



**THE NEW JERSEY REGION
UNITED SYNAGOGUE
OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION
PRESENTS:**

CONFERENCE ON SYNAGOGUE EDUCATION

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2009
9:30-3:30 P.M.**

**AT:
CONGREGATION NEVE SHALOM
250 GROVE AVENUE, METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY**

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that we present the Conference on Synagogue Education, a one day conference for the religious schools and nursery schools of the New Jersey Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

This conference was created with Principals/Education Directors, Education Chairs, Early Childhood Directors and teachers in mind. We hope that you will encourage your staff and lay people to attend. It promises to be a wonderful day with many talented presenters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at our office. We look forward to seeing you on June 10th.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Rich
Director of Education
and Youth Activities

Nita

Nita Polay Levin
Education Fieldworker

SCHEDULE:

9:30	Registration & Coffee
10	Greetings
10:30	Session #1
11:45	Lunch & the Behrman House Display
12:45	Session # 2
2:15	Session # 3
3:30	Shalom Ulihitra'ot

SESSION 1:

1. **SIDDUR SIM SHALOM REMIX 2.0:** Join **Alex Weinberg**, author of the book by the same title, for a brainstorming session on how to create immersive prayer experiences for our tweens based on *Siddur Sim Shalom*. He will take participants, and the prayers, through the 4MAT curricular model. Issues such as creating personal meaning, developing a connection to the text, and transitioning into "adult" services will be addressed. (for a sneak peak, go to www.alexweinberg.org/siddurdemo.pdf)

2. **HOW TO GET STUDENTS ACTIVELY ENGAGED FROM THE START!** Begin the school year by creating a *kehillah* (community) through team-building activities and provide techniques for introducing new units and lessons in an effective and fun way. Using her expertise and techniques from her new book, *Active Jewish Learning: 57 Strategies to Enliven Your Class*, **Shoshana Silberman** will guide you to engage your students from the start.

3. **WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS WILL ENGAGE & CHALLENGE MY STUDENTS?** Teachers ask, and often answer, questions all the time. Learn with **Suzi Adelson Wainer** how to do so for maximum student responses.

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF EDUCATION CHAIRS AND VICE PRESIDENTS:** **Rabbi Robert Abramson** will share his many years of expertise to help you frame the questions and answers as to what makes a good synagogue school. Participants will analyze their educational goals, the team created of the lay and professionals, how the congregation's work aligns with the school's goals, and how to build a community that attends to the needs of children and families through a joyful educational experience.

5. **OUR CONGREGATIONAL NURSERY SCHOOLS: THE GATEWAY TO A JEWISH EXPERIENCE:** Explore and discuss with **Caryn Bruckheimer** the various ways in which nursery schools, along with the rest of the synagogue team, can offer unique opportunities for establishing long-term connections with all the families, including unaffiliated and inter-faith families.

SESSION 2:

1. **SIDDUR HAZEK HALEV:** Join **Alex Weinberg**, author of the siddur by the same name, as you explore ways to create an engaging and inclusive Shabbat family service. Ways to involve families in your community through interactive prayer experiences will be discussed. You will use this new siddur, which adapts the *Sim Shalom Siddur* for families of K – 2nd graders, to create meaningful conversations around *tefilot*, using a familiar model. (www.alexweinberg.org/hazekhalevsamplepages.pdf).

2. **HOW TO GET STUDENTS TO ACTUALLY LEARN SOMETHING!** This workshop will provide techniques for helping students acquire knowledge through creative class discussions and activities. **Dr. Shoshana Silberman**, an expert in Active Learning, will share techniques for accomplishing these goals.

3. **MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:** How do students learn best? – it depends! By your own school experience, you would think that all students use the same skills to integrate knowledge. Howard Gardner proved that not everyone uses the same integration process and that there are, in fact, 8 different ways that students learn, only *ONE* of which includes the cognitive skills needed for math and science. **Suzi Adelson Wainer** will show us how to use Gardner's discovery to get beyond the cognitive skills so that we can reach ALL of our students. Learn about all the ways students can learn and decide how to structure your lessons to meet all the intelligences in your classroom.

4. **SETTING UP A QUALITY HEBREW HIGH THAT YOUR TEENS WILL WANT TO ATTEND:** Many schools try over and over to find a working program that teens will attend. Often, questions arise such as, "Should we drop the heavy study components? After all, teens are very busy with school and other commitments. Should we instead offer Jewish electives, such as 'Jews in Sports' or 'Jewish Cooking Around the World?'" While so many of us have struggled with trying to run a Hebrew high, some of us have succeeded. **Rabbi Ron Isaacs** has been running a successful, high quality school for many years and he will share what makes it work.

5. **ADAM: A CASE STUDY OF A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD IN PRE- SCHOOL & SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY:** Participants will join **Caryn Bruckheimer** as they follow the path of Adam, from classroom to evaluation, examining the details as well as the subtleties of this interesting and "familiar" case.

SESSION 3:

1. HOW TO GET STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE SKILLS! In this workshop, **Shoshana Silberman** will provide techniques for enabling students to learn various skills in an engaging and interactive way. These techniques can be applied to all the skills you are required to teach in your class.

2. HOW THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AFFECTS CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR: Explore with **Caryn Bruckheimer** concrete classroom dynamics—the physical room, the teacher, other children—and discuss how children respond. We, as teachers, can be responsible for creating the positive classroom environment so that the children enjoy their experience.

3. EXPERIENCIAL AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING AS AN ENHANCER TO STUDENT MOTIVATION: **Ron Isaacs** will present the principles of experiential learning, how it differs from traditional learning, and examples of tried and tested experiential activities that can enhance and reinforce the learning experience. In addition, the workshop will discuss the effectiveness of project-based learning and participants will have an opportunity to view and analyze (and alter for younger students) a number of teen projects using a variety of media, including written material, computer work, and original films.

4. NAVIGATING YOUR SCHOOL BUDGET IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE: In these tough economic times, school budgets have suffered along with the rest of the country's economy. **Lisa Harris Glass** will provide strategies for maximizing the ever-decreasing resources and the new economic realities so that you can still have a dynamic school program.

5. RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL TOT SHABBAT PROGRAM: Participants will learn first hand the philosophy of, and techniques and "props" used by **Wendy Kushner**, who runs a successful dynamic program for 3 – 5 year olds.

REGISTRATION FORM: To register for the Conference, please complete the form below and mail it along with a check made payable to USCJ for \$54 per participant to:

**NJ Region USCJ, 1090 King Georges Post Road, Suite 1003, Edison, NJ 08837
ATT: COSE**

For information please call Michelle or Nita at the regional office at 732-738-7960.

Name: _____

Congregation and Town: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL

Please indicate the workshops that you are registering for:

Session I: 1 2 3 4 5

Session II: 1 2 3 4 5

Session III: 1 2 3 4 5

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS FORM FOR EACH PARTICIPANT FROM YOUR CONGREGATION.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MAY 27, 2009

Sponsored by:

**Commission on Jewish Education
The New Jersey Region
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.USCJ.ORG/NJERSEY**