



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

In this Week's Issue:

- Mini-Courses
- June 10 One-Day Conference
- Pesach thoughts from Sue Wyner
- Birchat HaChamah
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TEACHER TRAINING
MINI-COURSES

Winter/Spring Semester

Last call! Last course of the semester!

COURSE # 6: FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ONLY:
ASSESSING AND EVALUATING STUDENT LEARNING IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
INSTRUCTOR: SUSAN WYNER, No. American Consultant for Synagogue
Education, USCJ

This workshop will broaden your thinking about student assessment and how it can be used to promote maximum learning in the classroom. We will examine ways to communicate teacher observations both to the students and to the parents, so that progress is reported and challenges are addressed. Traditional Jewish texts, the latest research, video observation and your own skills and ideas will be critical tools in our study.

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 10 am - 12 N

LOCATION: Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, 111 Valley Rd. (note: new location!)

If you are interested in attending any of these courses, contact Michelle Rich at Rich@USCJ.org. As a benefit of your synagogue's membership in United Synagogue, all courses are free for teachers affiliated with a USCJ school or anyone who is a member of a USCJ congregation.

Save the Date---

NJ Region, USCJ, Dept. of Education

Presents a

ONE DAY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Cong. Neve Shalom, Metuchen, 9:30 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Something Different! New Presentations!

- * *Presentation, consultation and display by TERRY KAYE, of
BEHRMAN HOUSE PUBLISHERS*
- * *DR. SHOSHANA SILBERMAN, presenting techniques from her new book,
ACTIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES*
- * *SETTING UP A QUALITY HEBREW HIGH with RABBI RON ISAACS,
creator and director of one of the best in the region*
- * *WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS with CARYN BRUCKHEIMER*
- * *TEACHING PRAYER THE "4MAT" WAY, using SIDDUR SIM SHALOM with
ALEX WEINBERG, author of Siddur Sim Shalom, Remix 2.0*

MORE TO COME!

Save the Date!!

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Susan Wyner, No. American Consultant for Synagogue Education, USCJ recently sent out several mailings for Pesach. If you are not on her email list, you should join immediately. It is a great resource! To join, please send Susan an email at: wyner@uscj.org

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Birchat HaChamah: The Blessing of the Sun

Every 28 years, the Jewish Community celebrates the return of the sun to its original place in the heavens the the precise time and day of its creation. This celebration is called Birchat HaChamah. The next time we mark this moment is **APRIL 8, 2009**, which also happens to be erev Pesach and thus the siyyum of the firstborn. Has anyone thought of an interesting ceremonial way to share it with their students? Inquiring minds want to know!

If you have something planned (for ANY age group), please share it with Nita at Levin@USCJ.org. We have a few suggestions if you have none, but, we are always looking for more ideas!

Check out what's new from the USCJ Book Service at:

<https://secure.uscj.org/bookservice/>



Youngsters can celebrate and learn about the sun's return to the spot it occupied at the time of Creation. An occurrence that happens once every 28 years.

A Meaningful and Robust Collective Notion of Jewish Identity Today Ensures a Strong Jewish Continuity Tomorrow

6 x 9, 224 pp
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-58023-
401-6
\$21.99

THE CASE FOR JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD Can We Be One?

By Dr. Erica Brown and Dr. Misha Galperin
Foreword by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

“Timely, immensely thoughtful, provocative and rewarding. Illuminates and enriches every aspect of peoplehood with keen analysis, deep personal insights, and wise suggestions for how we can place this idea and ideal at the center of a renewed Jewish endeavor.”

—**Dr. Jonathan Woocher,**
chief ideas officer, JESNA;
director, Lippman Kanfer Institute

This call to Jewish community explores the purpose, possibilities, and limitations of peoplehood as a unifying concept of community for a people struggling profoundly with Jewish identity. It defines what peoplehood is—and is not—and explores both collective and personal Jewish identity and the nature of identity construction.

Draws on history, sacred texts and contemporary scholarship to identify some of the obstacles that challenge a shared notion of peoplehood: personal choices, construct of membership and boundaries, growth of Jewish illiteracy, identity fragmentation between Israeli and Diaspora Jewry, and the generational divide affecting traditionalists, baby boomers, and Generations X and Y. Supports a vision for the future and provides practical guidance and recommendations for getting there.

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I AM JEWISH Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl

Edited by Judea and Ruth Pearl

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259-3
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—*New York Jewish Week*

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—**Yuval Rotem**, Consul General of Israel

Also Available
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of
the *I Am Jewish*
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www.jewishlights.com

Captures the richness of interpretation of Jewish identity from 149 contributors in 12 countries and inspires Jews of all backgrounds to reflect upon and take pride in their identity. Contributions, ranging from major essays to a paragraph or a sentence, come from adults as well as young people in the form of personal feelings, statements of theology, life stories and historical reflections. Despite the diversity, common denominators shine through clearly and distinctly.

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IN THE 21ST CENTURY**
Human Responsibility, the Presence
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Edited by Rabbi Edward Feinstein
Foreword by Paula E. Hyman



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“A magnificent survey of the future of the Jewish people’s covenant with God.”

—*Jewish Book World*

Five celebrated thinkers reset the Jewish clock for a renewed Jewish future. They present their ideas for repairing this breach in Jewish time and for shaping Jewish life in the coming century. Together, they reflect on pluralism in the Jewish community, the new spirituality, the meaning of the Holocaust and the State of Israel, and their hope for the revival of Jewish life.

Contributors are:

- Rabbi David Ellenson
- Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg
- Rabbi David Hartman
- Rabbi Harold Kushner
- Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis

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THE WAY INTO THE VARIETIES OF JEWISHNESS

By Sylvia Barack Fishman, PhD

“Remarkable.... Displays a deft touch as well as considerable intellectual depth and profound Jewish knowledge. Will inform and educate both the introductory as well as veteran reader on this topic ... highly recommended as a primary text in popular and academic settings.”

—Rabbi David Ellenson, president,
Hebrew Union College–
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COMBING THROUGH MY FILES:

With **Purim** now behind us, it is time to begin planning for *GASP!!*
Passover in earnest!!!

Seders of all kinds:

**Chocolate seders, walk-through seder ideas, a 2-minute seder,
ideas for a women's seder, and traditional seders**

Recipes lists of lunches for kids to take to school

Preschool activities preschool hagaddah

Passover stories, plays, and riddles

MATZAH BAKERY

Educational games of all kinds:

Card games, puzzles, hand-out packets, lotto.

From Slavery, to Freedom

The Gold's Miss-matched seder (one of my favorites!)

Songs & parodies **crafts** **graphics**
Passover Parchesi **Fool Pharaoh (review)**
**How to teach the 4 Questions, the Passover Kiddush, the order of
the seder, the 4 Children**

Feeling creative but need help designing an idea? Call us!

For these, and other ideas, contact Nita at Levin@USCJ.org