



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

***WITH PURIM BEHIND US, IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS AND TURN
 OUR FULL ATTENTION TO
 PASSOVER!!!!***

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, CONTACT NITA AT
LEVIN@USCJ.ORG OR CALL (732) 738 – 4301

MODEL SEDER IDEAS

Chocolate Seder

MATZAH BAKERY

Walk Thru Seder (with stations)

SETTING UP A PESACH FAIR

PROGRAMS

Passover songs, including parodies

STORIES, PLAYS AND RIDDLES!

Educational Puzzles & games (BOARD GAMES AND BLACKBOARD GAMES, CARD GAMES, ETC.)

**Puzzles & games for fun (in case your kids need a break from all the
 seriousness!)**

Ideas for how to teach something

A CURRICULUM OF WHICH HAGADDAH PRAYERS & SONGS TO TEACH

Arts & Crafts projects

Recipes

***Have an idea you need help fleshing out? We can help! No Dayenu
 here!!***

spring semester mini-courses

Last chance to sign up for courses 4, 5 & 6!!!

- WHAT'S THE "BIG IDEA?" ART WITH A PURPOSE:** (An artist, you don't have to be!)
 Instructor: Tassie Becker, veteran religious school teacher and experienced crafter
 Wed., March 14, 7 – 8:30 PM, Regional USCJ office, Raritan Center, Edison

Utilizing current educational practices, such as The Big Idea and Enduring Understandings, this Mini-Course will show you how to work backwards to come up with art projects—what enduring idea would you like your students to leave the lesson with, that may last longer than the project itself? How can we create items that will not take too much of our precious few school hours? And what happens if I can't draw a straight line to save my life? Tassie will take us beyond sukkah paper chains and challah covers with random, scattered scribbles, to high quality products that teach students something they did not know before and that parents will be proud to use. Participants will learn crafts of different Jewish cultures, kits that can be purchased, and materials that we and our students perhaps didn't know how to use previously.

This Mini-Course will NOT yield take-home projects, but you will be reinforced with directions and ideas aplenty.

Please call for correct directions!!!

5. HOW CHILDREN CONCEPTUALIZE GOD

Instructor: Dr. Shoshana Silberman, Consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia

Sunday, March 18, 1 – 2:30 PM, Summit Jewish Center

Dr. Silberman conducted a study of almost 900 Jewish children to learn what they think about God. By exploring the results of this research, participants will be better equipped to discuss issues of God and spirituality in their classrooms (geared toward teachers of grades 3 – 7)

6. TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT GOD

Instructor: Dr. Shoshana Silberman, Wed., March 21, 6:30 – 8 PM, Morristown Jewish Center

Many teachers are uncomfortable with discussions about God because they themselves are uncertain of their own beliefs, or they feel that a burden is placed on them to shape their students' beliefs. Based on Dr. Silberman's study, this Mini-Course will guide teachers in discussing God with students in a sensitive manner, creating an atmosphere that nourishes questioning, wonder, and spiritual growth.

As always, all Mini-Courses are free of charge, a benefit of your membership in United Synagogue

To register, email Michelle Rich at Rich@USCJ.org or phone (732) 738 - 4301.

If you are interested in reserving a Mini-Course for your school for the fall (late August to early January), please contact Nita at Lewin@USCJ.org, phone (732) 738 – 4301.

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PESACH PROGRAMMING

Hi Everyone,

Now is the time that I begin to send out some Passover material. I begin with a workshop that can be used for teachers, parents, students or at your own seder. The best way to do this workshop is with hard copies of different illuminated haggadot. But, if you don't have a collection, you can use Noam Zion's The Family Participation Haggadah which has a number of color plates from various Haggadot. You can check these out on the following website: http://www.lookstein.org/resources/four_children.pdf

- *When and where was your Haggadah published?*
 - *What are some distinctive qualities of the illustrations?*
 - *Anything unexpected or unusual in your picture?*
 - *Anything disturbing?*
 - *Anything that particularly caught your attention and why?*
 - *Speculate on why the wise son and wicked son are depicted the way they are.*
2. Create a Torn Paper Midrash by tearing shapes to represent your interpretation of the 4 children and gluing them onto a solid (black piece) of construction paper.
 3. Conclude this event by singing the words to the Ballad of the 4 Children to the tune of Clementine or by rapping the rap.

*** **

Check out BabagaNewz.com for some interesting Pesach activities and articles, including a colorful pillow case for the seder!

To receive the Newsletter in Text format [click here](#)



ISSUE N°25 >>

Dear Colleagues,

During one of the periods of oppression and persecution, a handful of Jews, with a volume of the Talmud and a rabbi as their leader, hid in a dark cellar. Crowding around the table, they ran their fingers over the pages of the Book, which was illuminated by a single candle. Suddenly a draft caused the candle to go out. The Jews started to lament their fate and grieve, while the rabbi kept silent. After some time one of the Jews said:

“There’s nothing to lament! My eyes have gotten used to the darkness!” And it was then that the rabbi said “As long as people yearn for the light, darkness is not such an alarming thing. What is worrisome is when a person gets used to the darkness and no longer needs the light.”



morim.org

Click to see all:

[Pesach Projects](#) →

madrichim.org

[Pesach Projects](#) ⇨

A person who has "gotten used to the darkness" is doomed to an eternal sojourn in Egypt. As it happens, our calendars mesh with internationally recognized dates (International Women’s Day), affording us the possibility of celebrating the opportunity for each and every member of humanity to approach the light—and that, it should be clear, includes women. Egypt has not yet been conquered definitively. The Exodus continues....

Pesach

sameach!

Miriam and Other Female Heroes of Pesach for Young Children

By Maxine Segal Handelman

Research tells us that young children do not find nearly enough positive female role models in the books they are read, on TV or in their daily lives. During Pesach, our children learn all about Moses and Pharaoh, but what do they learn about Miriam, Yocheved, Shifra, Puah, Bat Paroah or the Israelite women who were instrumental in helping to gain our freedom from Egypt? What do you know about these women? Learn about these women and why and HOW they should be part of your classroom's curriculum of Pesach.

[Read on Morim.org >](#)
[Read on Madrichim.org >](#)

Beruriah, the Soul of Things: the Impact of Interpretation

By Judith Golimstok

By sharing some paradigmatic portraits of this exceptional woman, the author supports a question concerning Rashi's original intention (Avodah zarah, 18b): Could it have been to draw attention to conflicting aspects of Rabbi Meir's behavior towards his wife? Or would it have been to sanction Beruriah on account of the complexity of her persona? In any event, it is not clear which side of the moon is the dark one, and this perush's richness lies, perhaps, in awakening us enough to be capable of assimilating its change of light.

[Read on Morim.org >](#)
[Read on Madrichim.org >](#)

The Pesach Seder: Meaning-Making

By Marc Silverman

The powerful "Seder experience" and its transformative potential perhaps explain why, of the rich array of Jewish holiday celebrations and traditions, the Seder ritual is the one most prominent and widespread among Jews today. Yet despite our genuine praise of the Seder, we must acknowledge the all-too-frequent appearance of a painful gap between the real Seders (sedarim) we experience and the ideal transformational Seder we envision and only occasionally experience.

[Read on Morim.org >](#)
[Read on Madrichim.org >](#)

The "Order" of the Seder: Family Passover Program

By Cheryl Weiss

This project is a family program that addresses each of the steps of the Seder and its order. The program is made up of interactive, participative and experiential stations that present the steps of the Seder with an explanation of their origins and meanings in the form of activities that the family can do together. Given that this is a pedagogical journey through the Seder it can also be used and elaborated on during the family Sedarim in order to guide friends and family through the Seder in a participative manner.

[Read on Morim.org >](#)
[Read on Madrichim.org >](#)

A Pesach Seder Kit – Enhancing the Family Seder with Meaning and Fun

By Alice Langholt

How is this Seder different from last year's? This year we have a Seder Kit to add meaning, variety, and depth! Bring families together with an interactive learning and creating program, in which families create a "Seder Kit" containing activities, songs, and many ways to enhance their own Seders with meaning and fun.

[Read on Morim.org >](#)
[Read on Madrichim.org >](#)

Pesach: Some thoughts on dialogue and Haggadah

By Rabbi Joshua Kullock

In this article, the author seeks to demonstrate the ways in which the Pesach Haggadah is structured like a rhetorical text that enables readers and Seder night participants to take a position and construct their identities in a dynamic way and always by means of dialogue. In light of these considerations, part of the present work consists in responding to the question of what it is that makes a wicked son into a wicked son so far removed from the spirit that Pesach, as reflected in the Haggadah, celebrates.

[Read on Morim.org >](#)
[Read on Madrichim.org >](#)

March 2007



Principals' Co-op

Dear Friend:

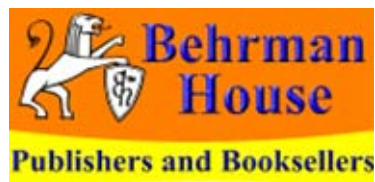
Now you can learn from—and give back to—your colleagues across the country in the **PRINCIPALS' CO-OP**, a page on our web site dedicated to **JEWISH EDUCATION SHARING**. You will read about exciting programs and best practices at other schools. And you'll be able to share practices that work in your own school.



We have posted a selection of [PROGRESS REPORTS](#) from educators across the country. Just click on http://www.behrmanhouse.com/principal_co_op/ where you can review report cards for all subjects and grade levels.

Watch for more opportunities to share your expertise with your colleagues.

Terry Kaye
terry@behrmanhouse.com
800-221-2755
www.behrmanhouse.com



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Behrman House Publishers
11 Edison Place
Springfield, NJ 07081