

JEWISH EDUCATORS ASSEMBLY  
כנסת המהנכים היהודיים



# בינינו

NEWS FROM THE JEA FOR ITS MEMBERS

DECEMBER, 2007 / KISLEV, 5768

**JEA CONFERENCE 2008... Register Now!**

**56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JEA CONFERENCE**  
**SUN - WED, JANUARY 27-30, 2008**  
**DOUBLETREE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**SKOKIE, ILLINOIS**

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 and Torah L'Shma**
- \* **Visit to Chicago's Navy Pier**
- \* **Sunday Afternoon Tours of Downtown Chicago**
- \* **Fully Integrated Program for Early Childhood Educators**
- \* **"A Taste of Chicago" sessions featuring Barry Chazan, Rolly Cohen, Gary Kenzer, Judy Kupchan, William Rubin and more...**
- \* **Panel Discussion with the Chicago Coalition on Interreligious Learning**
- \* **Professional Networking and Program Exchange**
- \* **Sunday Morning Yom Iyun for Chicago Area Teachers**
- \* **Sunday Afternoon Jewish Family Festival**
- \* **Musical Celebration of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday**
- \* **Sessions on Educator Welfare: Pensions, Contracts, Board Relations**
- \* **Vendor and Supply Marketplace**

Our full Conference brochure and registration form are available on our website [www.jewisheducators.org](http://www.jewisheducators.org).

**Early Bird Registration Deadline Extended: December 15, 2007**

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD

The JEA Board just completed a very exciting and productive 2-day Board Meeting on Long Island at Temple Beth El of Cedarhurst where our office is housed. The Board got to tour the facilities and see our office in action. The Board Meeting was planned to immediately follow the 2-day Curriculum Symposium that was held at JTS to honor the work and the memory of Seymour Fox z"l. Many of our Board members were able to attend the Symposium and it was a wonderful opportunity to study and spend time together. Kol HaKavod to our members Steve Brown and Barry Holtz, who were instrumental in planning and organizing the Symposium. We had a very productive Board Meeting. Some highlights of the two days include:

- Approving our Code of Ethics for Jewish Educators (see article below).
- Continued work on our organization's Vision Statement, which is now nearing completion.
- Finalizing plans for Conference 2008 in Chicago and preliminary plans for Conference 2009 in Phoenix.
- Viewing a splendid DVD of our JEA Mission to Israel from this past summer and some early planning for our 2010 Conference in Jerusalem (see article below).
- Meeting with Marsha Sesskin, our Development Consultant to further our fundraising and outreach efforts.
- Further development of our regional structure.

## JEA RESEARCH AND CURRICULUM AWARDS

The Jewish Educators Assembly offers two awards programs to encourage educational research and curriculum development as follows:

- **JEA Fund for Educational Research and Development**
- **JEA Torah Aura Curriculum and Administration Awards**

Detailed information and application forms for both of these programs have been sent to you previously and are available on our website [www.jewisheducators.org](http://www.jewisheducators.org) (click on Resources). This is a "last call" for this year's program. We have extended the deadline and will accept applications through December 15, 2007.

## JEA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

An updated 2007 JEA Membership Directory is now available. Please contact the JEA office. We can provide you with either an electronic version or a hard copy.

## THE PLACEMENT SEASON BEGINS

December marks the traditional beginning of the placement season. Deciding to look for a new position is often a difficult and emotional decision. 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](http://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](mailto:placement@jewisheducators.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

- December 15, 2007 – Deadline for submissions for JEA Research and Development Awards
- December 15, 2007 – Deadline for submissions for Torah Aura Curriculum Awards
- December 15, 2007 – Deadline for Early Bird Conference Registration
- December 31, 2007 – Deadline for Conference Ad Journal
- January 27-30, 2008 – JEA Annual Conference, Skokie, Illinois

## **JEA CODE OF ETHICS FOR JEWISH EDUCATORS**

Our Vaad HaKavod has functioned for many years using our JEA Constitution and By-Laws as a guideline for the ethical behavior that is expected of all of our members in both their everyday work, in their dealings with their boards and in the placement process. It has long been felt that we needed a more detailed and specific document to serve as a framework for the committee's proceedings. Our Vaad HaKavod Chair, Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer has labored for several years now to draft and refine a "Code of Ethics for Jewish Educators." Roz Stein and Lisette Naylor have assisted Alvan in his efforts and our Board has reviewed and revised the document several times. The final version was accepted and approved at our recent November Board Meeting.

The Code of Ethics for Jewish Educators is an extremely important piece of work and we have enclosed a copy for you in this mailing. We urge you to read it over carefully. Internally, this new Code will serve to guide our dealings as individuals within the field of Jewish education. Externally, it will serve to communicate to all the high standards of professional conduct that we set for our selves and too which we hold our members accountable.

*Yasher Koach* and thank you to Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, the Vaad HaKavod and to all those who made thoughtful contributions to this Code of Ethics.

## **JEA CONFERENCE SPONSORS**

. One of the ways we seek to manage the costs of the Conference is by soliciting sponsors for different pieces of the program such as lunches, dinners, workshops, speakers, entertainment, coffee breaks, etc. Sponsors may be individuals, organizations, businesses or corporations. You would be surprised how many businesses support these type of events. Sometimes, all you have to do is ask.

We ask you to help support JEA by seeking and soliciting individuals and businesses to take part as sponsors. All sponsors will be prominently recognized and credited in our Program Book. Sponsor forms were sent to you previously and are also available for downloading from our website [www.jewisheducators.org](http://www.jewisheducators.org). Click on 'Conference.'

## ***LET'S MEET IN ISRAEL IN 2010...BRING YOUR FACULTY TO ISRAEL!***

### **A Message from Dina Eliezer**

Let's meet in Israel in 2010 at the JEA convention. This is a great opportunity for you to bring your faculty to Israel and transform teaching about Israel to teaching the experience of Israel. It is possible! Thorough and early planning are the key elements needed to succeed. I did it in 2005, repeated it in 2007 and am planning now for the 2010 trip!

Join me in this effort. Learn how you can do it, too.

Find out...

- Why it is important for you, your community, our movement, and Israel.
- When to start planning.
- How to engage your faculty and congregation.
- How to get the funds.

Dina will be presenting a session at the JEA Conference on how to plan a faculty trip to Israel. Please plan on attending that session or for more information, contact Dina directly at [dinae@tbsonline.org](mailto:dinae@tbsonline.org).

## **JEA JOURNAL AD BOOK**

In association with our Conference, JEA publishes a Journal Ad Book. A detailed brochure detailing our honorees and an ad black were sent to you recently. The Journal Ad Book is both an important fundraiser for JEA and an opportunity to pay tribute to those being honored and to all Jewish educators. Please support JEA by soliciting and placing ads in our Journal. An additional ad blank is included with this mailing.

## **JEA HONORS...**

The Jewish Educators Assembly is especially proud to recognize and honor the following individuals for their outstanding dedication and unique contributions to the field of Jewish education. Award presentations will be made during the course of our Conference.

### **KETER TORAH AWARD – JANET AND MAYNARD GROSSMAN**

Maynard and Janet have devoted their lives to the advancement of Jewish education. Janet is a beloved educator at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago. Maynard is a Past President of the school as well as of the Chicagoland Jewish High School. He is the Executive Director of the Shalom Memorial Park and Shalom Memorial Funeral Home.

### **JEA / BEHRMAN HOUSE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DR. GERALD TELLER**

Rav Beit Sefer  
Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago

### **OR ZARUA AWARD – RICHARD S. MOLINE**

Director, KOACH College Outreach  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

### **ETZ CHAIM AWARD – DR. IRVING H. SKOLNICK**

Former Director of Curriculum Development and Liaison to USCJ  
Board of Jewish Education of Greater Chicago

## **IN THE JEA FAMILY**

### **Mazal Tov:**

Ardyth and Kenneth Sokoler on the birth of their son  
Mandy and Joel Cheskis on the birth of their daughter  
Rabbi Shelly and Gail Dorph on the birth of a new grandson  
Eddie and Anna Edelstein on the birth of twin granddaughters  
Rabbi Alvan and Marcia Kaunfer on the birth of a new grandson  
Lisette and William Naylor on the birth of a new grandson  
Serene and Michael Victor on the birth of a new grandson  
Marla Hoffman on her marriage to Marc Silverman

### **Nachamu, Nachamu Ami:**

Ella Levy on the passing of her father  
Ariel Dagan on the passing of his father  
We note with sadness the passing of Harold Malitzky, a longtime JEA member, board member and regional president.

### **Refuah Shleimah – Get Well Wishes to:**

Michael Halzel recuperating from back surgery

**ידידי** is published by the Jewish Educators Assembly, Broadway & Locust Ave., PO Box 413, Cedarhurst, NY 11516 Phone: 516 569-2537 Fax: 516 295-9039 E-mail: JewishEducators@JewishEducators.org Visit us on the web at [www.JewishEducators.org](http://www.JewishEducators.org)

Edward Edelstein, Executive Director

Lonna Picker, President