



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

You are cordially invited* to sign up for a
 Fall in-service teacher-training Mini-Course!

We are now taking requests

All courses are free of charge, a benefit of your synagogue's
 membership in United Synagogue for Conservative
 Judaism.

Priority will be given to schools that have not had a Mini-
 Course in at least two years.

We will gladly send you a list of possible courses. We will
 also work with you to design a tailored course that will
 work for your faculty.

We offer Courses for all ages, from preschool to high
 school, in all subjects and methodologies

If you are interested in hosting a course, contact Nita Polay
 Levin at Levin@uscj.org or call (732) 738 - 4301.

**(Sorry about the wording and the font—I couldn't resist....My daughter just got married; I guess I'm still in
 "wedding mode...)*

L'Hitkasher

(to make a phone call; to connect)

We still have a few spots open for our up-coming conference call with
Serene Victor, National Consultant for Synagogue Education
 Monday, April 28, at 10 a.m.

Topic: ***Working With My School Committee: What I Need to Do to Help Them Be Good At The
 Job***

To participate, contact Nita Polay Levin

Join the Virtual JTS Community: JTS Podcasts and iTunes

With the wide range of lectures and programs we offer, JTS always has an interesting conversation going on. Now, if you can't join us in person, you can join our virtual community by downloading JTS lectures and the weekly Torah commentary onto your iPod from iTunes, where it can be accessed 24/7, free of charge.

Hear JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen's vision for the future of Conservative Judaism, or learn how Jewish eating practices determine Jewish identity. On a weekly basis, download the Torah commentary, written by a rotating roster of JTS rabbis and scholars.

Visit our website for more information, or download iTunes, subscribe to receive the latest updates, and bring JTS with you virtually.

http://www.jtsa.edu/Conservative_Judaism/JTS_Podcasts.xml

JTS Podcasts are available at no charge through the iTunes Store or through our website. [Click here](#) to download the latest version of iTunes for free and join the virtual JTS community.

* * * * *

Pesach is Coming ...

Compact Issue 76 – Passover 5768

Attached is the latest edition of the USCJ Compact Resource Packet, full of useful information and provocative materials to make your Seders and Pesach more meaningful, including:

- When Pesach Begins On Saturday Night
- Hol Hamo'ed, An Oxymoron
- The Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide
- Matzah And Maror Before You: The Basis Of The Passover Seder

And much more. Be sure to read through this valuable resource being provided to you by you USCJ (and feel free to pass it along to your entire congregation!).

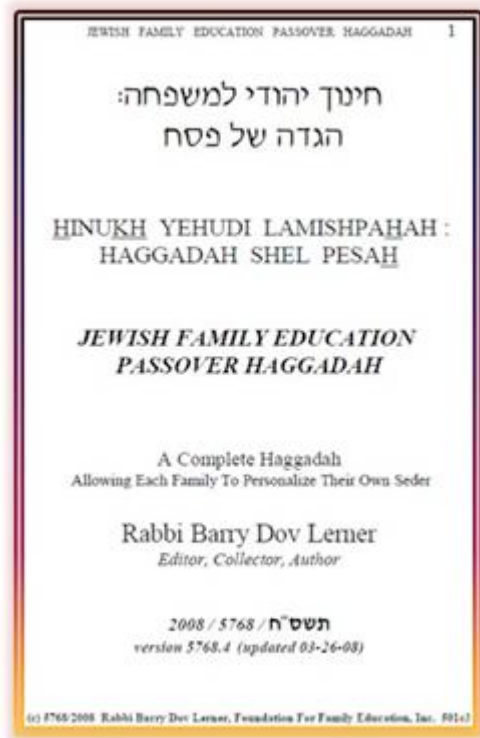
COLLEGE OUTREACH

Sell Your Hametz Online With Koach

<http://koach.org/hametzsale.htm>

Careful with those hamantashen ... you might make crumbs, and Pesah is just around the corner. But don't worry! KOACH is [here](#) to help. Click here to learn more about how to prepare for Pesah, why this year is different from all other years and sell your hametz.

Download a Free Haggadah!



The newest 5768 FREE postings for Passover Haggadot, Family Activities, Recipes for Haroset, creating an Heirloom Haggadah, and Model Seder are available at www.jewishfreeware.org. Just go to www.jewishfreeware.org, click on "Downloads," then click on "Passover" for a listing of wonderful downloads to help make your families Seder personal, meaningful, and fun! To download the free Haggadah directly, click on the "cover page" above.

Kol Dichfin

"All who are hungry, enter and eat," says our haggadah as it retells the story of the Exodus.

Every year, Jews around the world gather around seder tables to tell the story, to eat, to drink, and to celebrate freedom, family, community, and the boundless opportunities life and God offer us.

Many of them are Conservative Jews, members of our own community, and many of them grew up in the youth groups that are our movement's glory.

Every year, though, there are some Conservative Jews who do not have a seder to go to. Many of them are young, just establishing themselves away from the place where they grew up; some of them find that work or other commitments do not allow them to be home in time for Pesach.

Project Reconnect, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's alumni organization, working in partnership with NAASE, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, is matching seats at seder tables with Jews who need them with our Kol Dichfin program. Last year, 71 North American congregations offered seats through Kol Dichfin, and so did some Masorti synagogues in Israel. As of this publication we now have 212 participating

congregations. We look forward to seeing that number grow even higher and we know that the program will make many successful matches. We hope that all who are hungry will come and eat because of Project Reconnect, NAASE, and Kol Dichfin.

We hope that your congregation will join us in welcoming back our alumni and finding a seat at our table for them. With your help, we all can grow as a movement as we welcome back our recent graduates.

If you would like to learn more about how your synagogue can become part of Kol Dichfin, or if you want to find a seder or know someone else who does, send an email to [Click here](#) to see if your congregation is already listed, and visit here www.projectreconnect.org to learn more about Project Reconnect. Kol dichfin.

All who are hungry – for home-cooked food, for a seder, for Jewish connections, for Jewish community, for the Jewish story – let them come and eat.



Dear Colleagues,

Once again I am happy to distribute reflections for teachers from my dear colleague Rabbi Stuart Seltzer. In it he tracks the "matzah dance" and asks what can we learn about preparing our lessons for our students from this dance? This is an extension of a favorite technique of his: to look at Jewish symbols and ask the question, How is (a shofar, the hannukiyah, the matzah) like teaching? If any of you use this inspirational exercise with your teachers and add other examples to the dance, please send it to me.

How wonderful to think of teaching as dancing!
Shabbat Shalom and a Zis'n Pesach.
Serene

Serene Victor
USCJ National Consultant for Synagogue Education

The Matzah Dance
Prepared by Rabbi Stuart Seltzer

Cover the matzah

Cover the lesson

Create interest, mystery, and magic

Uncover the matzah

Uncover the lesson

Reveal the subject to the senses

Reveal what we are going to learn

Break the middle matzah into two

Break the lesson into two

Choose a path, a way in, and set the other ways aside for later

We have to start some place

Decide where to begin the lesson

Hide the larger piece of matzah

Hide the lesson

Create games, questions, activities, and curiosity about the future

Place the smaller piece of matzah onto the plate

Place the lesson

Find each individual's learning appetite and portion

This is what we are going to learn today

Recover the matzah

Recover the lesson

Doing something that engages the senses

Now that the students know a little bit about the subject they will experience it in a different way

March around with the matzah on shoulders

March the lesson

Use drama, music, and physical engagement to create an experiential dimension for the lesson

Explain the Matzah

Explain the lesson

After we engage the artistic, we can explain the lesson in more detail

Lift the matzah

Lift the lesson

Now that we see what we are dealing with, we have elevated it

Eat the matzah

Eat the lesson

Internalize the lesson, experience its essence

Make a matzah sandwich

Make a lesson sandwich

Bring in other areas of knowledge

Don't be afraid of the darker sides of lessons

Find the matzah

Find the lesson

Make lessons into games

Redeem the matzah

Redeem the lesson

Give students rewards for doing well

Eat the matzah

Eat the lesson

Leave the students with a full feeling of the lesson

PRESCHOOL CORNER

Hello all,

I'm sorry this month's shiur is a little late. Hopefully it will still add good thinking to your Pesach celebrations. Next month I hope to bring you good food for thought from the PEJE (Partnership for Jewish Education) conference I am attending next week, on the relationships between EC and Day School (and really, continuing the Jewish journey).

Enjoy, and in between bites of matza, feel free to send me feedback!

Shabbat Shalom,
Max

Maxine Handelman
Consultant for Early Childhood Education

USCJEC Staff Meeting *Shiur* – April 2008



וְתַתְּצֵב וְתִשָּׂם בָּהּ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וְתִשָּׂם בְּסוּף עַל־שִׁפְתַי הַיָּאָר׃
מְרַחֵק לְדַעַה מִהֵעֲשֵׂה לּוֹ׃

She put the child into it [the ark/basket] and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. And his sister [Miriam] stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

Exodus 2:3-4 **שמות**



Irene Helitzer

אַחַתוֹ

וְלֹא־הָיָה מַיִם לְעַדָּה וְתָמַת שָׁם מִרְיָם וְתִקְבָּר שָׁם׃

Miriam died there and was buried there, and the community was without water.

Numbers 20:1-2 **במדבר**

Rashi (11th Century, France) noticed the strange juxtaposition of Miriam's death and the shortage of water, and assumed that there must be a connection between the two. "From this we learn that all forty years, they had a well because of the merit of Miriam."

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, "Miriam--Water Under The Bridge?"

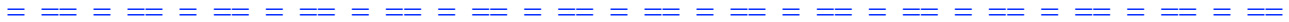
http://www.myjewishlearning.org/texts/Weekly_Torah_Commentary/hukkat_artson5762.htm

Questions for discussion:

1. Miriam was the sister of Aaron and Moses, and she holds an important place in the Pesach story. Besides guarding her baby brother as he floats down the Nile and securing a job for her mother as the baby's nursemaid once the Pharaoh's daughter has found him, Miriam leads the women in dance and song once the Israelites have escaped Egypt and crossed the Sea of Reeds. What else do you know about Miriam?
2. Pictured above are two examples of a Kos Miriam (Miriam's Cup), which in recent years has gained popularity as another ritual for Pesach. The Kos Miriam is filled with water, as the Torah text and midrashim connect Miriam to water in many ways. Have you ever put or seen a Kos Miriam on a seder table? Share stories of the Kos Miriam and the rituals surrounding it. (If no

one in your group has personal experience with a Kos Miriam, you can find lots of information at www.miriamscup.com)

3. The story of Passover would be impossible without the women. In addition to Miriam, Yocheved – Moses’ mother, Shifra and Puah – the midwives who refused to kill the Israelite babies, Bat Paroh – Pharaoh’s daughter, Tzipporah – Moses’ wife, and the Israelite women all contributed to our liberation from Egypt. Tell the stories of these women. If you’re not sure of the details, check out Exodus chapters 1 and 2. There’s also an article with lots of good details at <http://www.morim.org/Contents.aspx?id=2059>.
4. Why are Miriam and the other women important to young children? How will you insure that your children learn their stories, and not just Moses’? Miriam was a prophetess who danced; Shifra and Puah stood up for the right thing; Yocheved loved her child fiercely. How will you plan to incorporate these elements into your class’s Passover preparations?



<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Schusterman College Program</h2> <p>We are still looking for a few good college students for the Schusterman College Program (SCP)! SCP is a week-long experience combining SCP-only programming as well as opportunities to participate in the CAJE 33 program. It allows entering freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to explore their Jewish identity and engage in thought-provoking Jewish learning in an open, pluralistic environment. Made possible by a generous grant from the Lynn and Charles Schusterman Family Foundation, SCP registration is only \$100 plus a discounted CAJE membership fee of \$36. SCP participants are responsible for their own transportation to the conference. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and applicants will be notified beginning Monday, May 5, 2008.</p> <p>For more information on the program and on how to apply, click https://caje33.wikispaces.com/scp.</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">The CAJE Poster Session - Deadline Extended to Friday, April 11!</h3> <p>CAJE, in collaboration with JEA, NATE and RENA, is soliciting proposals for a first-of-its-kind poster session for CAJE 33 that will showcase innovations in congregational education. Successful proposals will receive one \$250 discount off the CAJE 33 early bird conference fee of \$835 for a reduced rate of \$585.</p> <p>If you have an innovative program, we encourage you to</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Save the Date!</div> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Quick Links</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">RegisterEXPO InformationCAJE 33 WikiEC Israel Fair ApplicationJEN OnlineJoin/Rejoin CAJEBecome a CAJE PartnerDonate to CAJEHome Page

If you have an innovative program, we encourage you to apply. Representatives of winning proposals will prepare posters, handouts or similar materials that describe their program. CAJE participants will have the opportunity to meet with representatives and learn more about their innovations. Each institution or organization selected to participate in the poster session will receive a Certificate of Achievement, have a description of their innovation posted on CAJE, JEA, NATE and RENA websites, and be included in a national press release on innovations in congregational education.

To apply, please log on to www.caje.org, click "register now" and select "presenter" as a registrant type. You will not have to make a conference payment until your proposal for the poster session is accepted. The deadline for this application is **Friday, April 11, 2008**. Applicants will be notified of their acceptances by **Friday, May 9, 2008**.

In addition to contact information, you will be asked to respond to the questions listed below. Each response should be no longer than 400 words. We recommend that you type your responses in a Word document that you save, copy and paste into the text boxes on the website.

1. Please describe your innovative project, program or initiative.
2. How did you measure the success of the program?

Other Items of Interest

KESHET Shalem Education Project Training Institutes for Jewish Educators

July 13-15, 2008 Cleveland, OH

The Institutes will train Jewish Educators and Youth Professionals to facilitate Jewish Safe Schools & Supportive Communities workshops for educators, teens, and community members.

Participants will learn:

- How to design and facilitate workshops on GLBT inclusion for faculty, staff, parents, and youth in Jewish educational institutions
- How to combat homophobia and heterosexism in Jewish youth culture
- How to use the *Hineini* DVD, Curriculum Guide, and other resources for GLBT-inclusive educational programs.

[Rabbi Steve Greenberg](#) will facilitate sessions.

Expenses for attending the institute will be covered by Keshet

An online application is available at

<http://jotform.com/form/73644619698>

You can also email andrea@keshetonline.org to receive one by mail or email. Although acceptance is on a first come first served basis, priority will be given to those who work or are leaders in Jewish educational or youth institutions.

Deadline for submitting applications is May 16, 2008.

Please contact Andrea Jacobs with any questions, 617.524.9227 x3 or andrea@keshetonline.org

Keshet is a grassroots organization dedicated to creating a fully inclusive Jewish community for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) Jews in Greater Boston and across the country.

SMART Boards for Jewish Schools

The Legacy Heritage Fund is proud to announce the launch of its SMART Board Project. Legacy Heritage Fund will partner with Jewish schools to make SMART Boards available to their students. SMART Boards are whiteboards that have touch sensitive screens and are interactive tools that invite student participation in the learning process. Interested schools are invited to apply to participate in this project (applications available online). Schools which are accepted will, at no cost, receive one or more SMART Boards and staff training to achieve proficiency in their use of the equipment. Consistent with the mission of Legacy Heritage Fund to support Jewish education, the SMART Board Project brings the power of a new dynamic educational tool to the classroom. SMART Boards positively affect learning by helping to raise the level of student engagement, motivation and enthusiasm within the classroom. Legacy Heritage Fund is excited about partnering with Jewish schools throughout the United States and hopes that this project will facilitate the use of technology to advance Jewish education. To get more information and an application please visit the SMART Board Project on our website http://www.legacyheritage.org/sbp_intro.html.

Hi Everyone,

I know that you are all focused on Pesach right now, but if you don't yet have something planned for Yom Ha'atzmaut and Israel's 60th Birthday, you are going to be caught short. Just

Why are these prisoners different from other prisoners?

These prisoners have been wantonly denied all human rights which are guaranteed under international law. They have been treated not as prisoners of war, but rather as hostages. They have been allowed no access whatsoever to their families, their country, nor any human rights groups.

Why are these hostages different from other hostages?

These hostages continue to be held even though all other Western hostages being held in Lebanon were freed years ago. We have no knowledge of the conditions under which they are held. In truth, we do not know whether they are still alive.

Why do we raise the issue of these Israeli soldiers who are "missing-in-action" on Passover?

Of all the Jewish holidays, Passover is the one that truly represents freedom. If there is even one Jew who is being denied freedom, we must all raise our voices on her behalf. Just as we have done throughout our history, so too, today we must come to the aid of fellow Jews. We dedicate this Seder to Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, Guy Hever, Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. We will continue to work toward their release from captivity, and, if our voices are strong enough, perhaps next year we will not have to repeat these extra four questions.

Read more about the abducted Israeli soldiers

<http://www.azm.org/soldiers.shtml>

Learn more about what you can do to help

<http://www.azm.org/campaign.shtml>

<http://www.azm.org/seder.shtml>

As we get ready to invite Elijah and our seder guests into our
homes,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all
A very happy and meaningful Passover!

Michelle & Nita