



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

UP-COMING TEACHER TRAINING MINI-COURSES

Only 3 more courses left this semester!

COURSE 7: INFUSING THE PRESCHOOL CLASS WITH JEWISH VALUES **INSTRUCTOR: JANICE JUMBO**

What about our preschool room lets all who enter know that this is a Jewish program? Is there an Israeli flag or a Shabbat set in the house corner? Are there kippot in the dress-up corner and on the snack table? Do we bring God into our discussions when we see something extraordinary in nature? Do we sing Jewish songs or use a Hebrew greeting when children enter? Janice, a very creative and innovative teacher, has been teaching nursery school Jewishly for many years. Participants in this Mini-Course will leave with many ideas they will feel comfortable adding to their daily routine, including Circle Time. You may want to bring a tape recorder!

DATE: Mon., Oct. 27, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Beth El Synagogue, E. Windsor

COURSE # 8: DEVELOPING A SENSITIVITY TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (for *Religious School teachers*) **INSTRUCTOR: WENDY DRATLER**

Wendy Dratler, our Special Needs consultant who taught our *New Jewish Child Left Aside* course, will aid educators to "feel what it is like to be disabled," allowing for empathy for these individuals and the experiences they struggle with the mainstream. Participants will have hands-on experiences, benefit from sensitivity lessons that are tied to Bible stories, how Torah tells us to treat the disabled, and how to make students with disabilities feel like the star of the class.

DATE: Sunday, November 9, 12:45 - 2:15 p.m. >**Note the correct date**
LOCATION: Temple Israel, Ridgewood

COURSE 9: B'TZELEM ELOKIM: DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY OF MENSCHEN (for *religious school teachers*) **INSTRUCTOR: DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN**

Learning to treat each other with respect and dignity in the way in which Judaism teaches is a reflection of God. In this Mini-Course, participants will learn how to develop a cohesive community of students exhibiting *menschlichkeit* behavior, understanding that we are all created in the image of God.

DATE: Sunday, November 23, 9 - 10:30
LOCATION: Temple Beth Torah, Ocean

New Course, first for the Winter/Spring Semester:

Preschoolers and Israel: Perfect Together !

INSTRUCTOR: LINDA RIPPS, VETERAN TEACHER

Due to the popularity and timeliness of the topic, Linda will reprise her workshop that she facilitated in Montville at the beginning of September.

Young children are not developmentally capable of conceptualizing the global map or of a place that is not in their daily lives. This would make it seemingly useless to teach them about another country far away, and yet, it is never too early to introduce a love for Israel as the special place of the Jewish People, which is different from learning about other cultures and countries. By using some Hebrew, the Israeli flag, videos and story books about Israel, we begin to plant the seeds that will bloom as they get older. Linda, who has taught preschool and is an expert in resources about Israel, will show you how to introduce the concept of kibbutz and other aspects of the country to young children.

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 19 (MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY), 2009 (A.M.: TIME TBA)

LOCATION: GLEN ROCK JEWISH CENTER

If you are interested in attending any of these courses, contact Michelle Rich at Rich@USCJ.org. As a benefit of your synagogue's membership in United Synagogue, all courses are free for teachers affiliated with a USCJ school or anyone who is a member of a USCJ congregation.

Beyond Paper Chains: Decorations for the Sukkah

Are paper chains, as a decoration for the synagogue's sukkah, worthwhile of the time taken out of class time? While they do help instill the notion of *Hiddur Mitzvah*, beautification of a mitzvah, couldn't there be something also educational?

YES!

For unusual, educational ideas for decorating your synagogue (or home) sukkah, contact Nita right away at Levin@USCJ.org, or (732) 738 - 4301.

=====

Combing Through My Files

Here are some things that may be of interest to you:

For Sukkot:

**Who Causes the Wind to Blow and the Kites to Fly: A Celebration of Sukkot, the Hope for the Future, and Let's Go Fly a Kite!*

**Make a Lulav Shake: After learning how to, and doing the actual, shaking of the lulav, enjoy this recipe for an ice cream shake.*

**I am one of the Ushpizin, but, Who Am I?*

**The Unofficial Laws of Sukkot, "According" to Dr. Seuss*

**puzzles, rebus, "quizzes" for Sukkot*

*graphics & pictures to color

*Interview the Ushpizin

*An edible sukkah

*After learning the basic description of the laws for building a sukkah, have the students design creative sukkot with a theme: outer space, Hawaiian, rainforest, cruise ship, etc.

*Consider reading the story, *House on the Roof*

For Simchat Torah & Shemini Atzeret:

*Graphics & pictures to color

*Interview a Torah

*Sefer HaTorah HaPatuach Stations

*The Gift of Torah: The Most Precious Gift (an activity/discussion)

Prayer:

*For the first 12 respondents, I have copies of *Activities For Teaching Prayer*, by Hazzan Sheldon Levin, from a workshop he delivered at the Marlboro Jewish Center a few years ago

* * * * *

Preschool Corner

Hello all,

I realized today with a start that it's been a long time since we chatted, and I panicked for a second that I had missed a call. But no, it's all these lovely Jewish holidays getting in the way. But just in case you've also been thinking about our chat, rest assured that our next chat is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29 at 3:15 EST (2:15 Central, 1:15 Mountain, 12:15 PST). The call in number is 270-696-1500, and the code is 32845#. That will be our October/November call, and the topics will include making Thanksgiving Jewish, and anything else you care to suggest.

Enjoy the rest of the hagim, and I look forward to talking to you soon!

Max

====
====
====

preschool directors October shiur

Hello,

While you haven't had much time to chew over the September shiur, here is the October shiur, in a timely manner!! It's about Sh'mini Atzeret, which isn't until Oct 21 this year, so it gives you a little more time to play with the September topic of greetings and sayver panim yafot.

Make it your new year's resolution (5769, not 2009!) to send me feedback on the conversations you have with your teachers using the shiurim, or what topics you would like to see still covered, please!

L'Shana tova u'mituka,
Max

It's Elul - did you hear the shofar today?

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.

Dear Educator,

Shana Tova from our team to yours. We're here to make your job easier. Send us your feedback! Here's a quick thought before Rosh Hashanah.

During Elul and the Yamim Noraim (High Holidays), we are encouraged to give tzedakah. We've highlighted three charities that make small change go a long way. Click [here](#) for some great ideas!

We wish you good learning, inspirations, and positive *teshuvah* (making amends).

B'shalom,

Nina & the Pitome team

PS Have you downloaded our free digital Jewish calendar?
Choose your format at www.pitome.com .

+++++

From BabaGaNewz:

(did you know that synagogues from Union and Middlesex Counties can receive BabagaNewz for FREE??)



Celebrate Sukkot with BabagaNewz

[Nita Polay Levin]

In This Issue

Teaching Sukkot

Activities for Students

Teaching Yom Kippur

Still looking for ways to teach Yom Kippur? Click [here](#) to get ideas for mini-lessons and other activities that will help you teach *teshuvah*.

Workshops

BabagaNewz has upcoming **teacher workshops** in a number of communities. Click [here](#) to learn more.

AJPA Award

You're not the only one who loves BabagaNewz.com. We are now an American Jewish Press Association **Rockower Award-winning website**.

October 3, 2008/ 4 Tishrei 5769

Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel, explained that the *sukkah* is an embodiment of an exalted and complete elation, a joy that emanates from a sense of renewal constant throughout the holiday. I hope this e-letter will give you some resources to bring this joy to your students on Sukkot. I encourage you to peruse our [Sukkot Resources for Teachers](#), as well as [Sukkot Central for Students](#).

Hag Sameah,

Sara Marx
Web Editor

Sukkot Resources for Teachers

Mini-Lessons

These quick lessons include designing a themed sukkah, decorating, playing fun games, and discussing important

Quick Links

[Quick Start](#)
[Subscribe Now](#)

[Free Sample](#)
[BabagaNewz.com](#)

[Check out games](#)

Link to Us

Link your school website to BabagaNewz.com. Let kids connect directly to the **engaging educational games, music, crafts, videos, and more** from your home page. Click [here](#) for more information!

Donate Now

Renew your commitment to **creative Jewish education** with a donation to BabagaNewz.

[Donate Now](#)

Join our list

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Sukkot for Kids

Jewpardy! Holidays Edition

Challenge your students to show off their knowledge of all things related to Sukkot and the rest of the Jewish holidays. Play [here](#).

Holli Day's Putt-Putt World

Your students will love this addictive [virtual mini-golf game](#). They will have to putt through a sukkah on hole 2!

Match Game

The [Sukkot edition of the Match Game](#) will have your students learning and reviewing the important Hebrew terms related to the holiday.

More:

- [Virtual Sukkah Builder](#)
- Sukkot [wordfind](#) and [crossword](#)
- [Sukkot Central](#)
- [BabagaNewz Games](#)

Please do not reply to this message with questions or comments unrelated to this newsletter. Please use the following addresses to reach the proper BabagaNewz department:

Magazine subscriptions: subscriptions@babaganewz.com

Web site: webmaster@babaganewz.com

Editorial: editorial@babaganewz.com

Teachers' Guide: teachersguide@babaganewz.com

Teachers' E-letter: webmaster@babaganewz.com

BabagaNewz magazine is published eight times during the school year by The AVI CHAI Foundation and JFL Media. To subscribe, click [here](#) or call 800-434-3934 ext. 18.

Copyright 2008 The AVI CHAI Foundation. All rights reserved.

From my colleague at the BJE in NY:

Dear Colleagues,

Please take a moment to review the various seminars being offered by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. As a graduate of two seminars, I can tell you the level of scholarship and learning is of the highest caliber. The experience and tools you will gain will make a difference in your teaching. Graduate credits are available.

For further information please contact Udi Cohen at

Tel: +972-2-6443-829

Cell: + 972- 50-300 7243

E-mail: udi.cohen@yadvashem.org.il

Wishing everyone a gmar chatimah tovah,

Emily

SEMINARS FOR JEWISH EDUCATORS AT YAD VASHEM

Located at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem

(I.) 10 day Jewish Educators Seminar (December 21, 2008- January 1, 2009)

Jewish Educators Seminar

<http://www1.yadvashem.org/education/department/english/Flyerbegginers2008.pdf>

(II.) Our one week Advanced Seminar (December 21-28, 2008) that will focus on Music, Art, Poetry,

Memorial

Advanced Seminar

<http://www1.yadvashem.org/education/department/english/FlyerAdvanced2008.pdf>

The Jewish Educators Seminar will deal with issues such as:

- Yad Vashem's educational philosophy on Holocaust Education
- Current issues in Holocaust research and education
- Jewish life in different European communities before the war
- Historical overview of the Holocaust
- Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial
- Multi Disciplinary and Age – Appropriate pedagogical units

- Intergenerational transmission of Holocaust memory
- Holocaust education and technology

Our Jewish Educators Seminar graduates will be entitled to

- **120 accredited continuing educational credit hours**
- **4 Graduate school credits from the Hebrew University (additional fee/paper requirement)**
- **An invitation for a 2-day follow-up seminar in North America**

Udi Cohen

The International School for Holocaust Studies

Coordinator of Seminars for the Jewish World/ Teacher Training

Tel: +972-2-6443-829

Cell: + 972- 50-300 7243

E-mail: udi.cohen@yadvashem.org.il

Yad Vashem Website: www.yadvashem.org

Environmental Education/Programming Resources

FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN’S CLUBS

“Shomrei Ha’aretz”

<http://fjmc.org/ShomreiHaaretz.html>

"Stewards of the Land"

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is in the dynamic process of creating tools for men's clubs and their communities to use to take responsibility for their energy footprint.

We invite you to register with us. You will receive our e-newsletter and will have access to a growing list of insightful brief documents on all aspects of Jewish energy stewardship, from organizing an initiative that is right for your community including:

- How to build a group of committed energy stewards
- Background on the little known Jewish Celebration of the Sun that occurs every 28 years, and next in 2009.
- Judaic insights into energy stewardship
- Instructions for building a solar Ner Tamid
- Programs ready for your club including Hanukkah as a festival of eco-friendly lights
- Insights into using the Men's Club Shabbat as a kickoff for energy programs.

Shomrei Ha'aretz Publications

- Carbon Offset Brochure; [PDF file](#)
- Shabbat Flyer; [PDF file](#)
- Shomrei Ha’aretz “Stewards of the Land” Brochure; [PDF file](#)
- Solar Ner Tamid Brochure; [PDF file](#)
- Solar Ner Tamid Typical Components ; [PDF file](#)

CONSERVATIVE JEWISH ACTION CENTER (CoJAC)

“The Environment”

http://www.uscj.org/The_Environment7780.html

Relevant Jewish Texts

Statements from the Branches of the Conservative Movement

USCJ (2003) - <http://www.uscj.org/Environment6672.html>

Rabbinical Assembly (2007)

WLCJ (2006)

Relevant Online Resources

[Teva Learning Center Suggested Resources](#)

[COEJL - Greening Synagogues](#)

[COEJL - Jewish Resources](#)

What You Can Do – 10 Ways to “Green” Your Synagogue

KOACH

“Tu B’Shevat: Celebrate the Hag by Cleaning Up Your Campus”

<http://www.uscj.org/Koach/kocjan03dotan.htm>

USCJ

“Celebrating Nature’s Bounty”

http://www.uscj.org/Celebrating_Natures_7399.html

“Change a Lightbulb, Light a Light”

http://www.uscj.org/Change_a_Lightbulb_L7176.html

http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc_action.php

<http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cflhanukkah.pdf>

“Environmental Health and Justice (1999)”

http://www.uscj.org/Environmental_Health6689.html

“Green Choices”

http://www.uscj.org/images/eNews_08_2008_Edward_Don_Green_Catalog.pdf

“Climate Change Crisis”

http://www.uscj.org/Climate_Change_Crisi7094.html

SCJ Convention Resolutions on the Environment

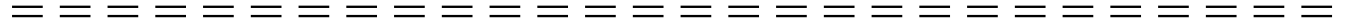
[Motor Vehicles, Oil Dependence and Environmental Protection](#) (2002)

[Environmental Protection](#) (2007)

[Energy Security](#) (2007)

[Environment](#) (2003)

[Environmental Health and Justice](#) (1999)



Wishing you all a g'mar chatima tova!

Nita Polay Levin,
Education Field Worker

&

Michelle Rich,
Director of Education &
Youth Activities