



**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

---

## **WHAT CAN UNITED SYNAGOGUE DO FOR YOUR SYNAGOGUE? LOTS!**

*Just in the Department of Education alone, we offer:*

- \***The Electronic Educator:** a weekly email newsletter (which you are currently reading!) sent to principals and early childhood directors with timely information about what is happening in our department, plus other info for educators
- \***Lilmod Ulilamed:** a semi-annual newsletter which goes to preschool directors, religious school principals and teachers and other interested personnel
- \* **Enrichment Courses:** on-site classes in a variety of topics to help improve synagogue skills to students 12 and older
- \***Cultural Arts Program (CAPs):** Taking place during a one 2-hour session, 7<sup>th</sup> graders experience 2 workshops, producing 2 items of relevance to Jewish culture. Includes an educational component
- \***In-service teacher training Mini-courses** for religious school and preschool directors and teachers
- \***The Teacher's Center and library:** an array of text- and other books for use in the classroom as well as a wide variety of games and educational activities to enhance learning
- \***Consultation to individual teachers, directors, and lay leaders** on issues such as principal-lay relations, classroom management, curriculum planning for a class or whole school, education plans for small schools
- \***A cadre of excellent instructors and consultants**
- \***Training and consultation for teachers and principals of special needs students**  
**ALL FOR FREE** (except for any arts & crafts supplies)

***But how will your congregants KNOW unless you tell them??***

Whenever you or your staff attend a workshop or benefit from consultation or a program, *let them know* in your next newsletter article.

They want to know the **DO** in their dues!

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW FROM BEHRMAN HOUSE PUBLISHERS, AND OUR OWN MAXINE SEGAL  
HANDELMAN, NATIONAL USCJ CONSULTANT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD**

November 2007

The free [Teacher's Guide](#) for *Look at Me* is now ready for downloading. The [guide](#):

- Describes eight ways to teach pre-schoolers core Jewish values, such as respect for others and taking care of God's world.
- Provides developmentally appropriate secular learning activities to complement the [Look at Me](#) texts, including counting, shape recognition, and size comparisons.
- Offers four ways you can help parents reinforce the lessons, such as providing parents with a list of Hebrew words their children are using in class.

...and much more

You can also visit the [In the Classroom site](#) to find other teaching tips and special features, including a family Shabbat blessings guide.



Terry Kaye  
[terry@behrmanhouse.com](mailto:terry@behrmanhouse.com)  
800-221-2755

=====

**FROM TORAH AURA**  
**TEACHING JEWISHLY LOOKS PROMISING. THE REFU'AH SHLEMAH QUILT LOOKS  
EXCITING!**

|

**Introducing Our Latest Book**

**Now available!**

A new book from Joel Lurie  
Grishaver,  
author of [40 Things You Can Do  
to Save the Jewish People](#):

**Teaching Jewishly**

**In This Issue:**

- » [Happy Thanksgiving](#)
- » [Using Whole-School Lessons for Family Education](#)
- » [Let Me Count the Ways:  
5 Ways to Promote Jewish Summer Camp](#)
- » [R'fuah Shlemah Quilt](#)

**»Happy Thanksgiving**

TAPBB usually shows up in your mailbox every-other-Thursday. Of course, this Thursday is Thanksgiving.

## Teaching Jewishly

an exploration of how Jewish values influence pedagogy. By using Jewish sources as a foundation, Joel looks at how one creates a classroom based on respect and dignity, that facilitates growth, esteem, and community, and that makes the process of Jewish education an expression of the Jewish message.



"This is the book we have been waiting for! Teaching Jewishly provides the inspiration and Jewish wisdom necessary to enable teachers to connect Jewish values, their work in the classroom, and their lives. It is a book about how to be a teacher who cares for oneself, who cares for one's students, and who seeks to find ways to do both."  
- Jo Kay, Director, School of Jewish Education, HUC-JIR, New York

"As teachers we know that students learn not only from what we teach but from how we teach and from who we are as we teach. Grishaver's new book teaches us ways in which the 'how' and the 'who' can be deeply infused with Jewish ideas and values. Individual educators can certainly benefit from reading the book, but it would be an invaluable to read it b'hevruta — with a study buddy or a study group. Conversations about the ideas and how to enact them in your own setting could transform both the professional culture and school climate"  
- Dr. Gail Dorph, Director, Mandel Teacher Educator Institute



### Chapters:

1. Teachers Are Supposed to be Angels
2. Teaching as Relationship
3. Greeting as the First

this Thursday is Thanksgiving.

Inferior email newsletters may have taken the week off, but not TAPBB! We're pleased to present you with more classroom ideas, more awesome art projects, and more news from the team here at Torah Aura Productions.

Remember to check our new blog for even more news, commentary, and teaching ideas. Find us online at <http://www.tapbb.com>.

Enjoy your turkey (or tofurkey)!

### »Let Me Count the Ways: 5 Ways to Promote Jewish Summer Camp by [Carol Oseran Starin](#)

It's November. Too soon to be thinking about summer camp? Not at all. Now is the time to register for next summer.

Actually, as educators, we should be thinking about camp all year 'round.

Next to formal Jewish schooling, Jewish summer camp is at the top of the Jewish communal agenda. Communities and philanthropists have learned (and educators have always known) that living and playing Jewish 24/7 has a powerful effect on Jewish identity and the possibility to transform lives.

There are so many natural and authentic connections between camp and school – so many ways that teachers, principals and rabbis can promote Jewish camping and meaningfully integrate enthusiastic camp returnees into schools and synagogues. Here are more than a dozen ideas to get you started:

[To keep reading, just click. >](#)

- Step in Teaching
- 4. Building Respect for Students
- 5. Rebuking: The Art of Saying No
- 6. Teaching Your Children Well
- 7. Using Repentance
- 8. Facing Bullying
- 9. Teaching with Stories
- 10. Teaching for Friendship
- 11. Teaching Values
- 12. Protecting Student Confidentiality

[Order today! >](#)

»R'fuah  
**Shlemah Quilt**  
 by [Laurie Bellet](#)

I recently made a "get-well" quilt with a 3rd grade class. The children were culminating a unit on Bikkur Cholim. A member of our community was in the hospital and the quilt was made to coincide with her hospital discharge.



The background is fleece 72 inches by 59 inches. I cut 3 inch fringes and tied them into knots for the edging. The children worked on 6inch squares of white poplin. I ironed a product called "Wonder Under" onto the back of the poplin.

This makes it easier to cut and then will be used to adhere the squares to the fleece without sewing.

The children first sketched their design onto white paper to work out the format. This also allowed the teacher to check the appropriateness of the content and to check-in verbally with each student as a unit evaluation. They used the [Crayola Fabric Markers](#) to render the design onto the poplin. The students spent a total of about 90 minutes from preparation to completion. I peeled the back off the "Wonder Under" and ironed each square onto the fleece. This also 'set' the fabric marker.

[To read about the rest of the project, click here. >](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**The USCJ's Biennial Convention**  
 November 29 – December 3, 2007 Orlando, Florida  
**You Can Still Register & Attend!**

## **FLASH BULLETIN... JUST IN...**

### **CRAIG TAUBMAN – creator of “FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE” TO PERFORM AT THE USCJ BIENNIAL CONVENTION!**

Monday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m. (following the morning workshops) ... we will have the meaningful and wonderful experience of having **Craig Taubman and his band** perform for us at the “25th Hour Service.” This is a unique and special service performed at the end of Shabbat. How appropriate to conclude our convention with this experience. Be sure to be present for this wonderful and unique program (readjust your travel plans if you have to). *Craig Taubman and his band are sponsored by Synagogue 3000.*

### **... SPREAD THE WORD ...**

Join over 650 representatives from congregations across North America and vendors from dozens of Judaica providers from November 29 to December 3 at the new Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida.

The convention will be held over Shabbat, allowing us to celebrate with study, Storahelling, music, and a lot of ruach.

The schedule includes more than 25 workshops on a variety of topics, including growing today’s synagogues into the spiritual communities of tomorrow, and forums on hekhsher tzedek, social justice, congregational standards, new worship models, and training the synagogue staff of the future. Convention-goers will hear prominent Conservative movement speakers and be entertained by dancers, musicians, and cantors at an Israeli-style shuk. And don't forget to visit our vendors showcase, featuring Judaica, art, jewelry, gifts, books, Israel travel and firms that offer congregational services.

[Register Online & More Information at uscj.org](http://uscj.org)

### **... BRING HOME THE MAGIC! ...**

---

#### **News for Conservative Jews**

Is Your Kosher Turkey Also Ethical?

Hekhsher Tzedek -- New Kashrut Certification Of The Conservative Jewish Movement Raises Bar On Standards For Kosher Foods

#### **On Eve of Thanksgiving, Initiative Receives \$50K Grant From the Nathan Cummings Foundation**

New York, NY (November 20, 2007) – Kosher food industry workers have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Hekhsher Tzedek -- a new ethical kashrut certification initiative of the Rabbinical Assembly and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism – has been awarded a \$50K one-year planning grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation to roll out their new program.

As part of its mandate to raise the bar on standards for kashrut, Hekhsher Tzedek will be given to food products whose production complies with fair and ethical worker conditions. With the help of the Cummings grant, Hekhsher Tzedek certification should appear on kosher foods as soon as Thanksgiving 2008.

"This grant is not only a vote of confidence in our undertaking but will also allow us to move forward in a significant way," stated Rabbi Morris Allen, the project director of Hekhsher Tzedek and spiritual leader of Beth

Jacob Congregation in Mendota Heights, MN. "The funds will enable us to expand our infrastructure and commence educational outreach work on Hekhsher Tzedek, empowering Jews to understand the significance of kashrut from an ethical as well as a ritual perspective. Hekhsher Tzedek is a certification that would make any consumer of kosher goods proud."

As keeping kosher is a central part of Jewish identity, Hekhsher Tzedek aims to engage consumers in social justice as well as reinforcing the relevance of kashrut to contemporary life. As envisioned, Hekhsher Tzedek will serve as a supplement to (but not a replacement for) traditional certification of kosher products.

**The Cummings grant arrives on the virtual eve of the biennial convention of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, where a number of important developments in Hekhsher Tzedek will be unveiled. At the gathering, to be held November 29-December 3 in Orlando, Florida, the newly-formed commission (list appears below) will present a draft of the working guidelines, which were drafted in consultation with KLD Research & Analytics, Inc., a Boston-based company that is widely considered to be the leading authority on social research and indexes for institutional investors.**

In addition, Rabbi Avi Reisner will present the first draft of a rabbinic paper, entitled, "Hekhsher Tzedek Al Pi Din," which details the importance of upholding ethical standards while keeping kosher. Hekhsher Tzedek will also be on the agenda at the annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly, to be held February 10-14 in Washington, DC. To expand its grassroots acceptance, community organization is underway, with outreach to relevant institutions, branches of the Conservative movement and congregations around the country being made by members of the commission.

Members of the Hekhsher Tzedek Commission represent both United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly and include:

Mr. Scott Kaplan, Co-chair  
Rabbi Michael Siegel, Co-chair  
Rabbi Jill Borodin  
Rabbi Avram Reisner  
Mr. Gerald Koeble  
Dr. Marilyn Wind

Rabbi Morris Allen, Project Director  
Dr. Richard Lederman, Project Manager

Finally, the Cummings grant follows on the heels of an important honor bestowed upon Rabbi Morris Allen by *The Forward* newspaper, which named him one of its [Forward Fifty](#) for 2007 for his work on Hekhsher Tzedek.

In its citation, *The Forward* wrote, "Until last year, Rabbi Morris Allen was known mostly as a local congregational rabbi and promoter of Jewish social justice efforts in the Minnesota Twin Cities area. That all changed when Allen decided to plunge headfirst into the billion-dollar kosher food industry.... For years, kosher food certification has been dominated by Orthodox authorities, and Allen sees [Hekhsher Tzedek] as a way of re-engaging Conservative Jews and his own congregants with the spiritual implications of the food they eat."

A blog devoted to Hekhsher Tzedek, administered by Rabbi Morris Allen, is accessible at <http://rabbimorrisallen2.blogspot.com/>.

---

## National Calendar

After the USCJ Biennial Convention, many of our professional and lay leadership organizations are holding their conventions – and there is also an abundance of programs for our programmatic groups such as USY, Koach and Hazak. Below is a summary of upcoming conventions and programs, with links to learn more about these

important opportunities. Please be sure to share this information with the appropriate lay leaders and professional staff in your communities!

**UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

December 23-27, 2007 & Preconvention

**JEWISH EDUCATORS ASSEMBLY  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 27-30, 2008

**JEWISH YOUTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 27-30, 2008

**KOACH KALLAH 2008**

Northwestern University  
February 28-March 2, 2008

KOACH, the college program of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, invites you to the Eighteenth Annual KOACH Kallah, February 28-March 2, 2008 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

<http://www.koach.org/kallah.htm>

- Students from campuses throughout North America will come together for a weekend of learning, sharing and friendship
- Simcha Leibovitch, of Neot Kedumim in Israel, will be our scholar-in-residence
- Community service projects, an update on Israeli current events and a taste of Chicago will round out the program
- There will be time to meet in small groups and network with students from across the continent

**Accommodations and Registration**

Accommodations will be provided at the Best Western University Plaza, a short walk from the Northwestern campus. There will be three to four people in each room (sharing double beds) and meals are included. The cost for the Kallah (not including transportation) is \$250. Early bird registration by January 1 is only \$225. (The fee for Northwestern registrants is \$36.)

Limited scholarships are available (the Kallah is already heavily subsidized) and we encourage you to contact the rabbi from your home congregation and your Hillel Foundation for funds as well.

**Registration**

Register no later than January 18, 2008. Space cannot be guaranteed after that time. Upon receipt of your application and deposit, additional details will be sent to you. Should you need to cancel your Kallah reservation, please note that refunds will only be available until February 8, 2008.

Plan to arrive in Chicago by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28. The Kallah will conclude at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 2.

## **GO WITH HAZAK TO ISRAEL!**

For “Seasoned Youth” ... Ages Fifty-Five and Up!

February 12-24, 2008

United Synagogue and our [Hazak](#) groups are joining to offer a trip to Israel next winter. Spend February 12 to 24 in Jerusalem; celebrate Shabbat at the [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#), and take day trips around the country.

[Welcome Letter](#)

[Registration form](#)

[Trip Itinerary](#)

## **S U L A M: LEADERSHIP TRAINING For Synagogue Presidents & Presidents-Elect**

MARCH 6-9, 2008  
NEWARK, NJ

or

MARCH 27-30, 2008  
CHICAGO, IL

**Synagogue Presidents and Presidents-Elect should register today** ... space is VERY limited

## **NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SYNAGOGUE EXECUTIVES CONFERENCE**

MARCH 9-13, 2008

Nuts and Bolts: Power Tools for the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century

**Including Celebrations of the Sixtieth Anniversaries of NAASE and the State of Israel**

Join with your colleagues for five days of networking, study, discussions, speakers, rejuvenation and celebration. Attend classes at "NAASE University" and participate in conversations and sessions throughout the span of the combined conference and study program.

The Annual Irma Lee [Ettinger Memorial Lecture](#)

Large groups ~ Small groups ~ Individuals

Mentoring ~ Exploration and Inquiry

Surveys ~ Resource Development

## **HAZAK RETREAT 2008**

For “Seasoned Youth” ... Ages Fifty-Five and Up!

Block and Hexter Camp | June 12-19, 2008

We are delighted to announce our third HAZAK trip to the Block and Hexter Adult Center from June 12-19, 2008. We will join other 7 HAZAK . There are some wonderful lecturers who will be joining us during our visit. Gloria Goldreich, a noted author and lecturer will again be with us, Sheldon Horowitz, a very popular lecturer will be teaching us about 2 new historical trials, Dr. Marsha Edelman will again enchant us with her musical talent and joining us this year Ellie Gumnit will lead us in a wonderful series of Israel at 60. We will also be joined by Rabbi Moshe Edelman, who will lead us through the week and nourish our souls with his very new series of films and Pirkei on the Porch. All of these courses will be both thought-provoking and entertaining.

In addition to these courses, there are many other exciting activities planned. Like always, there are many on-site activities available to us including tennis, computer programming, exercise programs, swimming in either our beautiful lake or heated pool, nightly entertainment, Shabbat experience and so much more. All rooms at the Block and Hexter Adult Center (both Single and Double Rooms) have private bathrooms with showers and air conditioning; this is not your typical children’s camp cabin. Rooms accommodate a maximum of two people. All rooms are identical. Amenities in all rooms, twin beds with full box spring and mattress (not cots), and daily housekeeping (beds made, fresh towels provided daily, and rooms cleaned).

We know that our week together will be most memorable, and we hope to see you at this wonderful program. Space is limited. In order to assure you of a space, register now.

On behalf of you team leaders Arlene Corsover, Rabbi Moshe Edelman and myself we look forward to seeing you!!

Jo-Anne Tucker-Zemlak (USCJ Seaboard Region)

301.230.0801 x2 | [zemlak@uscj.org](mailto:zemlak@uscj.org)

Arlene Corsover (USCJ Southeast Region)

561.372.0420

## **IMUN 2008**

Camp Ramah in the Berkshires (Wingdale, NY) July 6 - 14, 2008

The IMUN PROGRAM is an exciting Study Institute - Retreat designed to strengthen lay religious leadership in United Synagogue congregations. For nearly a generation, IMUN has demonstrated great success in assisting congregations develop lay religious leadership and increased participation.

Take some time, in a retreat setting, to pursue studying:

- Leading Synagogue Services
- Torah Reading
- Chanting Haftarah
- Conservative Jewish Ideology and Theology
- And more

Cost: \$965 (covers housing, all meals, books, supplies, resource materials, transportation to/from New York LaGuardia Airport) (Partial scholarships available).

For more information and to RSVP, please contact:

Rabbi Paul Drazen  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
155 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10010  
Phone: 646-519-9310  
Email: [drazen@uscj.org](mailto:drazen@uscj.org)

[IMUN 2008 Brochure](#)

[IMUN 2008 Flyer](#)

[IMUN 2008 Application](#)

Space is limited! RSVP by March 15, 2008.

---

### The Israel Connection

USCJ's "Today's Israel" E-Zine!

[www.uscj.org/todaysisrael](http://www.uscj.org/todaysisrael)  
(new issue online)

[www.uscj.org/todaysisrael/issue2.pdf](http://www.uscj.org/todaysisrael/issue2.pdf)  
(new issue in downloadable PDF format)

<http://todaysisrael.com/specialissue.php>  
(inaugural issue)

### GOT CJ?

The second issue of **CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM: VOICES OF CONSERVATIVE | MASORTI JUDAISM, Volume 1/Number 2**, was released this week to mailboxes across North America!

A tremendous accomplishment and collaboration of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism – this new magazine aims to bring together the many voices and organizations of Conservative Judaism together inside one cover.

Every member of every USCJ congregation gets a copy of this quarterly publication mailed directly to their home.

---

**COMING TO A TEENAGER NEAR YOU:  
THE SUMMER 2008 ESCAPE WITH USY**

[USY on Wheels](#)

[USY Israel Pilgrimage](#)

[USY High](#)

visit the "[Escape with USY](#)" website to learn more about Wheels and Pilgrimage – let us help you develop a plan to promote these programs to your congregation's teenagers and their parents, and send them off for the experience of a lifetime next summer! (It's really not too early to start planning for the summer of 2008 today!)

=====

If you would like a copy of COOL TO GO TO SHUL, a program for junior congregation written by Wendy Light, national consultant, contact Nita at [Levin@USCJ.org](mailto:Levin@USCJ.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

***THANK YOU TO CANTOR LARRY BRANDSPIEGEL, CANTOR/EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF BETH EL SYNAGOGUE IN E. WINDSOR, FOR THE FOLLOWING CREATIVE IDEA TO ENHANCE YOUR STUDENTS' SHABBAT MORNING PROGRAM:***

The T.O.R.A.H. club is Teaching Others with Ruach And Hevruta. It is a peer study session following Junior Congregation. The big kids teach the little kids. Sometimes it is Torah, or they do Sidrah Scenes and do the play, and then do it for the congregation. Sometimes, it is doing music. Basically the idea came about when Junior Congregation would end at 11:30/11:45ish and shul would not be over the kids would run around the hallways. Now, they stay in the chapel and continue doing Shabbat rounded and learning events.

Since JC is a required aspect of the religious school (need so many to graduate and be entitled to certain things at one's Bar/t Mitzvah) the T.O.R.A.H. enhances that and therefore enhances what the kids are doing in the actual classroom.

=====

## SPECIAL BREAKING NEWS: Up-To-Date Information on "The Annapolis Summit"

---

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**Office of the Press Secretary**

(Annapolis, Maryland)

---

For Immediate Release

November 27, 2007

JOINT UNDERSTANDING READ BY PRESIDENT BUSH  
AT ANNAPOLIS CONFERENCE

Buchanan House

United States Naval Academy  
Annapolis, Maryland

PRESIDENT BUSH: The representatives of the government of the state of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, represented respectively by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and President Mahmoud Abbas in his capacity as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and President of the Palestinian Authority, have convened in Annapolis, Maryland, under the auspices of President George W. Bush of the United States of America, and with the support of the participants of this international conference, having concluded the following joint understanding.

We express our determination to bring an end to bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict between our peoples; to usher in a new era of peace, based on freedom, security, justice, dignity, respect and mutual recognition; to propagate a culture of peace and nonviolence; to confront terrorism and incitement, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis. In furtherance of the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, we agree to immediately launch good-faith bilateral negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty, resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues without exception, as specified in previous agreements.

We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations, and shall make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008. For this purpose, a steering committee, led jointly by the head of the delegation of each party, will meet continuously, as agreed. The steering committee will develop a joint work plan and establish and oversee the work of negotiations teams to address all issues, to be headed by one lead representative from each party. The first session of the steering committee will be held on 12 December 2007.

President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert will continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis to follow up the negotiations in order to offer all necessary assistance for their advancement.

The parties also commit to immediately implement their respective obligations under the performance-based road map to a permanent two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, issued by the Quartet on 30 April 2003 -- this is called the road map -- and agree to form an American, Palestinian and Israeli mechanism, led by the United States, to follow up on the implementation of the road map.

The parties further commit to continue the implementation of the ongoing obligations of the road map until they reach a peace treaty.

The United States will monitor and judge the fulfillment of the commitment of both sides of the road map. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, implementation of the future peace treaty will be subject to the implementation of the road map, as judged by the United States.