



NEWS FROM THE JEA FOR ITS MEMBERS

FEBRUARY, 2008 / ADAR I, 5768

A HOT TIME IN CHICAGO!

We have just returned from a spectacular Conference at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center in Skokie, Illinois. Nearly 150 educators from across North America and Israel participated in the Conference, which included a Workshop Day for teachers from the Chicago area, a Family Festival for the community, two honoree dinners, a night at Chicago's Navy Pier, a visit to the new Chicagoland Jewish High School and "A Taste of Chicago" in both culinary and academic terms. Educators from Day Schools, Congregational Schools, Family Education programs, High Schools, agencies and bureaus all were included. We were especially pleased that our track for Early Childhood educators grew significantly this year.

The theme of the Conference was "*Im Tirtsu, Ein Zo Agadah – Vision Driven Institutions.*" The keynote address was presented by Dr. Daniel Pekarsky, Professor of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin. He was assisted by Dr. Devora Steinmetz, Founding Principal of Beit Rabban and Assistant Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at JTS. They spoke of their pioneering work in conceptualizing both existential vision and institutional vision for Jewish schools along with methods of implementation in any school setting.

In addition to the keynote presentations, the tone of the Conference was set by Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, who delivered the opening address on Monday morning. The Chancellor very clearly laid out his vision of the change that must come to the Conservative movement in general and to our schools in particular. He acknowledged the great challenges that we face, while stressing what a time of opportunity we find ourselves in, as awareness of and concern for Jewish education have never been greater. The Chancellor made it clear that this is a group challenge and he welcomed our partnership in developing new, creative and innovative ways of building and strengthening our Conservative Jewish community.

Some additional Conference highlights:

- Our Sunday morning *Yom Iyun* with more than 120 Chicagoland teachers. Gary Kenzer of HonestReporting.com delivered the keynote presentation. The morning was organized by the Mid-West Region of JEA.
- More than 250 people turned out for a delightful Jewish Family Fair on Sunday afternoon featuring crafts activities, games, projects, social action activities, story-telling and a raffle. Again, the Mid-West Region of JEA did an outstanding job of organizing the Family Fair.
- A busload of Conference attendees went for a tour of Jewish Chicago on Sunday afternoon with noted local historian Dr. Irving Cutler.
- Honoring Janet and Maynard Grossman, driving forces behind the Chicago Schechter Schools, Rabbi Gerald Teller, long-time JEA member and past Head of the Chicago BJE, Rich Moline, Founder and Director of USCJ's KOACH college outreach program and Dr. Irving Skolnick, Past JEA President.

- Our expanded conversations and collaborative work with our Early Childhood educators. Thank you Maxine Handelman for all of your help and guidance!
- Strolling the shops, the Stained Glass Museum and Israeli Dancing at the Navy Pier with a great view of the Chicago skyline. The evening out was sponsored by our good friends at Behrman House.
- Caryn Bark's hilarious outlook on contemporary Jewish life.
- The sweet voices of the Solomon Schechter Day School Choir and the freilich sound of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band.
- The wonderful insights and new perspectives gained from the presentation of the Chicago Coalition on Inter-religious Learning.
- Torah study with Zohar Raviv.
- Checking out the newest publications and materials with our many vendors.
- Networking with colleagues during meals.
- Relaxing and making new professional friends and connections in our cozy Hospitality Suite....as well as other spots around the hotel!

There are a number of exciting ideas and proposals that came out of the Conference. Our new Officers and Board will be working to follow-up on these in the days and months ahead. We welcome your involvement on our committees and your ideas and suggestions for JEA as well as for next year's Conference.

Thank you to all of our presenters who gave of their time and energy to "educate the educators." Special thanks to all from the Chicago Jewish community who gave so much of their time and energy to shape this Conference.

It takes a tremendous team effort to create such an event. Rav todot to: Sally Brown-Winter and Judy Grossbard, Yom Iyun Chairs; Esther Weiss, Family Festival Chair; our local Chicago Committee – Hazzan Sarah Alexander, Anna Besser, Rolly Cohen, Trudy Isbitz-Brodsky, Gary Kenzer, Felicia Lev, Sue Stine and Leslie Weiss led by Regional Co-Presidents Judy Grossbard and Karen Raizen; Hazzan Arlyne Unger and Hazzan Larry Brandspiegel, Tefila Chairs; Wendy Light, Vendor Chair; Sue Rodrigues, Vendor Co-Chair; Noreen Leibson, Serene Victor, Susan Wyner, Hospitality Chairs; Danny Kochavi, Evaluation Chair and all who helped throughout the Conference.

A super ***Kol HaKavod*** to our overall Conference Chairs ***Marshall Kupchan, Hedda Morton and Barb Moskow! Well done!!!***

Visit our website www.jewisheducators.org view photos of the Conference.

JEA JOURNAL AD BOOK

In association with our Conference, JEA published a magnificent Journal Ad Book paying tribute to our honorees and our educators. Thank you to Judith Pearl, our Administrator and to Marsha Sesskin, our Development Consultant who worked tirelessly on the Journal. Special thanks also to Michael Edelstein who did all of the layout and graphics for the Journal. We do have a small quantity of extra journals available in the office. Please call or e-mail if you would like to receive a copy.

JOURNAL ADDITIONS

Please note the following donations which arrived after our Journal went to print:
Marcia Blacker in honor of Richard Moline
Kim and Alan Frankel in honor of Janet and Maynard Grossman and Rabbi Gerald Teller
Deborah and Wayne Goodman in honor of Janet and Maynard Grossman
Jane Kanarek in honor of Richard Moline
Nancy Kohn in honor of Richard Moline
Deborah and Curtis Levy for all the Honorees
Irene Lustgarten for all the Honorees
Jan Slotnick and Rachel Nelson in honor of Janet and Maynard Grossman
Rabbi David and Emily Soloff in honor of Richard Moline and Dr. Irving Skolnick

PLACEMENT

We are now in the midst of the Placement season and quite a few new positions have become available. The most recent Placement Listing is included in this mailing. JEA is here to help guide you through the process and evaluate the choices before you. Applications for Placement are available on our website www.JewishEducators.org. Even before you make the decision to apply for Placement, we invite you to speak with our Executive Director, Eddie Edelstein. All such conversations are strictly confidential. You can reach Eddie at the JEA office 516 569-2537 or placement@jewisheducators.org.

TORAH AURA CURRICULUM AWARDS

We are pleased to report that an *Honorable Mention* has been awarded to Judith Kuper Jaffe of Congregation Shomrei Emunah, Montclair, New Jersey for her submission on Tomchei Tzedakah. We are most grateful to Jane Golub and our friends at Torah Aura for their support and sponsorship of these annual awards.

JEA SPECIAL FUNDS... EXPANDING OUR REACH, INSURING OUR FUTURE

JEA is pleased to announce the establishment of two very important and significant funds to help broaden the scope of our activities and to encourage and make it possible for new, young educators to participate in our Conferences. We acknowledge and appreciate the support and generosity of the Kingsley and Shapiro Families in establishing these Funds.

THE TEMMA AND AL KINGSLEY FUND FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Temma Kingsley has been a pioneer, an innovator and a crusader in the field of Early Childhood Jewish Education. She and her husband Al have been active leaders within the Conservative movement and the USCJ. Through Temma and Al's generosity, this Fund has been established to support and encourage the professional development and enhance the professional standing of Early Childhood Jewish Educators in Conservative settings. The Fund will be used to provide speakers and workshop leaders for conferences and *y'mai iyun*. It will also provide scholarships and subsidies for Early Childhood Jewish Educators to attend professional development programs such as this JEA Conference.

We welcome contributions to sustain and grow this important Fund. Donations may be made to the Jewish Educators Assembly and directed to the Temma and Al Kingsley Fund for Early Childhood Professional Development.

THE MIRIAM KLEIN SHAPIRO FUND

Miriam Klein Shapiro z"l was a Past President of JEA and an imposing force in Jewish education. Miriam was an innovator who strove to create new models and new structures within Jewish education, always built on the foundation of traditional Jewish values and commitment to the serious study of text. Miriam loved JEA and Jewish education. She was passionate about the need for educators to engage in ongoing and substantial study and professional development. She also recognized the importance of attracting new, young professionals to the field to perpetuate our important work. This Fund in Miriam's memory has been established to provide scholarships for new educators to attend the JEA Conference.

We welcome contributions to sustain and grow this important Fund. Donations may be made to the Jewish Educators Assembly and directed to the Miriam Klein Shapiro Fund.

SAVE THE DATES...

57th Annual JEA Conference
Sunday – Wednesday, January 25-28, 2009
Chaparral Suites Hotel
Scottsdale, Arizona

The Chaparral Suites is a beautiful all-suites hotel with a complete conference center on its sprawling grounds. The hotel is located in the heart of Scottsdale within easy reach of the downtown shopping and historic districts. Air travel should be booked in and out of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. We are planning an exciting program that will take advantage of the gorgeous desert landscape and outdoor resources that surround the Phoenix area.

BACK AGAIN IN 2010!
JEA RETURNS TO ISRAEL
FOR OUR 58th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Depart US: February 7, 2010
Return US: February 12, 2010
(Optional Shabbat Add-on thru February 14)

Join with the leadership of the Jewish Educators Assembly for another outstanding Israel adventure. Our program will include the latest sites and places of interest, school visits, study at the Fuchsberg Center, involvement with Masorti families and congregations and a series of *chessed* projects. We are actively promoting a program to bring members of your faculty along with you for an experience that can deeply impact your school community.

Save the dates and plan your funding *now!!!*

IN THE JEA FAMILY

Mazel Tov to:

Phil and Heather Nordlinger on the birth of their son

Nachamu, Nachamu Ami – Condolences to:

Rabbi Nogah Sherman on the passing of her grandmother

Rami Wernik on the passing of his grandmother.

It is with profound sorrow that we inform you of the passing of Zehavit Greenfield, daughter-in-law of Zerach and Shelly Greenfield and wife of Avi Greenfield. Zerach is a longtime vendor at our JEA Conferences and a friend to so many of us in the field of Jewish education. Zerach was just with us in Chicago and spoke excitedly of his new grandchild, Avi's first child, due "momentarily." Tragically, Zehavit died from complications during childbirth just after our Conference. A beautiful, healthy, baby girl, Yirat Sarah came into this world, but sadly, Zehavit did not survive.

Zerach and Shelly are with their son and new granddaughter in Israel and are struggling to cope with this terrible tragedy. Our hearts and prayers are with the entire family at this most difficult time. We will advise you in the weeks ahead if there are specific ways in which we can be of help.

JEA OFFICERS AND BOARD – 2008

Our Chicago Conference marked a change in administrations with the Installation of Officers on Tuesday evening, January 29, handled masterfully by Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer. It was an opportunity to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Lonna Picker, who has served with such vision and devotion, not only for these past two years, but for many years leading up to her Presidency. *Rav Todot* and *Kol HaKavod* Lonna!

It was also an opportunity both to install Larry Katz as President and to look forward with anticipation to the care and leadership that we know he will bring to the position. Larry beautifully articulated his thoughts and ideas for the future in his installation speech.

B'hatzlacha Rabba to all of our new officers and board members.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....	Lawrence Katz
VICE PRESIDENTS.....	Danny Kochavi Marshall Kupchan Hedda Morton
SECRETARY.....	Susan Wyner
TREASURER.....	William Cohen
OFFICER-AT-LARGE.....	Arnold Zar-Kessler
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.....	Lonna Picker

GENERAL BOARD

FIRST YEAR OF A FIRST 2 - YEAR TERM

Judy Jacks Berman	Adrienne Pasternak
Yaffa Fuchs	Sally Brown Winter
Scott Littky	

SECOND YEAR OF A FIRST TWO - YEAR TERM

Howard Goldberg	Bob Spitz
Jon Mitzmacher	Sharon Wasserberg
Rabbi Barb Moskow	

FIRST YEAR OF A SECOND TWO - YEAR TERM

Cantor Larry Brandspeigel	Michael Schatz
Barry Gruber	Ardyth Sokoler
Susan Rodrigues	

SECOND YEAR OF A SECOND TWO - YEAR TERM

Rabbi Paul Freedman	Fran Richter
Judy Grossbard	Rabbi Jim Rogozen
Ava Phillips	

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