



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

In this Week's Issue:

Conference on Synagogue Education
MANAJE Conference
New from Behrman House
New from Torah Aura
Last call for the Legacy Heritage Fund Grants
Contract information
Upcoming Teva Seminar
Seminar on using art to learn about the Holocaust
Preschool corner
Combing through my files

Get Ready! Get Set!
Start making a list of registrants!
Start Getting Excited!
The Brochure and Registration Forms
Will Be in Your Hands by Next Week!
FOR THE
CONFERENCE ON SYNAGOGUE
EDUCATION

Wednesday, June 10, 2009
Cong. Neve Shalom, Metuchen, 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

New Presentations! High Quality Education!

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

- * DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, presenting techniques from her new book,
ACTIVE JEWISH LEARNING**
- * 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 Intelligences and How to Ask Questions that Challenge
* Consultation and display by TERRY KAYE, of BEHRMAN HOUSE PUBLISHERS
*RABBI ROBERT ABRAMSON, National Director of Education, speaking with school committee
chairs and VPs about their role
LISA HARRIS GLASS, Executive Director, NJ Region USCJ, on navigating through these difficult
economic times**

Save the Date!!

MANAJE

New Alternatives in Jewish Education

Who We Are:

We are a group of former CAJE members who, upon hearing that the annual CAJE conference was cancelled, got together in an online social network group to talk about what CAJE meant to us and what we might do in the absence of CAJE. Some of us knew each other from our CAJE experiences, and some of us are new friends. We are Jewish educators from diverse backgrounds, but we are united in the mission to elevate our knowledge of Judaism and expand our educational practices, in order that we may create the most inspiring Jewish educational settings we can.

A strong consensus emerged in our discussions that our CAJE experiences are essential to our continued professional growth. We concluded that we could not afford to miss an opportunity to meet, and thus was born the idea to plan a 'mini' conference for the summer of 2009. A phone call was made to the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in suburban Baltimore, MD to inquire about availability – it was beshert! – they could take us in August.

Our online group agreed to go forward with a conference, and a new online group was formed for the planning: The Mid-Atlantic Conference Group. Our group's membership has been steadily growing and reaching out to former CAJE members from all over the country and Israel, as well as more immediate communities in driving distance of Pearlstone: MD, DC, DE, VA, WV, PA, NJ, and NY.

We are energized by each other's willingness to commit valuable time and effort toward this mini-conference, especially at such an uncertain time in the wake of the closure of national CAJE. Nevertheless, our spirit and our resolve is focused on the future; on what we must continue to do to nurture ourselves while also finding ways to encourage and enable the next generation of Jewish educators.

- **FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [HTTP://MANAGE.ORG](http://MANAGE.ORG)**

FREE RESOURCES FOR YOUR HEBREW PROGRAM!! CHECK OUT THIS, FROM BEHRMAN HOUSE

Dear Educator:

A few days ago we let you know about free resources that can help you use the [Kol Yisrael](#) series.

There's MORE!

Now you can find a variety of free resources to help you and your teachers easily use [Alef Bet Quest](#), the first Hebrew

PRIMER to fully integrate book-based lessons with animated computer learning.

You can find all the resources at <http://www.behrmanhouse.com/abq-resources/>. They include:

1. ["How to Use Alef Bet Quest"](#): view an online tutorial to learn how the book and software are integrated, how to use the software for the first time, and how to assess student progress.
2. [Online Tour of the Software](#): use this sample lesson and three games to demonstrate the program to teachers and students—and even to parents at your school Open House.
3. [Letter to Parents](#): print out or email a customizable letter to parents explaining how Alef Bet Quest will help the children learn to read Hebrew with a book and animated online activities and computer games.
4. [Research on Hebrew reading](#): use the educational research about teaching Hebrew phonics in your teacher handbook or as the topic for in-service development.
5. [Online Assessment](#): track students' progress online and use the results to plan lessons and remediate.
6. [FAQ's](#): find the answers to all your questions about Alef Bet Quest.

As always, we are here to help you use Alef Bet Quest in your school. Please don't hesitate to call me at 800-221-2755, 216, or to email me if you have questions or I can be of any other assistance.

Warm regards,
Terry
terry@behrmanhouse.com

*Introducing, from Torah Aura
Heroes don't Just Appear. They're taught.
Introducing:*

EIZEHU GIBOR:
Living Jewish Values

Heroes for a new generation, because values are best learned from people who live them.



**A friendly reminder:
Your Legacy Heritage Deadlines are coming up fast!**

LEGACY HERITAGE FUND LIMITED



Legacy Heritage Fund is pleased to announce **4** new funding opportunities for Jewish educational institutions and synagogues throughout the United States:

1. Legacy Heritage Emergency Fund for Jewish Education will enable schools to assist families committed to Jewish education to keep their children in school 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 an 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. **The deadline for completing the online application for day schools is Thursday, April 30, 2009!**
2. Legacy Heritage Fund Smart Board Project Round 2 will enable Jewish day schools and community/Hebrew schools to bring the power of a new dynamic educational tool to the classroom. Legacy Heritage Fund will make Smart Boards available to selected schools, whether or not they received a grant in the first round. Participating schools will receive one or more Smart Boards and staff training to achieve proficiency in the use of the equipment. Participating schools will also have access to the Smart Board Jewish Educational Database which enables knowledge sharing throughout the world of Jewish education with ready-made Smart Board lessons in a variety of topic areas and grades. For further information and an

application, please go to www.legacyheritage.org or contact Ilana Rabinoff at 212-578-8190, ext. 122. **The deadline for completing the online application is Thursday, May 4, 2009!**

3. **Legacy Heritage Innovation Project: Israel Engagement** supports synagogues in integrating Israel awareness and engagement into programming for different age groups (children, teens, and adults) and across multiple aspects of Jewish life such as prayer, study and social action. Legacy Heritage Innovation Project will award grants of up to \$25,000 to selected synagogues which propose, in such an integrated manner, to deepen adults' and/or children's connection to the history, culture and people of Israel. Online grant applications and more detailed information may be obtained at www.legacyheritage.org, or by contacting Rabbi Marc Margolius, Project Director, at 212-578-8190, ext. 106 or marcm@lhfl.net. **The deadline for completing the online application is Monday, May 11, 2009!**
4. **Legacy Heritage Innovation Project: Music** supports synagogues in nurturing Jewish identity by weaving music throughout multiple aspects of congregational programming. Legacy Heritage Innovation Project will award grants of up to \$25,000 to selected synagogues which propose to integrate music into programming for different age groups and across multiple aspects of congregational life, e.g. *Torah, avodah, gemilut hasadim*. For example, preference will be given to programs which propose to incorporate music regularly into congregational prayer, study and action. Online grant applications and more detailed information may be obtained at www.legacyheritage.org, or by contacting Rabbi Marc Margolius, Project Director, at 212-578-8190, ext. 106 or marcm@lhfl.net. **The deadline for completing the online application is Monday, May 11, 2009!**

WWW.LEGACYHERITAGE.ORG

Attention Religious School Directors and Principals:

For those of you who are currently in contract negotiations, please be smart about your negotiations. Go to the United Synagogue website (www.uscj.org) and look up the Guide to Congregational Practice. Go to the section on the EDUCATOR. You will see a sample contract there. Compare this document with what you are being offered. Do make certain that your contract has: vacation leave, sick leave, shiva leave, personal leave, maternity/paternity/adoption leave spelled out. You will also want a written job description. Be sure that your contract states that the congregation will go to binding arbitration should something come up in the course of your employment or in the termination of your employment where you can not come to an agreement. (This is really important.) You also want a statement regarding when the congregation needs to let you know if they are choosing not to renew your existing contract (usually by January 31 of the last year of the agreement) as well as a statement regarding severance and retirement. It is 100% appropriate for you to have someone else (like a lawyer) take a look at the contract and you CAN come back to the congregation with some penciled changes to continue the discussion. Do this right and you will thank me years from now.

15TH ANNUAL
TEVA SEMINAR
On Jewish Environmental Education
June 1 – 4, 2009
Surprise Lake Camp, Cold Springs, NY
For information, contact:
Teva Learning Center
[Leora Mallach: seminar@tevacenter.org](mailto:Leora.Mallach@tevacenter.org)
co-sponsored by
JNF

Seminar at the BJE of Greater New York:

Using Art to Learn About the Holocaust
Tuesday, May 26th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We will look at various pieces of art, available online, created during the Holocaust and learn ways of incorporating these resources into the Holocaust education curriculum.

There is no fee for this seminar and a light breakfast will be served.

RSVPs are requested. Please RSVP to Emily Witty at witty@bjeny.org or call (646) 472-5361.

Preschool Corner:

The spring publication of "Your Child", a wonderful resource for educators and parents of young children is now available on the USCJ web site.

For educators who provide family education in your curricula, "Your Child" is a

wellspring of good information.

Go to www.uscj.org and you can access it from the Home page.

Topics for this edition include:

[Linking The Generations](#) by *Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson*

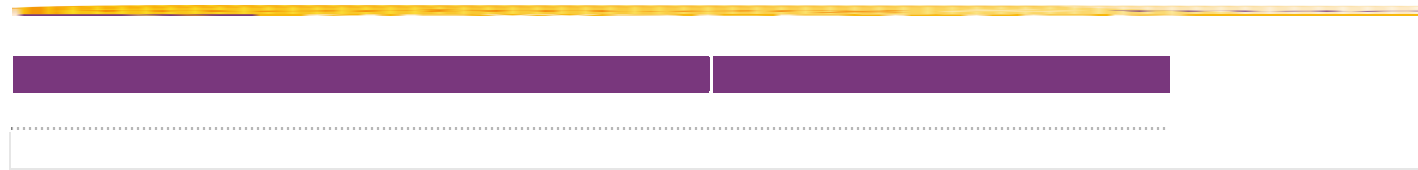
[Here Comes The Sun: Birkat Hahamah](#) by *Maxine Segal Handelman*

[Let's Make a Difference](#) by *Kay Pomerantz*

[Building a Strong Family with Humor](#)

[Guiding Our Children to Independence](#) by *Jane Geller Epstein*

[Parenting Books for Parents of Young Children](#) by *Amy Kaplan*



.....

DIRECTORS:

Our next call will be Wednesday, May 13 at 11am EST (10am Central, 9am Mountain and 8am Pacific) the call-in information: 1-218-486-8700 (Midwest) Participant Access Code 84072

Guest: Kimberly Rubinfeld, Project Manager for *Hekhsher Tzedek*, the new ethical certification seal that will be introduced to the kosher food industry in the coming months, a joint project of the USCJ and the RA. Website: hekhshertzedk.org.

Please let me know if you will be able to join the call.

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.

Brian woke up feeling great! He ran into the kitchen, and gave his mother a kiss and a great big hug. “I love you, Mom! You’re the best mom in the whole world!” Brian’s mother felt loved and appreciated. Because Brian’s mom was feeling loved and appreciated, she made Brian and his sister, Joanna, their favorite breakfast....

-from *Because Brian Hugged His Mother*
by David Rice, Dawn Publications, 1999

Questions for discussion:

1. Mother’s Day is coming. Talk about ways you have shown *kavod*, respect, toward your mom, or have been shown *kavod*, if you are a mom. Did this show of *kavod* ever lead to a whole chain of positive events, as it does in *Because Brian Hugged His Mother*?
2. The fifth commandment is *kibbud av v'em*, honor your father and mother. What does this mean? How do we honor someone? Is honoring the same as loving?
3. A story about *kibbud av v'em* appears in the *Vision for Conservative Early Childhood Programs* (page 18). It begins, “One summer morning, Dima ben Netina was working in his jewelry store. As he worked he whistled happily but very softly, because he did not want to wake his father, who had fallen fast asleep on a large chest-like box in a corner of the store.” (Read the entire story at http://uscj.org/images/vision_experimental.pdf) Stories like this one, as well as secular stories like *Because Brian Hugged His Mother* and *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera Williams (Greenwillow Books, 1982), can help young children become well versed at the very Jewish concept of honoring our parents. What other sources do you know of that teach this mitzvah?
4. As you are decorating picture frames or planting flowers to send home as gifts for Mother’s Day, how can you also address the bigger idea (some would say the enduring understanding, or what we really want children to remember forever) of Mother’s Day being about relationships, and the ideal way to treat our parents all year round? How can you help the children you teach think about how they can be respectful and/or helpful to their parents?

Directors: Not a member of the listserv? Contact
ECDir@USCJ.ORG

For your teachers: contact <http://uscj.org/archives/ecteach.html>

Click on “Join or leave the list (or change settings)” and fill in your information from there.

Why re-invent the wheel? Get in on this exciting exchange of ideas & find solutions to your issues!

.....

COMBING THROUGH MY FILES:

Several articles on religious school report cards

Articles on closing the school year

Activities for Shavuot

Lech Lecha: a short ceremony to recognize high school graduates at the end of the year (very little prep needed)
