



**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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***GET IN THE PICTURE!***

Dear Colleagues,

Recently, we sent you a flyer inviting you to join us on Wednesday night, November 7, to meet with Wendy Light to discuss the Framework for Excellence in Jewish Education.

Framework gives everyone United Synagogue's high standards for educational excellence, a proven system that fits into the changing needs of our school population. We would like to see you receive the accolades you deserve from regional & national USCJ and your colleagues around the country.

There are many different models and options you can choose; one is right for your school community. Wendy will discuss the options and help you see where you fit in. We can help you begin the process for this recognition of excellence.

Even if you are not ready to sign your name on the dotted line, we urge you to attend to find out more about the program so you can make an informed decision. Wendy will guide you as to how to bring this program back to your lay committee and clergy in order to gain their support and bring them "on board."

The workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 7, from 7 – 8:30 pm at our regional office in Edison, NJ. Please let me know if you can join us for this important discussion.

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Hi Folks,

I came across this resource on the USCJ website. Thought you might be interested especially those without a rabbi in your congregation right now.

B'shalom,  
 Serene

[Ask a Conservative Rabbi](#)

[Have you been wondering about some fine point of Jewish law? Do you want to know why you do something, or how you should do something, or whether you should do something? A group of Conservative rabbis, each a specialist in some aspect of halakha, can answer your emailed question. These rabbis should not be seen as replacements for your own rabbi, whose opinion is definitive in his or her own synagogue, but they can provide in-depth explanations to a whole range of questions. To ask a question, email <mailto:askarabbi@uscj.org>askarabbi@uscj.org.](#)

[Serene Victor](#)  
[USCJ National Consultant for Synagogue Education](#)

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*FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BEHRMAN HOUSE*

- Two excerpts from [Three Times Chai: 54 Rabbis Tell Their Favorite Stories](#) are now available as a **PODCAST**.

Visit [www.behrmanhouse.com/podcast](http://www.behrmanhouse.com/podcast) to hear all of our podcasts, which can help you to: Learn about the books' contents—listen to the streaming audio on your computer

- Motivate students—offer downloads as MP3 files on students' iPods
- Involve parents—share samples of what their children are studying in class
- Teach families about Jewish belief and practice—allow the warm, personal voice of the author to bring the written words to life

More podcasts will follow in the future. Let us know which ones *you* would like to hear.



Terry Kaye  
[terry@behrmanhouse.com](mailto:terry@behrmanhouse.com), 800-221-2755

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*THE WELL STOCKED CLASSROOM ART SUPPLY CABINET*

Crayons    markers, broad & fine tip    a pair of scissors for each student  
                  Glue            glue stick    stapler            extra staples  
                  Scotch tape            masking tape            construction paper  
Colored xerox paper    craft sticks    poster board (including colors)  
                                  Pencil sharpener            rulers

*THE WELL-STOCKED PRINCIPAL'S ART SUPPLY CABINET  
(in addition to the above)*

Avery dots    bingo inkers    varied colors of washable stamp pads  
Colored tissue paper    watercolor paints and brushes    tempera paint  
Hebrew newspapers    paper edging scissors    colored masking tape  
                  Craft sticks, plain & colored    beads & "jewels"    Velcro  
Markers, broad and fine tip & fabric    colored pencils    library pockets  
                  safety pins            needles and varied colors of thread

*ART SUPPLY SOURCES:*

Michaels: 1-800- MICHAELS  
Hobby Lobby: [www.hobbylobby.com](http://www.hobbylobby.com)  
Discount School Supply: 1 - 800 - 627 - 2829  
Nasco: 1 - 800 - 558-9595; [www.eNasco.com/artsandcrafts](http://www.eNasco.com/artsandcrafts)  
Dick Blick: DickBlick.com

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*ANOTHER GREAT IDEA FOR A HALLOWEEN SUBSTITUTE PROGRAM  
From Gail Buchbinder, Education Director at Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield*

At Temple Beth Ahm we presented a program called "Mitzvot, not Mischief", where we learned about different mitzvot- welcoming guests, honoring your parents, visiting the sick. We made crafts for each of these: special hangers for guests, door hangers for our parents and games for kids in hospitals. We then had some candy because "learning is sweet". Hope this helps.

Gail Buchbinder

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FALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
CELEBRATING  
ISRAEL AT 60  
SUNDAY, 11/11, 2007  
TEMPLE BETH OR,  
WASHINGTON, NJ  
Sponsored by the JES of UJANNJ  
Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.  
For further information, contact (201) 457 – 0960 or  
[Email: rachelc@ujannj.org](mailto:rachelc@ujannj.org)

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***Thank you to Dr. Shoshana Silberman for introducing this method of learning!***

**JIGSAW LEARNING**

**Overview:** Jigsaw learning is similar to group-to-group exchange with one important difference: every single student presents or teaches something. It is an exciting alternative whenever there is material to be learned that can be segmented or chunked and where no one segment must be taught before the others. Each student learns something which, when combined with the material learned by others, forms a coherent body of knowledge or skill.

**Procedure:**

1. Choose learning material that can be broken into parts. A segment can be as short as one sentence or as long as several pages. (examples: *different prayers; different holidays or different customs for a single holiday; different famous Jewish personalities; different Hebrew vocabulary*).
2. Count the number of learning segments and the number of students. In an equitable manner, give assignments to different groups of students. E.g.: in a class of 12 students, divide them into 3 groups of 4. You could also begin with

- pairs. Students read and study the assignments, and discuss it.
3. After the initial study period, form “jigsaw learning” groups, each of which will contain a representative from each of the original study groups. This will result in 4 trios.
  4. Members of the newly formed jigsaw group teaches the rest of the group what they had learned in the first group.
  5. Reconvene the full class for review and remaining questions to ensure accurate understanding.

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Hello Everyone,

I was impressed by the write up for this web conference professional development opportunity November 8 and 15 to discuss a question that we often run from. How do we make halacha meaningful? This seems to be an opportunity for us personally as well as educators to take a look at this troubling question. Let me know if you sign up.

[http://www.lookstein.org/email\\_ad40.htm](http://www.lookstein.org/email_ad40.htm)

B'shalom,  
Serene

Serene Victor  
USCJ National Consultant for Synagogue Education