



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

ATTENTION PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS!!!!

We are pleased to present our first-time-ever in-service workshop for
PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS ONLY:

*MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD JEWISH
EDUCATION,*
presented by Caryn Bruckheimer, Early Childhood Consultant and
Trainer

A dialog to discuss ways in which to elevate the Jewish component of
your early childhood education program to the same levels as the secular
portion, incorporating best practices and NAEYC standards

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007
LOCATION: THE USCJ REGIONAL OFFICE:
1090 King Georges Post Road, suite 1003
Raritan Center, Edison, NJ

*As always, our in-service Mini-Courses are free of charge, as a benefit
of your synagogue's membership in the United Synagogue of Conservative
Judaism. Please RSVP to Michelle Rich, Director of Education and
Youth Activities.*

Rich@USCJ.org (732) 738 - 4301

*Please ask for directions to our office as it is a little complicated to
find!*

mini-courses for fall '07

COURSE # 1: TALKING TO GOD AND REALLY MEANING IT
INSTRUCTOR: RABBI RON ISAACS, rabbi, educator, lecturer and author

Rabbi Isaacs is a foremost educator in the field of prayer and he will share his successes and expertise with the participants. This workshop will include strategies and techniques (including experiential exercises, trigger films, music, and visual devices) that can be used during an actual prayer service or in a classroom setting to teach about prayer. These techniques are designed to enhance participation as well as knowledge of the prayers. Illustrations from Rabbi Isaacs' book, *Lively Student Prayer Services*, will be used.

DATE: Wednesday, August 29, 2007, 4 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: Temple Emanu-El, Closter

COURSE # 2: CREATIVE WAYS TO TEACH WITH A TEXTBOOK
INSTRUCTOR: DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia

Okay, you will be teaching a course—any course!—using a specific textbook your principal has assigned to you. Most likely, having the kids taking turns reading it, answering questions and answering the questions at the end of each chapter, will bore them and they will tune out. How can you keep their attention? How can you use the book in creative ways that will engage the students, hold their attention, and retain their information? Dr. Silberman is a “teacher’s teacher,” training teachers to expand the creativity they have within themselves in order to reach their students.

DATE: Tuesday, September 4, 2007, 6:30 – 8 PM
LOCATION: Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, Cranford

COURSE # 3: POSITIVE GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE IN THE PRESCHOOL CLASS
INSTRUCTOR: CARYN BRUCKHEIM, early childhood consultant and trainer

This Mini-Course will foster understanding of ways to guide and manage young children’s behavior. It will explore positive interactions with children in order to affect long-term outcomes through good practice and sound child developmental foundations. This workshop will be highly interactive and participatory, involving discussion and role-play.

DATE: Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 1:15 – 2:45 PM
LOCATION: Temple Emanuel, Woodcliff Lake

COURSE # 4: TALKING TO GOD AND REALLY MEANING IT
INSTRUCTOR: RABBI RON ISAACS, rabbi, educator, lecturer and author

For course description, please see Course # 2, above.

DATE: Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 3 – 4:30 PM
LOCATION: Temple Beth El, Oakhurst

COURSE # 5: MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES
INSTRUCTOR: DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia

In the late ‘80s, Howard Gardner published his theory that humans possess 8 forms of intelligence, or differing strengths of intelligence. (Two more are being considered.) In other words, not everyone thinks or absorbs information in the same way. The preference for learning that has been typical of classrooms (linear learning, geared towards learning math and science) is only one of these intelligences. What about students who use other intelligences in order to succeed in learning?

Dr. Silberman will present the 8 learning styles by assessing the preferences of the participants, and explain the notion of MI and how they can be used in the classroom to create a rich and varied program that reaches **all** students. She will also present some of the obstacles children have to learning and teach how we can best use this approach in the short time students are in our schools.

DATE: Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 5 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Cong. B'nai Israel, Rumson

COURSE # 6: PUTTING ISRAEL IN YOUR CURRICULUM
INSTRUCTOR: LINDA RIPPS, veteran educator and former NJ Region Education Field Worker

This year, we will celebrate Israel's 60th birthday, a milestone we don't want to ignore. Yet there is so little time for religious school, and so much to teach! How do we find time to fit Israel into our already crowded curriculum? Ms. Ripps will share strategies, techniques, and creative activities that you can easily integrate into your curriculum as you build up the anticipation for celebrating Israel's 60th.

DATE: Thursday, September 6, 2007, 4:30 – 6 PM
LOCATION: Cong. Neve Shalom, Metuchen

COURSE # 7: FROM A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE: HOW TO "WORK THE ROOM"
INSTRUCTOR: DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia

Get more mileage from what you do and keep kids on their toes! Often, we proceed with our lessons without considering what the experience is like from the student's point of view. This Mini-Course will offer concrete ideas and tips to help teachers avoid confusion and boredom, and to make the experience of learning more interesting and inviting. Some ideas we will examine include how to best show a movie, how to give out new books, and how to start a unit so you do not waste time. Participants will explore ways to use space efficiently, get away from frontal teaching, and see how all of this can be an effective classroom management tool.

DATE: Thursday, September 6, 6:30 – 8 PM
LOCATION: Temple Beth Shalom, Park Ridge

COURSE # 8: EXCELLENCE IN THE CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, USCJ-STYLE:
FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE
INSTRUCTOR: WENDY LIGHT, National Consultant for USCJ Framework

A growing number of USCJ religious schools principals now feel that when they give their "all" to their religious school, their layleaders at last understand what they are trying to do. They now have the support that they need in getting significant educational issues on the table. They are on the same page with their board, discussing raising the education barre instead of talking about cutting days, hours, and the budget.

What do they know that perhaps you don't?

If these and similar dilemmas are currently happening on your watch, then you should know that help is on the way! The Framework for Excellence allows principals to initiate important educational conversations and gives laypeople a way to frame the right questions, set reachable, realistic goals, and support the school program on the highest levels.

Lay leaders and teachers are welcome to join principals in this exploration of United Synagogue's high standards for educational excellence, a proven system that fits into the changing needs of our school population.

DATE: Wednesday, November 7, 7 – 8:30 PM
LOCATION: Regional Office, Raritan Center, Edison

mark your calendars!!

OUR EXPERT FACULTY:
Caryn Bruckheimer, Early Childhood Consultant and Trainer
Rabbi Ron Isaacs, rabbi, author, educator
Dr. Shoshana Silberman, Consultant for Jewish Education, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia
Linda Ripps, veteran educator and former NJ Region USCJ Education Field Worker
Wendy Light, National Education Consultant, Framework for Excellence, USCJ



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What's Happening

June Is Mazal Tov Season - Early summer is the season for graduations, weddings, and other joyous occasions. A wonderful way to say mazal tov is with our [Koach Tribute Cards](#). [Koach](#) is our program for college students; proceeds from the cards go to the Koach scholarship fund.

Lekh Lekha - Sending Off Our Children - Sending children off to college has become a ritual in Jewish households. Now your synagogue can commemorate this rite of passage communally with Koach's Lekh Lekha: A Ceremony of Going Forth. Developed for use on Shabbat mornings, it includes brief sections for students and parents. For a copy, email Koach director Richard Moline at Moline@uscj.org.

Stained-Glass Calendar - Once again, we are looking for [photographs](#) from our member synagogues for our art [calendar](#) contest. The calendar for 2008/2009 - 5769 - will focus on stained glass. Please send us your photographs by August 15. And by the way, our 2007/2008 - 5768 calendar is due out soon.

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New Ideas

Walking With God - United Synagogue is pleased to partner with the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and the Rabbinical Assembly in the new learning program, Walking With God. To read about it, [click here](#).

To read earlier new ideas, [click here](#).

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Bragging Rights



Jews in Brooklyn - Seventy-seven [Hazak](#) members from the [Seaboard](#) region spent two days in Brooklyn, touring such quintessentially Jewish neighborhoods as Flatbush, Boro Park, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, and Crown Heights, learning about historical Jewish Brooklyn and the new Jewish immigrant Brooklyn that is thriving now.

Rabbis Learn About Early Childhood - More than 20 rabbis joined our [early childhood](#) consultant, [Maxine Segal Handelman](#), for a workshop on the rabbi's role in early childhood education at the [Rabbinical Assembly](#) meeting this spring.



Torah dedication in Rockville - Members of [Congregation Tikvat Israel](#) in Rockville, Maryland, celebrate the completion of a seven-month [Torah-writing project](#).

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot at Fuchsberg - On Shavuot, more than 200 students and others studied text all night at the [Tikkun Leyl Shavuot](#) at the [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#). At 4 in the morning, they went to the [Kotel HaMasorti](#) and joined another 200 people for sunrise services.

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Calendar

Unite to End Hunger - [Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger](#) is sponsoring a [pre-convocation gathering](#) on June 11 in Washington DC before the Jewish community joins in the [Interfaith Convocation on Hunger](#) at the [Washington National Cathedral](#). **Bulletin editors:** There is a usable .PDF [here](#).

Join Us in Washington on Joint Advocacy Day - United Synagogue teams with our Conservative movement partner, the [Rabbinical Assembly](#), as we go to Washington DC for [Advocacy Day](#). On Advocacy Day – actually two days, June 19 and 20 – we will listen to speakers, learn more about how to advocate effectively, and meet with our representatives to test our newly upgraded skills. **Bulletin editors:** There is a usable .PDF [here](#).

New Directors of Education Institute - If you are a brand-new or even somewhat new director of education or principal at a congregational religious school, consider our intensive five-day [New Directors of Education Institute](#), set for Monday, June 25, through Friday, June 29, at our New York City headquarters, Rapaport House, 155 Fifth Avenue. The institute fills quickly, so act now.

Imun - [Imun](#), the week-long retreat where newly emerging lay leaders can hone their synagogue skills, including laying and writing and delivering a dvar Torah, will meet at [Camp Ramah in the Berkshires](#) from [July 8 to July 16](#).

Early Childhood at CAJE - Early childhood consultant Maxine Handelman will teach a 9-hour [course](#) at the [CAJE conference](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, August 5-9. All United Synagogue early

childhood educators are invited to lunch at CAJE on Tuesday, August 7.

Hazak in the Catskills - [METNY](#), our New York metropolitan area region, offers [Hazak vacation week](#) at Kutsher's Country Club from August 5 to August 9. Reservations are due by July 1.

USY in the Summertime - Close to 800 USYers and staff are participating in one of USY's programs this summer. Hundreds of them are traveling across North America on USY on Wheels, Mission: Mitzvah, or Wheels East, our newest program, just for ninth graders. Other USYers are headed to Washington State's highest mountains on USY Outdoor Adventure Pacific Northwest, or in the other direction for the New York City-based Summer in the City. Hundreds more will go to Israel and Europe on one of many USY Israel Pilgrimage trips. This summer there is something for everyone - and there will be next summer too! [Learn more](#) about USY's summer programs; look again in September for information about the summer of 2008.

Next Year in Israel - Registration for 2007-2008 has opened at [Nativ](#), USY's college/leadership program in Israel. Participants spend the year between high school and college in Israel. Half of that time they work on a kibbutz or volunteer in a development town; the other half is spent living in Jerusalem, studying at the [Hebrew University](#) or the [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at the [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#). Throughout the Nativ program, students engage in special religious and leadership training experiences.

Join Us in Orlando for Our International Convention! - United Synagogue's international biennial convention is planned for November 29 through December 3 at the [Rosen Shingle Creek Resort and Golf Club](#) in Orlando, Florida. [Click here](#) for more information. Please plan to be there with us!

USY Convention - [United Synagogue Youth's](#) 57th annual convention is set for December 24-27 in Anaheim, California. USYers are invited to five days of social action projects, summer program reunions, education programs, and more. Go to USY's website, www.usy.org, for updates.

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Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center

Wine and Cheese Open House - The [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) offers a wine and cheese open house for United Synagogue visitors to Israel on Sunday, July 1, at 6 p.m.

Repeat Your Wedding Promises in Jerusalem - The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) can host re-wedding ceremonies, as well as parties to celebrate all sorts of milestones. To read more, [click here](#).

Summer Programs at the Conservative Yeshiva - The [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at [United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) is now accepting applications for the 2007 summer program. In the mornings, the program includes four levels of an intensive ulpan and both beginning and advanced levels of Talmud study. In the afternoons, the Yeshiva offers classes in Mishnah, midrash, Tanach, halakha, and tefillah.

The program, for adults of all ages and backgrounds, has two three-week sessions, July 1 to July 19 and July 22 to August 9. For more information about the program, tuition, and scholarships, email yeshiva@uscj.org, call 972-2-622-3116, or go to the Yeshiva's website by [clicking here](#).

Study in Jerusalem this Fall! - The [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at [United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) is now accepting applications for fall 2007. The Yeshiva offers Jews of all

background the opportunity to study classic Jewish texts in a vibrant, open-minded egalitarian community. The curriculum focuses on teaching Tanach, Talmud, halakha, and Jewish philosophy, and includes the skills necessary for that study.

Courses are taught at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, and the program includes a daily minyan, volunteer projects, and trips. Students between 18 and 30 years old are eligible for scholarships from the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Yeshiva is offering three full scholarships as well.

For more information and an application, email yeshiva@uscj.org, call 972-2-622-3116, or go to the Yeshiva's website by [clicking here](#).

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On the Agenda

[The Spirituality of Welcoming](#) by Ron Wolfson is a handbook that offers examples, tips, and exercises aimed at turning your congregation into a place of invitation and openness. It focuses on the importance of prayer that is uplifting and spiritually moving, and on the importance of hospitality. \$19.00.

[Together as One: Duets of Praise and Inspiration](#), a CD of music sung by Aliza Pomerantz-Boro and David Propis, features 11 songs that encourage the listener to seek greater personal harmony. Songs include Every Day I Will Bless the Lord, You Raise Me Up, and Believe. \$15.

To learn more about our book service department, [click here](#).

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Around the USCJ

Convention Update - Our international biennial convention is just about half a year away, and preparations are ramping up. This convention will be held over Shabbat, letting us experience the beauty and wonder and joy of that day together.

To learn more about the convention, which will be held from November 29 to December 3, 2007, in Orlando, Florida, take a look at our [convention e-newsletter](#). As our plans develop, we'll keep you posted.

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With Just One Click



Take advantage of **free Internet hosting services** to affiliated synagogues, USY chapters and afternoon/day schools.



Get suggestions for **building a Jewish home library**. Great ideas for gift giving as well.

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CAJE PAGE

May 30, 2007
13 Sivan 5767

CAJE *Hadashot* News from CAJE

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In this issue of *Hadashot*, you'll find out about special programs about Israel @ 60 at the August conference, as well as the Covenant Award winners, a new Israel website, and study guides for your summer learning.

Read on for details!

Israel @ 60 at the August CAJE Conference



Next year is Israel's 60th birthday and several daytime sessions at CAJE will focus on this topic. One of the highlights of the Israel@60 portion of the conference will be an evening performance by Robbie Gringras, renowned performer and educator. He will present his own inspiring and idiosyncratic take on celebrating complexity in Israel and in our lives. Together with top Israeli musician Adam Mader he will make you laugh, cry, and think deeply about Israel@60 with a scintillating blend of stories, songs, a keynote, and visual art.

Read all about [CAJE 32](#).

Read all about the [Early Childhood Conference@CAJE 32](#).

[Register](#) now for the CAJE 32 and the Early Childhood Conference@CAJE 32. Save \$60 by registering on or before June 15.

P.S. Don't forget about the availability of [Conference scholarships!](#)

Covenant Award Winners Named



Three highly original and effective educators have been chosen to receive the seventeenth annual Covenant Awards, which honor exceptional achievement by Jewish educators in North America. Each carries a prize of \$25,000 for the recipient and an additional \$5,000 for his or her institution. The 2007 Covenant Award recipients are:

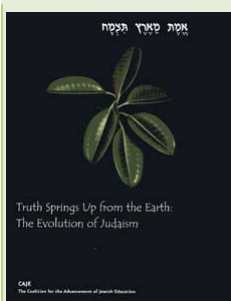
- Tobie Brandriss, Biology Teacher and Science Curriculum Coordinator at SAR High School in Riverdale, NY.
- Dr. Bruce Powell, Head of School at New Community Jewish High School in West Hills, CA.
- Rabbi Philip Warmflash, Executive Director of the Jewish Outreach Partnership in Philadelphia, PA.

To read more about each of the winners, click [here](#).

Special Summer Chavruta Offer!

With end of the academic year comes a chance for some summer learning of your own, or with a partner. Take advantage of a special offer to order two of CAJE's chavruta guides, [Truth Springs Up from the Earth: The Evolution of Judaism](#) AND [Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: A Chavruta Guide](#), for only \$12.50, plus shipping of \$7 per order.

To order, send a message with shipping information and your credit card details to cajeny@caje.org. You



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may also send a check with full payment and shipping information to the CAJE office at 520 Eighth Avenue, Floor 2 North Tower, New York, NY 10018.

Teens Make Israel's Case



Check this out! Young Israelis have created a multilingual website to help them argue their country's case to counterparts abroad. [Israel Online For You](#), was created by 40 Israeli teenagers, in collaboration with the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

"They take part in various online activities such as replying to talkbacks, participating in forums and organizing online petitions," according to the Foreign Ministry, which noted that the scope of the project will be expanded over the coming year. "They have even e-mailed the Iranian president protesting his derogatory remarks regarding Israel."



May 2007

Ongoing assessment can be the compass showing you the way to success in your Hebrew classroom. Learn why Hebrew assessment is so important and how to assess progress online, automatically and in real time.



Click on:

http://www.behrmanhouse.com/fortheed/itc/hebrew_assessment.shtml

The entire "In the Classroom" series is centrally located at www.behrmanhouse.com/fortheed/itc/. Please visit the site to find teaching tips to help make your classes more effective and engaging.

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



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School is winding down so you may want to take some time to do some reading to catch up on the latest thinking in Jewish education. In this vein, you are invited to read an article by Jack Wertheimer called *Linking the Silos: How to Accelerate the Momentum in Jewish Education Today*. We thank Serene Victor, our national USCJ Consultant for Synagogue Education, for forwarding this article to us. If you would like an email copy of it, contact Nita at Levin@uscj.org.
