



בינינו

NEWS FROM THE JEA FOR ITS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER, 2007 / ELUL, 5767

לשנה טובה

תכתבו

*The JEA Officers, Board and Professional Staff
wish you a sweet, happy and healthy
New Year.*

*May you, your families and your loved ones be
inscribed in the Book of Life for a year of blessing
and fulfillment.*



Welcome Back!

It's hard to believe that the whole summer has passed by. Most of you are already back at school or beginning classes right about the time you are reading this article. We hope that you have had time to rest and refresh yourselves; now the challenges of Jewish education begin anew!

The highlight of the JEA summer was our Mission to Israel. It was a very exciting time to be in Israel as the "matzav" was quiet and tourists literally filled every available hotel room. Spirits were high (along with the temperature!) and there was a great sense of excitement on the streets and in the overflowing restaurants and cafes. The great issues still remain, but summer was a time to kick-back and enjoy the good times for as long as they last. For those who missed this trip, see the photos on the opposite page and plan on coming back to Israel with JEA for our Conference in 2010!

The JEA office has been busy throughout the summer updating records and preparing for the fall. We have been particularly occupied with plans for our 2008 Conference in Chicago. Look for a detailed brochure and registration form by the end of the month. We are also pleased to announce that we have just finalized plans for our 2009 Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. Check out all of the other JEA news contained in this issue of Beineinu.

We wish everyone a good, smooth and successful school year!

JEA Mission to Israel

Israel was hot this summer! And yes, we are talking about the thermometer. Temperatures crossing the one hundred degree mark along with high humidity greeted our group as we arrived in Tel Aviv on July 26. But our trip was characterized more by the brilliant sunshine and deep blue skies overhead, than by the "schvitzing" on the ground. We spent 4 days based in the beautiful Rimonim Hotel in Tz'fat and traversing the north followed by 4 days "at home" in Jerusalem. We studied, hiked, swam, ate ice cream, complained, shopped, explored, toured, davened, laughed and cried together as we took in that which was new along with that which was old throughout Israel. Some highlights:

- One bus was too small, one bus was too large... we never got the one that was "Just right!" And our bus driver Nissim... it was always a miracle when we got there!
- Does anyone know what "shakshouka" is?
- The compelling Palmach Museum and re-living the early days of the modern State.
- A mystical Shabbat in Tz'fat and a spirited Carlebach-style Kabbalat Shabbat.
- David Friedman's artistic interpretations of Kabbalah.
- Getting everyone to balance on the platform at Kibbutz Tuval.
- Our beautiful outdoor Tefilot "on location" and one Shacharit service on the bus... *at least some of the time we were facing Yerushalayim!*
- Our tour guide, Mark Lazar.
- An insightful symposium with Hanan Alexander at Haifa University.
- Fran Mishler's moving presentation at the grave of Naomi Shemer.
- Swimming (or reading) in the natural springs at Sachne.
- Finally (and we do mean finally!) getting to Jerusalem!
- Ir David and the Davidson Center... exploring the excavations along the Southern Wall and the Kotel.
- A delightful and delicious dinner reception at the Fuchsberg Center.
- Free time on Ben Yehuda, Yoel Solomon and Emek Refa'im.
- Yad VaShem and the Menachem Begin Center.
- Reading Yehuda Amichai poetry enveloped by Jerusalem.
- A farewell dinner that still leaves us full... and walking through the market to find the restaurant!
- Being together with colleagues who now are friends!



The Israel Experience
welcomes

Jewish Educators Assembly
Mission to Israel - July 26-August 2



MEMBERSHIP DUES

We thank our many members who have already sent in their dues for the 2007-08 school year. JEA counts upon membership dues in order to carry out our important work. Please note that dues are seven tenths of one percent (.7%) of the salary that you are paid. We count upon each member to give an accurate and honest calculation of their dues. *We request that dues be submitted by **November 1, 2007**.* Please call the JEA office if you have any questions about your membership category or dues calculation.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

We count upon all of our members to be part of our "Membership Outreach Committee." If you know of friends or colleagues in neighboring schools who are *not* members of JEA, please invite them to join our organization. You may also forward their names to our office and we will be glad to contact them as well. In particular, we encourage you to reach out to educators who are in new positions and might especially benefit from the help and support of JEA.

ADDRESS UPDATES

Some of you have moved or changed positions over the summer. Please advise us if any of your mailing or contact information has changed. We want to stay in touch with you!

CALLING ALL REGIONS

Many of our regions are also busy planning a full year of local activities. We ask all regions to please include the JEA office on your mailing list. We also ask you to let us know of your new regional officers for the 2007-08 school year. Please forward this information to the JEA office.

BRACHA CARDS

JEA has a beautiful series of Bracha Cards available to mark special occasions or remember loved ones. By purchasing Bracha Cards, you help support the important work of the JEA. Please see the enclosed flyer for details and order your Bracha Cards today from the JEA office.

NEW YEAR... NEW POSITIONS

Mazel tov to all of our JEA members who are starting this year in new positions. This is an exciting time and we wish you well!

Joshua Bender	Adas Israel, Washington, DC
Cheryl Bensky	Cong Or Atid, Richmond, Virginia
Betty Golub	Cong Beth Israel, Scotch Plains, NJ
Avi Halzel	Community Day School, Denver, CO
Judith Jaffe	Shomrei Emunah, Montclair, NJ
Janice Jumbo	Beth Tikvah-Bnai Jeshurun, Erdenheim, PA
Steve Kerbel	Bnai Tzedek, Potomac, MD
Daniel Kochavi	The Conservative Synagogue, Westport, CT
Benjamin Lewis	New City Jewish Center, New City, NY
Rabbi Lynn Liberman	Beth Jacob Congregation, Mendota Heights, MN
Sherri Morris	Beth El, South Orange, NJ
Hazzan Andrea Raizen	Beth Abraham Synagogue, Dayton, Ohio
Mary Sheydwasser	Pine Brook Jewish Center, Montville, NJ

JEA RESEARCH AND CURRICULUM AWARDS

The Jewish Educators Assembly offers two awards programs to encourage educational research and curriculum development. Both programs have fall deadlines with awards announced at our winter conference. Please take note of these two programs now, so that you have ample time to work on projects and proposals.

JEA FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The JEA Fund for Educational Research and Development provides grants to JEA members to enable them to implement significant projects in the field of Jewish education. Types of programs that are considered for awards include curriculum projects, evaluation instruments, creative arts programs, enrichment programs, and the development of computer and audio-visual materials as well as research projects.

Recent awards of \$1,000 each were made to Rabbi Stuart Light for the development of a spiraling Parshat HaShavua curriculum for the Day Schools and to Rebecca Starr for a leadership training program, *The ABC's of Ethical Leadership*.

Research grants will be judged chiefly by the following criteria:

1. Projected contribution of project to the field of Jewish education.
2. Replicability or usefulness of project beyond the home community.
3. Likelihood that funding to make this project possible would not be available from other sources.
4. Uniqueness of project.
5. Potential impact of project upon advancing the roles of educators and teachers, and the way in which they are perceived in the Jewish community.
6. The likelihood that the JEA funding will significantly contribute towards the realization of this project.

Applications for funding of projects to be implemented during the 2008-2009 school year are now being accepted. They should be sent *in the form of a letter* and should describe in detail the project, suggest its importance to the field of Jewish education, state the amount of funding requested and how these funds will be used. *All letters must be received by **November 15th, 2007** and should be sent to:*

Dr. Burton Cohen, Chairman
JEA Research & Development Fund Committee
Jewish Theological Seminary
3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

JEA-TORAH AURA CURRICULUM AND ADMINISTRATION AWARDS

The JEA-Torah Aura Curriculum and Administration Awards provide an arena to recognize the accomplishments of the JEA membership, stimulate replication of exceptional and innovative programming, and spotlight "best practices" in the field of Conservative Jewish education.

Please see the enclosed guidelines and application forms.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

- October 14, 2007 – Ramah 60th Anniversary Program at JTS
- November 11-12, 2007 – Academic Conference at JTS in memory of Seymour Fox
- November 12-13, 2007 – JEA Board Meeting
- November 15, 2007 – Deadline for submissions for JEA Research and Development Awards and for Torah Aura Curriculum Awards
- January 27-30, 2008 – JEA Annual Conference, Skokie, Illinois
- January 30-31, 2008 – JEA Board Meeting, Skokie, Illinois

JEA CONFERENCE 2008... Save the Date!

56th Annual JEA Conference
Sunday – Wednesday, January 27-30, 2008
doubletree Hotel & conference center
Skokie, illinois

Our Conference Committee has been hard at work throughout the summer putting together another outstanding JEA Conference. Our theme will focus on "Vision Driven Institutions", looking at schools and agencies whose work is truly inspired and guided by a clear-cut vision, theory and principle. Our sessions will examine both the concept of vision in education and its practical application.

Some Conference highlights:

- * **Keynote Speaker: Daniel Pekarsky, Professor of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin and Jewish Education Consultant for the Mandel Foundation**
- * **Featured Speaker: Devorah Steinmetz, Founding Principal, Beit Rabban**
- * **Special Address: Chancellor Arnold Eisen**
- * **In-depth Study Sessions with Major Educational Leaders and Scholars**
- * **Visit to Chicago's Navy Pier and Touring of Downtown Chicago**
- * **Fully Integrated Program for Early Childhood Educators**
- * **Outstanding Entertainment**
- * **Professional Networking and Program Exchange**
- * **Sunday Morning Yom Iyun for Chicago Area Teachers**
- * **Sunday Afternoon Family Festival and Street Fair**

Watch for our full Conference brochure, program and registration information coming soon!

IN THE JEA FAMILY

There have been many changes and life cycle events that took place during the summer. Please inform the JEA office so that we may share your news.

Mazal Tov:

Our best wishes for years of health and enjoyment to all of our colleagues who have recently retired.

Our best wishes for *Hatzlacha Rabba* to all of our colleagues who are starting in new positions.

Marian and Allen Gorman on the marriage of their son Jeff to Mia.

Hedda and Dave Morton on the birth of a new grandson.

Debby and Rabbi Cliff Miller on the birth of a new grandson.

Hindie Potok on the birth of a new grandson and granddaughter.

Nachamu, Nachamu Ami – Our condolences to:

Rabbi Shelley Kniaz on the passing of her father Dr. Harry Kniaz.

בינו is published by the Jewish Educators Assembly, Broadway & Locust Ave.

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