except printing in house with volunteers
- CD of all the pictures from each class from the entire year 10 bucks
- Video of various school performances, so parents don't have to experience their child's performance from behind a camera
- **What other ideas do people have? Continue this conversation on the list serv.**

Vision for Conservative Early Childhood Program: A Journey Guide is now on line. Just today, a revised version was sent to be posted on line with 2 more stories in the Ethical Behavior section, bringing the total up to 18! (This version should be online soon – it's the version with 126 pages, not 124) The plan remains to write the Director's Manual in June, and mail out a hard copy of both the Vision and the Director's Guide by the end of July. Beginning in August, I (Max) will be offering a series of webinars to introduce and train teachers and directors in the Vision. The Vision can be found at: uscj.org, under the Education tab, and then under the Early Childhood tab.

This just in! The **JEA** will be in Washington DC this year, not in Israel! That means book your ticket for DC for the end of January 2010. It will be a great conference.

Future topic: Reaching out to and including inter-faith families in early childhood.

Next call: Wednesday, May 13 at 3:15 EST.

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

We wish you a chag kasher v'same'ach, a zissen Pesach!

Michelle & Nita