



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 1 more course left this semester!

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

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 (10 - 11:30 a.m.)

LOCATION: GLEN ROCK JEWISH CENTER

Keep your eyes open for an up-coming course in March, the week after Purim (March 16 - 20) for religious school principals/education directors on

Evaluation and Assessment with Susan Wyner, National USCJ Consultant for Synagogue Education!

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.

We are now taking requests for in-service teacher training workshops for the Winter/Spring semester. If you would like to have a Mini-Course for your religious school or preschool, contact Nita at Levin@USCJ.org

CAPs for sale! CAPs for sale!

[And, at such a bargain!!]

HAVE **YOUR** SEVENTH GRADERS BEEN **CAP'** ed??

Our Cultural Arts Programs offer a 2 hour session during which 7th graders experience 2 workshops. Each program has an explanatory educational component and 2 craft projects. There is a nominal \$4.00 fee per participant for materials. Choose 2 from the following: A Taste of Hebrew Calligraphy, Clay Creations, Fabric Creations, Foiling Techniques, Illumination, Painted Glass, and Wood Projects.

ENRICHMENT COURSES for 12 year olds and up (parents and other interested adults are welcome to participate)

In an effort to improve synagogue skills, the Dept. of Education sponsors these Enrichment Classes. The courses last from 3 - 10 weeks, depending on the course chosen: Torah Reading, Nusach, Shofar Blowing, Hebrew Calligraphy, Tallit Making, Megillah Reading.

For more information or to schedule one of these programs, contact Nita Polay Levin, Education Field Worker, at (732) 738 - 4301, or Levin@USCJ.org.

=====

www.bjeny.org

You are invited to a seminar on

Using Narrative in Holocaust Education

Presented by Dr. Karen Shawn

**WHO: Holocaust educators, English educators, and Librarians
in middle school and high school**

WHEN: Thursday, December 11, 2008

TIME: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm (9:00-9:30 registration)

COST: \$36.00 payable to BJENY

(includes light cholov yisroel breakfast)

Pre-registration is required.

WHERE: Board of Jewish Education

520 Eighth Avenue 15th floor (b/w 36th and 37th street)

MAIL CHECKS TO:

Emily Witty

Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York

520 eighth avenue 15th floor

New York, NY 10018

Emily Amie Witty

Director, Manhattan Educational Resource Center

Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1500

New York, NY 10018

Tel: 646.472.5361

Fax: 646.472.5461

witty@bjeny.org

Chaverim,

Placement for the 2009-2010 academic year officially opens on November 13, 2008.

The attached Timeline for Placement is what is going to go out to Rabbis, Presidents and Executive Directors this week. The Timeline is attached here (in both *docs* and *pdf* formats) so you can be informed about the process.

If you are considering an employment change for the next academic year, or have any questions you would like to discuss, you will want to be in touch with Wendy Light, USCJ North American Consultant for Congregational Placement and Framework for Excellence Schools: 215-896-1830 light@uscj.org; or with Eddie Edelstein, Executive Director of the Jewish Educators Assembly: 516-569-2537 jewisheducators@jewisheducators.org

Your communications will be confidential.

B'Shalom,
Wendy Light

Susan E. Wyner
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
North American Consultant for Synagogue Education

wyner@uscj.org
440-473-3165

Placement Time Line for Education Director Searches

Mid- November:

- USCJ's Placement Service officially opens
(This year Placement opens on November 13th, 2008)

December:

- Contact Wendy Light (light@uscj.org or 215-869-1830)
- Notify incumbent
- Establish committee to honor incumbent
- Establish Search Committee
- Consultation help is available
- Receive Placement Manual
- Submit Application for Placement

January:

- Review Candidate Applications
- Send Pre-interview questions
- Conduct phone interviews
- Conduct candidate on site interviews

February:

- Conduct candidate on site interviews

March:

- Do Reference Check
- Make offer
- Negotiate

April:

- Write contract
- Sign contract

May:

- New Director Institute Application due.
- Transition team established

Entering the Placement process in a timely fashion allows your synagogue to see the widest range of available candidates. Most candidates will have offers by Passover or sooner. Consultation help is available by contacting Wendy Light, Consultant for Congregational School Placement at light@uscj.org or calling 215-869-1830.

=====

From Our Friends at Torah Aura:

<p>November 7, 2008</p>	<p>Volume 16, Issue 3</p>
<hr/>	
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Whirlwind.</h2> <p>Howdy, and welcome to the latest edition of the TAPBB.</p> <p>This past weekend, Jane and Josh spent a lot of time around the DC Beltway, working with principals, teachers, and education students in the DC and Baltimore areas.</p> <p>They taught at the PJLL's annual teacher conference. They met with lots of Jewish educators, and they learned together with the students at the Baltimore Hebrew University. All the while they sat in traffic, trying to avoid Obama rallies in Virginia, McCain rallies two exits down the road, and a Redskins game. And by the time their plane landed in Los Angeles on Tuesday evening, we had a new president-elect.</p> <p>Did you know that Torah Aura offers free teacher training?</p> <p>That's right. If you're a Torah Aura customer, we'll come to your school and train your teachers to use their classroom materials. We'll talk about the educational principles behind the books, help teachers write lesson plans, and brainstorm ideas for making learning come alive in their classes. (The only cost to you is to cover minimal travel expenses.)</p> <p>We'll also come to teach at area education days, teacher in-services and principals' councils. All you have to do is email Josh Mason-Barkin, Director of School Services at josh@torahaura.com.</p> <p>We're looking forward to experiencing your city's traffic!</p> <p>- Jane, Joel, Alan, and Josh</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">In This Issue</h3> <p>God. Dinosaurs. Abstract Thinking in the Jewish School.</p> <p>News2Use in Your Classroom</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join Our Mailing List!</p> <p>Available Now! Artzeinu: An Israel Encounter</p> <p>Have you heard about the revolution in Israel education?</p> <p>It's called Artzeinu: An Israel Encounter, and it's new from Torah Aura Productions.</p> <p>Not just a travel book, Artzeinu is an insider's guide to the people, history, and culture of Israel.</p>
<p>God & Dinosaurs.</p>	<p>Designed for 5th and 6th grade, it's a book that teaches more</p>

God & Dinosaurs.

by Joel Lurie Grishaver

I was doing a workshop on "teaching God" to about sixty San Diego teachers. We get to the point in the conversation where I ask them to bring into our discussion questions about God that their students have asked them. And the winner was, a third grade teacher who had a student ask, "Did God Create the Dinosaurs?" Teachers frequently bring up this question when I do God workshops. They get asked it all the time (especially by precocious eight-year-olds), and they're not sure that they know the right answer to give.

It is not as simple a question as it might seem. What it represents is a testing of two information sources. For an eight-year-old, dinosaurs are the heart of scientific reality. It is what they buy at science museums and read about in science books. Dinosaurs are a symbol of history that has been reconstructed from bones and fossils and clues. They are the end result of the scientific method, the C.S.I. of history. On the other hand, the Bible (Torah) is God's truth. In the reality experienced by most eight-year-olds, the Torah is not yet a metaphor. It is literal. The distinction between it being a book of truth rather than a book of history (science) is not yet comprehensible.

[Read the rest of this entry »](#)

News2Use:

Elections, Mashups, and the Economy

Last issue, we debuted a new feature in TAPBB. It's called News2Use, and it's by Adrian Durlenster. Each week, Adrian (who used to edit the current events zines C.Ha and BimBam) will pick a few stories in the news, talk about their "Jewish angles" and recommend ideas for bringing them into your classroom.

by Adrian A. Durlenster

What Jewish Problem? Israeli newspaper [Ha'aretz reports that](#), according to exit polls, Barack Obama received 77% of the "Jewish Vote." Jeremy Ben-Ami of the J-Street lobby (a dovish pro-Israel pro-Peace organization supporting more direct and insistent U.S. involvement in bringing about peace and a two-state solution) [told Ha'aretz](#) that,

Artzeinu Gets High Marks from Forward

Readers of [The Jewish Daily Forward](#) (which is, oxymoronicly, a weekly paper) opened their venerable Jewish news source a few weeks ago to find an interesting and informative special section covering Jewish education. As part of that coverage, Forward writer Olivia Wiznitzer [told readers](#) about new innovation in Israel education, and in particular about our new Israel book, [Artzeinu: An Israel Encounter](#).

Calling the book "a nuanced, critical and yet beautiful portrait of Israel," the article explains how [Artzeinu](#) is really a new way to

than geography, an encounter that goes into the heart and nature of Israeli life. This is not just a tour book, but an exploration of the essence of Israel.

To learn more, [just click](#).

Top-Notch Scholarship Leads to Top-Notch Practice.

What We Now Know About Jewish Education: Perspectives on Research for Practice.

When What We Know about Jewish Education was first published in 1992, Stuart Kelman recognized that knowledge and understanding would greatly enhance the ability of professionals and lay leaders to address the many challenges facing Jewish education. With increased innovation, the entry of new funders, and the connection between Jewish education and quality of

during the whirlwind of the Jewish holidays and the U.S. Presidential election, Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, is facing an ever-growing corruption scandal and tendered his resignation back in late September. Israeli President Shimon Peres asked the Kadima party's Tzipi Livni, the Israeli foreign minister, to form a new government. After a month or so of trying to put together a coalition, Livni told Peres that the political compromises she would have to make, particularly to right-wing parties, were more than she could accept, even to become Prime Minister. So Israel is headed for elections some time in February, 2009. Livni's likely challenger is none other than Benjamin Netanyahu. On a simplistic level, it's right-wing hawks versus centrist and leftist doves. [This article](#) from Ha'aretz (<http://tinyurl.com/5by2d3>), among others, uses Israeli reaction to Obama's victory as a lens through which to view Israel's upcoming political choice.

[To read more of this week's News2Use, click »](#)

Artzeinu Gets High Marks from Forward

Readers of [The Jewish Daily Forward](#) (which is, oxymoronically, a weekly paper) opened their venerable Jewish news source a few weeks ago to find an interesting and informative special section covering Jewish education. As part of that coverage, Forward writer Olivia Wiznitzer [told readers](#) about new innovation in Israel education, and in particular about our new Israel book, [Artzeinu: An Israel Encounter](#).

Calling the book "a nuanced, critical and yet beautiful portrait of Israel," the article explains how [Artzeinu](#) is really a new way to teach about the Jewish homeland:

"Issues are presented in a clear, factual way, stressing the need for students to think about them critically and to become involved with their heritage. The text is lighthearted in some parts and serious in others, but most of all, it's thought-provoking."

Wiznitzer also highlights the book's "brightly colored maps, detailed drawings, contemporary people and historical figures," and points out that it's focus is on "documenting the country that exists today, not an idealized version of it."

[The Forward](#) knows about the revolution in Israel education. Do your students?

[To read the full review, click here. »](#)

inspiration. By bringing together the best thinkers and researchers from a cross section of disciplines and institutions, this new volume provides both professional and lay leadership with a new tool to advance the quality of Jewish education in schools, synagogues, camps, centers and every other venue where Jews are learning formally and informally, building their own personal connections with the Jewish people.

Edited by Paul Flexner, Roberta Louis Goodman, and Linda Dale Bloomberg, **What We Now Know About Jewish Education** is available right now. To order, click [here](#).

