



**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 Sholom, 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,

Yasher Koach to the 50 schools that have so far sent in their census in response to Ednotes. But surely we have more than 50 USCJ schools! If not now, when? Please do this ... save my reputation and help the field by responding to Jack Wertheimer, a professor at JTS who is doing this research to help all of us in Jewish education.

To obtain the census, contact [JAwertheimer@UTSA.edu](mailto:JAwertheimer@UTSA.edu).

Shabbat Shalom,

Serene Victor  
USCJ National Consultant for Synagogue Education

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**E-ZINE**

**KOACH-ON-CAMPUS**

PUBLISHED EVERY ROSH HODESH  
Tamuz 5767 - 6/15-17/07

*Jewish in America*

**Is "American-Zionist" a contradictory identity?** By Josh

Tobias  
KOC Assistant Editor  
Brown University

When I was in elementary school, the question that was all the rage on the playgrounds of the Solomon Schechter Day School was which side we would fight for in a hypothetical Israeli-American war.

**Seinfeld, JDate and Chinese food: New definitions of**

**American Judaism** By Lia Lehrer

Northwestern University

As an American Jew, I participate in many ancient rituals relating to the holidays. We have *sedarim* on Passover, we eat latkes on *Hanukkah* and, most importantly, we eat Chinese food on Christmas.

**Jewish Americans or American Jews?** By Alana Chill

Cornell University

Cornell University has two Hillel logos, used for different types of events. One logo is said to give off the impression that "we are students at Cornell University who are Jewish," while the other is said to promote the image that "we are Jews who are a part of the Cornell University community."



**Jewish in America** By Rabbi Ed Romm

Director, Center On Campus  
Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism, Jerusalem

When I was asked to write on being "Jewish In America," I was at first surprised. I have been living

**KOACH TAGLIT-BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL**

Coming Soon! Your free (first) trip to Israel! Join **KOACH** next winter for the journey of a lifetime. If you are Jewish, 18-26, have never been to Israel on a peer experience of more than three days, this is the trip for you! Want to know more? [Click here](#) for details on past adventures. Want to be the first on your block to know when registration begins? Email us at [koachbirthright@uscj.org](mailto:koachbirthright@uscj.org) today!

**KOACH SHABBAT**

**KOACH** Shabbat!!! Join campuses throughout North America for a shared Shabbat, without even leaving home. This year's **KOACH** Shabbat, complete with great learning and sweet treats will take place Nov 2-3. Hekhsher Tzedek: Kashrut for the Next Generation [Click here](#) for more details!

**KOACH JOB LISTINGS**

Looking for a job? Looking for a college student to hire? **KOACH** offers a terrific resource for just this purpose. Check out our [job listings](#) or [post a job](#). *Im eyn kemah, eyn Torah!* (If there's no dough, there's no Torah!)

**USCJ STAND ON DARFUR**

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has recently voted in favor of targeted divestment in Sudan as a means of bringing pressure on the Sudanese government, in the hopes of halting the genocide there. Read the USCJ resolution [here](#) and explore ways of making a difference [here](#) or [here](#).

**MINI-POLL**

**Israel in American Politics**

How much does a candidate's stance on Israel affect your vote? ([Vote and tell us more!](#))

**Are there limits to pluralism?**

Israel, eating out, intermarriage, egalitarianism? What do you think? ([Find out how you and your peers voted...](#))

in Israel for close to 30 years. I direct a program for "overseas" students who study in Israel. Also, I have not spent more than two weeks at a time in America since making *aliyah*.

**Joke** Red, White and Blue Star of David: American-Jewish Humor

**MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

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***Special seminars, programs, and tours to Israel***

If you are taking a group to Israel in the coming year, don't forget a stop at the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, our Conservative home in the Homeland. To arrange cultural and/or educational programs, contact [Romm@USCJ.org](mailto:Romm@USCJ.org) or [Gliksberg@USCJ.org](mailto:Gliksberg@USCJ.org). For tours of the Center, contact Rabbi James Lebeau, Director at [Lebeau@USCJ.org](mailto:Lebeau@USCJ.org). To arrange a special USCJ tour for your group, contact Ayelet Tours: [ayelet@ayelet.com](mailto:ayelet@ayelet.com) and ask for the USCJ/Congregational package.

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This is the last issue of *The Electronic Educator* for the 2006 – 07 school year.

Remember that next year we celebrate Israel 60! Don't forget to contact us in September for some exciting ways to include Israel in your curriculum! We can suggest textbooks, lesson plans, whole-curricular plans, whole-school activities, and family programs. We have an array of games, puzzles, activities, arts & crafts projects (from the simple to the Agam).

Teach your students about the Conservative presence/Masorti movement in Israel, the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center and Kibbutz Hanaton.

Let us help you introduce your students to the life of everyday Israelis, including life in the army, on a kibbutz, etc. Your older students can study the political conflicts of the Middle East and your younger ones

can learn some popular children's games and rhymes. Teach Israel through music—we can show you how!

*We want to wish you all a very peaceful and restful summer  
May you return re-invigorated and refreshed, ready to again meet the  
daunting task of showing our young the path to be active, involved, and  
observant Jews, with a social action/tzedakah awakening, and a love for  
Hebrew and all things Jewish.*

If not us, who?

*Michelle      and      Nita*