



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



To the JTS Community:

I write to announce that, effective immediately, The Jewish Theological Seminary will accept qualified gay and lesbian students to our rabbinical and cantorial schools.

The CJLS has authorized the ordination of gay and lesbian Jews as rabbis and cantors. A solid majority of Conservative clergy and lay leaders supports it. The JTS faculty likewise strongly favors it. I am convinced this decision to ordain is right — right not just on the basis of my experience as a North American who came of age in the latter part of the twentieth century, or as a Jew who seeks above all to remain true to the tradition we call Torah, but as an American Jew seeking wholeness and integrity in the combination of these to the fullest possible extent. That, I believe, is what Conservative Judaism is all about.

Thank you.

Arnold M. Eisen
Chancellor-elect

For more information on the process and the next steps, go to <http://www.jtsa.edu/>

Also in the JTSA news for this week is the appointment of a new provost. This article can be read at the above website.

PRESCHOOL CORNER

Hello All,
Here is the April shiur, perfect for your return from Pesach.

May your matza balls be light and your chocolate matza toffee perfect,
Max

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I have this theory that chocolate slows down the aging process...It may not be true, but do I dare take the chance?

USCJ EC Staff Meeting *Shiur* – April 2007

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

-From **The Declaration of The Establishment of The State Of Israel**
5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948)

Questions for Discussion:

1. The creation of the State of Israel is grounded in history and memory, so much so that Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) is immediately preceded on the calendar by Yom Ha'Zikaron (Memorial Day). Unlike their American counterparts, almost every Israeli family has lost someone in a battle for the existence of Israel; keeping that in mind, discuss the reasons for the juxtaposition of these two days on the calendar and what the resulting affect (not a typo, but the emotional outcome) is on the Israeli and Jewish people.
2. If you have been to Israel, describe the most enduring moments you experienced there. If you have not been to Israel, describe the thing about it that sounds most enticing to you.
3. Here are the words to Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah (The Hope):

As long as the Jewish spirit is
yearning deep in the heart,
With eyes turned toward the East,
looking toward Zion,

Kol ode balevav
P'nimah –
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah
Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah.

כל עוד גלגב פנימה
נקש ידתי הוצדה,
ולפניה פנינו קדימה
עין לציון צופיה-

Then our hope - the two-thousand-
year-old hope - will not be lost:
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Ode lo avdah tikvatenu
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim:
L'hivot am chofshi b'artzenu -
Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim.

עוד לא אבדה תקוותנו,
התקווה בנה שנות אלפים.
להיות עם חופשי בארצנו
ארץ ציון וירושלים.

What dreams and goals are expressed in this song? What does Hatikvah tell you about the Jewish people and our relationship to the land of Israel?

4. We recognize that the concept of “country” is impossible for very young children to understand. So when we teach about Israel, we must remember that we are striving to create a love for Israel that will become part of the foundation of each child's Jewish identity. As they grow, they will “own” Israel as someplace precious to them, a familiar place they seek to visit and always to

support. How can you create experiences for children that truly connect them to Israel at the foundational level, both in celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut and through the year?

The entire text of the Declaration of the State of Israel can be found at <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/>
To listen to Hatikvah, go to <http://www.stateofisrael.com/anthem/>

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WHEN YOU RETURN FROM PESACH BREAK, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK IN WITH US ABOUT PROGRAMMING AND LESSONS FOR YOM HA-ATZMA'UT AND YOM HA-SHO'AH!



CAJE 32 and the Early Childhood Conference @CAJE 32

Conference keynoters announced
March 2007
Nisan 5767

Dear Nita,

Providing a focus on the critical areas supporting the CAJE 32 conference theme of "Engaging 21st Century Learners" and the EC conference theme of "Our Families, Our Children, Our Future, 21st Century Early Childhood Jewish Education" are the conference keynoters.

[Register now](#) for CAJE 32 and the EC Conference@CAJE 32, and then take your time deciding which keynote presentations will best help you offer the nimble, creative, dynamic education programs the future demands.

AND please note that the deadline for submitting presenter proposals for CAJE 32 and the EC Conference@CAJE 32 has been extended to Friday, March 30.

[Submit a proposal for CAJE 32](#)
[Submit a proposal for the EC Conference@CAJE 32](#)

**CAJE 32
and the
Early
Childhood
Conference**

**Washington
University St.
Louis, MO
August 5-9**

**Pre-
Conference:
August 2 - 5**

**Shabbat:
August 4**

On the 21st Century

**Quick
Links...**

Scott Shay is the author of the provocative new book *Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry*.

On Leadership



Lee Meyerhoff Hender is a nationally popular speaker on family philanthropy and adult Jewish learning and the author of *The Year Mom Got Religion*.

On The Learner



Jack Wertheimer is the Provost of The Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Joseph and Martha Mendelson Professor of American Jewish History.

On Meaning Making



Ron Wolfson is the Fingerhut Professor of Education at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles and President of Synagogue 3000, an institute for envisioning the synagogue of the future.

On Early Childhood



Betty Bardige is a developmental psychologist, educator, child advocate, author, and philanthropist.

On Gen X and Y

[CAJE 32](#)

[EC Conference](#)

[Register now](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Work-study](#)

Join our mailing list!



Elie Kaunfer is executive director of *Mechon Hadar: An Institute for Prayer, Personal Growth and Jewish Study*.



Alana Newhouse is the arts and culture editor at the *Forward* newspaper.

Beth Cousens is Director for Campus Advancement at Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

On Community

Maggi Gaines is Vice President for Service Learning and Partnership at the Jewish Funds for Justice and the Founding Executive Director of Spark Partnership for Service.

On Hebrew

Joel M. Hoffman lectures internationally on topics spanning history, Hebrew, prayer, education and Jewish continuity.

On Advocacy



Arnee R. Winshall is Founding Chair of Boston's Jewish Community Day School and serves on the Board of JESNA as Chair of JERRI (Jewish Educator Recruitment/Retention Initiative).

On Technology



Brian Amkraut is an Associate Professor of Judaic Studies and Director of Distance Learning at the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies.

Spreading the word about the conference

Do you know anyone who would benefit from attending either CAJE 32 or the EC Conference@CAJE 32?

There's two easy ways to spread the word.

- Forward this message using the "forward" option below.
- Send their contact information to cajeny@caje.org and we'll put a brochure in the mail.

email: cajenews@caje.org

phone: 212-268-4210

web: <http://www.caje.org>

Dear Colleagues,

As Pesach approaches, we find ourselves busy with ensuring our students will be prepared to celebrate with their families. We may not be able to plan extensively for Holocaust Commemoration Day, Yom HaShoah, which follows each year on the heels of Pesach and the return from Pesach vacation.

Three Resources that Might be Useful:

1. As such, I am sending you some suggested materials and resources for making Yom Hashoah meaningful. The following link <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=articlePrint&articleID=CA6420400> contains an annotated list of illustrated books that might be suitable for your setting.

While I do feel that certain of the recommended ages are a bit too young, for the most part this is a list I feel comfortable sharing with you.

2. I would also like to remind you of our circulating Media library <http://www.bjeny.org/LMCvidlist.asp?cat=HOLOCAUST> which has many films you might wish to show to your students. Please feel free to contact me for suggestions and ideas.
3. In addition, we must recall the second part of the name of this day: *Yom Hashoah V'Hagevurah*. Without romanticizing it, we must remind our Jewish students that there were acts of *gevurah*, physical and spiritual during this period in history.

I recommend the publication *CIRCLES*, put out by Yad Vashem and available through the ERC (Call us). It contains 10 pamphlets of testimonies which trace the survivors' observance of different holidays and rituals including, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Brit Milah, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, etc. This resource enables you to let the students hear the Jewish commitments of the survivors throughout the calendar, in addition to Yom Hashoah.

As always, I am available to you for brainstorming, questions, and ideas.

Shabbat Shalom,

Emily

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**NJ REGION USCJ'S
SHOFAR BLOWING ENRICHMENT COURSE COMES TO
CONG. NEVE SHALOM IN METUCHEN**

Free of charge as a benefit of your synagogue's membership in USCJ!

Rosh Hashana already?????

The Hai class has had several lessons with Rabbi Kogen, thanks to a program from United Synagogue NJ Region to teach the kids about the *Shofar*. Here are a few photos of the week:



Meredith's
Tekiya G'dola



Andrew makes a great sound



Dueling Shofarot

**PLANS ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR OUR 2007 *FALL* SEMESTER OF
IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING MINI-COURSES**

We still have some openings and would like to hear from YOU if you would like to host one! For suggestions and reservations, please contact:

Nita Polay Levin, Education Field Worker
Levin@USCJ.org

We wish you and your family a hag kasher v'same'ach,

A Zissen Pesach!

*May you be inspired by the story of our People's struggle from slavery to a
meaningful freedom*

To seek peace and freedom for all Peoples everywhere

Michelle & Nita