



**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

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## **PRESCHOOL CORNER:**

**ATTENTION PRESCHOOL DIRECTORS!!!!**

*(before you pack up your last toy, please take note!)*

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

**MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
JEWISH EDUCATION**

**Instructor: 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, 7 - 8:30 PM**

**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](mailto:Rich@USCJ.org)**

**(732) 738 - 4301**

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

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# USCJ-NJ REGION ANNOUNCES OUR FALL LINE-UP OF MINI-COURSES

Pre-fall course: MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY  
CHILDHOOD JEWISH EDUCATION

INSTRUCTOR: CARYN BRUCKHEIMER, preschool consultant  
and trainer

***For Preschool Directors ONLY***

*See course description, above*

**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 class 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: Wed., Aug. 29, 4 – 5:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Temple Emanu-El, Closter**

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**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 the 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: Tues., Sept. 4, 6:30 – 8 PM**

**LOCATION: Temple Beth El Mevor Chayim, Cranford**

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**COURSE # 3: POSITIVE GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE IN THE PRESCHOOL CLASS**

**INSTRUCTOR: CARYN BRUCKHEIMER, 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: Wed., Sept. 5, 1:15 – 2:45 PM**

**LOCATION: Temple Emanuel, Woodcliff Lake**

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**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: Wed., Sept. 5, 3 – 4:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Temple Beth El, Oakhurst**

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**COURSE # 5: MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia**

In the late '80's, Howard Gardner published his theory that human beings possess 8 forms of intelligence, or differing strengths of intelligence (with two more being considered). In other words, not everyone thinks or absorbs information in the same way. The preference for learning that has been typical of most classrooms (linear learning, geared towards math and science) is only one of these intelligences, even though, today, Gardner's theory is widely accepted by educators. What about students who use other intelligences in order to succeed in learning? Dr. Silberman will present the 8 learning styles by assess 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 students are in our schools.

**DATE: Wed., Sept. 5, 5 – 6:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Cong. B'nai Israel, Rumson**

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**COURSE # 6: PUTTING ISRAEL IN YOUR CURRICULUM**

**INSTRUCTOR: LINDA RIPPS, veteran educator and former NJ Region USCJ Education Field Worker**

This year, we will celebrate Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup>.

**DATE: Thurs., Sept. 6, 4:30 – 6 PM**  
**LOCATION: Cong. Neve Shalom, Metuchen**

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**COURSE # 7: FROM A CHILD’S PERSPECTIVE: HOW TO “WORK THE ROOM”**  
**INSTRUCTOR: DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education**

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 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 don’t waste time. Participants will explore ways to use space efficiently, move away from frontal teaching, and see how this can be an effective classroom management tool.

**DATE: Thurs., Sept. 6, 6:30 – 8 PM**  
**LOCATION: Temple Beth Shalom, Park Ridge**

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

A growing number of USCJ religious school principals now feel that they give their “all” to their religious school, their lay leaders at least 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 educational 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 educational conversations and gives laypeople a way to from the right questions, set reaching, realistic goals, and support the school program on the highest levels.

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

**DATE: Nov., 7, 7 – 8:30 PM**  
**LOCATION: Regional office, Raritan Center, Edison**

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Hi Everyone,

I hope this note finds you well and looking forward to a relaxing and generative summer that includes a nice vacation.

I'm not a gambling kind of gal, but I did stake my reputation on your willingness to respond to this note within the next two weeks. :-) Did you know that the American Jewish community has no data on the number of schools or the number of students involved in Jewish educational experiences? As a community, it is next to impossible to generate funding, initiatives, or plans for our schools and students without this information. Professor Jack Wertheimer has designed a census form that is below this note. It's easy to read and easy to use. If for some reason you don't want to fill out the entire form, at the least provide the name, affiliation and total enrollment figures for your school so that you can be counted. **You should send the form electronically to [jawertheimer@jtsa.edu](mailto:jawertheimer@jtsa.edu)**

I hope you will help out ... the community needs this information.

B'shalom,

Serene Victor

**Jewish Supplementary School Census  
April/May 2007**

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important research. This survey will only take a few minutes of your time. It will be helpful for you to have your school's enrollment data handy; this information will be needed to answer the questions that follow.

For the purpose of this survey, the term "supplementary school" includes Hebrew schools, religious schools, communal, cultural and independent after-school programs, etc. It does NOT include Early Childhood programs or Day Schools.

If you have any questions please contact David Ciemnecki of SRBI at 212-779-7700.

**Please write the name of your supplementary school below.**

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**1. Which of the following best describes your supplementary school?**

Please PLACE AN X next to only one response.

- We offer a school of our own
- We participate in a joint school either with another congregation(s) or as a community school
- We do not offer a supplementary school —————> If you do not offer a supplementary school these are all the questions we have. Please return the survey in the postage paid envelope provided.

**2. For which of the following grades does your supplementary school offer classes?**

**3. How many students are enrolled in each of the programs that your supplementary school offers?**

	<b>Grades Offered By Your Supplementary School</b>	<b>Number of Students In Each Grade Offered By Your Supplementary School</b>
	Please PLACE AN X next to all that apply.	Please write in the number of students for each grade. If your school does not offer that grade please leave that box blank.
First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/> —————>	

Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Third Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Fourth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Fifth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Sixth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Seventh Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Eighth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Ninth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Tenth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Eleventh Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	
Twelfth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	—————→	

**3.2 For each program offered please indicate whether you offer more than one track (i.e. you offer an option of days or hours per week).**

**3.3. Please complete the following information for each program that your supplementary school offers.**

**If your supplementary school offers more than one track (i.e., you offer an option of days or hours per week) please provide the number of hours per week and days per week for both Track 1 and Track 2. If you only offer one track please provide this information for Track 1 only.**

	Place an X if more than 1 Track is offered If checked, please fill-out <u>both</u> Track 1 and Track 2	Track 1		Track 2	
		Number of hours per 7-day week	Number of days per week	Number of hours per 7-day week	Number of days per week
First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Third Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fourth grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fifth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sixth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Seventh Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Eighth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ninth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Tenth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Eleventh Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Twelfth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**4. On Shabbat, your supplementary school offers educational programs that are directly under the auspices of the school:**

Please PLACE AN X next to all that apply.

Shabbat morning

Shabbat afternoon

We do not offer educational programs on Shabbat [Please skip to question 5.]

**4.1 What kind of Shabbat program do you offer?**

Please PLACE AN X next to all that apply.

- Attendance at religious services
- A youth service
- Class meetings
- Youth group activities
- A family religious service
- A family education program

**5. During the current school year, how many weeks will your supplementary school meet?**

On Sundays? \_\_\_\_\_

On Weekdays? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. How many pupils are enrolled in your supplementary school program, grades 1 through 12?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Compared with 5 years ago, overall enrollment at you supplementary school is**

Please PLACE AN X next to one answer only.

- The same
- Slightly higher
- Much higher
- Slightly lower
- Much lower

**8. Over the last several years, has the number of hours offered by your supplementary school stayed the same?**

Please PLACE AN X next to one answer only.

- Yes [Please skip to question 10]
- No [Please go on to the next question]

**9.1. Have the hours increased or decreased?**

Please PLACE AN X next to one answer only.

- Increased
- Decreased

**9.2. By how many hours has your supplementary school increased/decreased?**

Please PLACE AN X next to one answer only.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

**10. If you wish, use the space below to elaborate on the above questions about your supplementary school.**

**11. Which movement/denomination is your supplementary school affiliated with?**

Please PLACE AN X next to all that apply.

- Chabad/Lubavitch
- Community/pluralistic
- Conservative
- Modern Orthodox/Orthodox Outreach
- Reconstructionist
- Reform
  
- Secular/Humanistic
- Sephardic
- Zionist
- No affiliation
- None of the above
- Some other affiliation (specify below)

\_\_\_\_\_

**12. Answer this question ONLY if you selected more than one response above.**

**Please explain your affiliation in as much detail as possible in the box below.**

**13. Your school's curriculum is based on:**

Please PLACE AN X next to one answer only.

- A formal curriculum devised in-house
- A curriculum developed by the Reform movement
- A curriculum developed by the Conservative movement
- A curriculum based on Behrman House books

Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Now, please think about the goals of your supplementary school. Please place a 1 next to the most important goal, a 2 next to the second most important goal, and a 3 next to the third most important goal.**

- \_\_\_ Hebrew reading for participation in religious services
- \_\_\_ Teaching about Israel
- \_\_\_ Exposing children to the Bible
- \_\_\_ Teaching about holidays and rituals
- \_\_\_ Giving children positive Jewish experiences
- \_\_\_ Teaching children to engage in Tikun Olam
- \_\_\_ Preparing children for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- \_\_\_ Engaging children in family education along with their parents
- \_\_\_ Preparing children to live as decent (mentshlich) people
- \_\_\_ Inspiring children to observe Jewish religious rituals
- \_\_\_ Other
- \_\_\_ (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Those are all of our questions. On behalf of The AVI CHAI Foundation and SRBI, thank you for your time and cooperation.**

**Please promptly mail back your completed survey to SRBI in the postage paid envelope provided.**



Chevre,

Below is a very good offer. If you want to take advantage of receiving four boxes of Tiku Shofar High Holiday prayer books (the red ones from USCJ), for only the cost of shipping, please contact Patty Bernstein at Beth Ami in Santa Rosa, CA pbernstein@scoe.org immediately. She will send these to the first taker who pays for shipping. Her note is below.

These are wonderful machzorim. I urge you to take advantage of this. B'shalom, Serene

Congregation Beth Ami is renovating its sanctuary and social hall and has taken to "spring cleaning" of closets, etc. We have a great number (4 boxes full) of nearly new Tiku Shofar machzors (for students and families) that we are happy to donate to a congregation who would like them. All they need to do is pay the shipping cost.

How do we go about this? Is there some venue we might access? Do you know of congregations who could use these books? If not, would you direct me to the right person?

Thank you.

B'shalom,  
Patty Bernstein, Chairperson  
Religious Practices Committee  
Congregation Beth Ami  
Santa Rosa, California



Some new books have arrived at our office. Feel free to come and peruse them! Call (732) 738 – 4301 and make an appointment.

From **Torah Aura**, we received the following:

***Let Me Count the Ways: Practical Innovations for Jewish Teachers, Bk. 2, by Carol Oseran Starin***

Organized by topic, this book offers thousands of ideas for classroom management, working with parents, holiday celebrations, and more.

**The Madrikhim Handbook: A Training Program for Teenagers Working in Jewish Schools, by Rabbi Samuel Joseph**

A workbook for high school helpers in religious schools, it is designed to be the core resource for a year-long training program, teaching skills and knowledge that will produce success. Includes insights into child development, management strategies, and the dynamics of the school and the classroom.

**Mah La'asot: What Should I Do?: A Book of Ethical Problems and Jewish Responses, by Janice Alper and Joel Grishaver**

Students confront a series of moral dilemmas and encounter core Jewish values, such as Tzar Ba'alei Hayyim and Pikuah Nefesh. In the process, they address the legal principals surrounding issues such as abortion, suicide, AIDS, euthanasia, and use of animals in medical research, amongst others. A perfect introduction to Jewish law

**Pirkei Tefillah: Sampler Pack**

A series of 27 individual prayer booklets. Designed to teach prayer mastery and meaning. Focuses on the Shabbat evening and morning services. They explore personal meanings in the prayers and how Hebrew operates.

**The Reluctant Artist, by Laurie Belle**

Designed to expand the scope the teacher's views on Jewish classroom art, this book provides everything they need to create spectacular art projects: ideas, supplies, tips for integration into the curriculum.

Looking through their catalog, I notice also that they sell the Jewish Edition of **Apples to Apples**, a very funny game that is sweeping the country. Also, you can buy stickers, blank cylindrical tzedakah boxes, stickers, and art supplies.

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## COMPACT

Enriching the Lives of Conservative Jews

Jews enlightening Jews.

Jews mentoring other Jews.

Jews spiritually enhancing their own lives.

COMPACT's mission is to aid in Jewish self-growth, which affirms the *britmitzvah* –covenant – of the Torah's commandments within each Jew.

TAMUZ 5767

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EDITOR

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