

JEWISH EDUCATORS ASSEMBLY
כנסת המחנכים היהודיים



בינינו

NEWS FROM THE JEA FOR ITS MEMBERS

APRIL, 2008 / NISAN, 5768

DELAWARE VALLEY REGION HOSTS GALA DINNER HONORING JEWISH EDUCATION

Our **Delaware Valley Region** hosted a Gala Dinner celebrating and honoring Jewish education on Thursday evening, March 13 at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, PA. More than 250 people attended the elegant, catered affair on a beautiful spring-like day. Fourteen synagogues from the region participated by honoring a teacher from their faculty and a lay person from their education committee. Each honoree was called up individually and presented with a certificate and a Mordecai Rosenstein print to commemorate the occasion. The guests were in a festive mood and cheered vigorously when the honoree from their synagogue was called. The evening was further enhanced with the presentation of United Synagogue's William B. Lakritz Award to an outstanding teacher.

The attendees were greeted by **Larry Katz, JEA President** and **Edward Edelstein, JEA Executive Director**. **Rabbi Jay Stein, Spiritual Leader of Har Zion Temple** delivered a D'var Torah. **Michael Schatz, Dinner Chair** presided over the program and **Rabbi Nogah Sherman, Regional President** and Host Principal joined in making the presentations to the honorees. The Har Zion Children's Choir also performed during dinner in celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary. Table centerpieces were made by the children of the Har Zion Religious School.

The Dinner was organized with the support and collaboration of the Mid-Atlantic Region of United Synagogue and we extend special appreciation to **Lew Grafman, Regional Executive Director**. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Lakritz Award by **Dr. Jack Porter, Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Region's Education Commission**. The award is named for Bill Lakritz, a longtime Principal in Philadelphia and a Past president of JEA. The award went to **Claire Spechler of Temple Beth Sholom, Cherry Hill, NJ**, a spry and spirited octogenarian, who literally jumped for joy and danced her way up to the podium to great cheers and applause. One can only imagine the energy that she brings to her classroom!

The Dinner was further enhanced with live music during the cocktail hour and a raffle drawing for a number of exciting prizes including a luxury box for a Philadelphia 76'ers game. There was also a Scroll of Honor printed affording friends and family the opportunity to pay tribute to the honorees.

It takes a real team effort to plan and prepare for such a festive evening. Many thanks to **Sherrie Klein** and **Phil Nordlinger** who worked on the planning committee along with **Rabbi Nogah Sherman**. **Yaffa Fuchs** did an outstanding job preparing the invitations and the certificates. A super **Kol HaKavod** to all and to our overall Dinner Chair **Michael Schatz**. **Well done!!!**

Visit our website www.jewisheducators.org view additional photos of the Dinner.

Delaware Valley Gala Dinner Honoring Jewish Education

March 13, 2008 - Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA



PLACEMENT

We are now going into what should be the homestretch of the Placement season. A number of positions have already been filled and more are in the final stages of negotiation. Nevertheless, there are still a good number of positions available with a few new ones recently added to the list. 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.

DUES

There are just a few of you who still have not paid dues for the current school year. Please help us to serve you better by paying your dues *NOW*, without the need for further billing and calling from our office.

We will once again be sending out dues bills for the 2008-09 school year in early June. Many of you have requested this early billing in order to use surplus funds from the current year's budget. As always, your prompt payment helps JEA.

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.

YOUR JEA OFFICE AT WORK

The months of March and April have been quite busy in the office. Some of our time has been spent doing follow-up and thank yous for our Chicago Conference, Honoree Dinners and Journal Ad Book. Here's a glimpse into all of the activities your professional organization is involved with and places where the Executive Director has represented the organization:

- March 6 - Long Island Regional JEA Meeting and Behrman House Luncheon
- March 9 – Delivered Greetings at Retirement Dinner for Leslie Goldress at New City, JC
- March 13 - LCCJ (Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism) meeting at JTS
- March 18 - Meeting with Marion Dienstag, Director of Development for the Davidson School at JTS to discuss joint projects and areas of collaboration
- March 18 - Meeting with the professional leadership of the youth and education arms of the movement to discuss joint projects and possible areas of collaboration
- March 25 – Meeting of the Advisory Board meeting for the Leadership Institute for Congregational Schools
- March 25 - Meeting with Rabbi Marc Wolf at JTS to discuss JEA involvement with Chancellor Eisen's Mitzvah Initiative
- March 26 – Meeting in Hartford, Connecticut with a group of principals who have the potential to be our Connecticut Valley Region
- March 31 - Workshop at UJA-Federation to consider the uses of social networks (i.e. Facebook, etc.) for Jewish organizations
- April 2-4 – Trip to Phoenix, Arizona for detailed planning of our 2009 Conference including meetings with the hotel, local principals, off-site locales and prospective honorees.
- April 9 – Program at JTS honoring Steve Brown

Additionally, we have had:

- Conference Calls with Officers
- Development Committee Conference Calls
- Calls and Meetings with Individual Officers
- Orientation Conference Calls for New Board Members
- Extensive and Lengthy Calls with JEA Candidates in Placement (its prime time!)
- Meetings with and selection of a Bookkeeper/Accountant to computerize and upgrade our bookkeeping and check-writing functions
- Phone Conference with Israel to begin planning for 2010
- Phone Conferences with our chairs for Phoenix, 2009
- Ongoing Negotiations with the DoubleTree Hotel to close out our bill for 2008
- Reservations and processing of payments for the Delaware Valley Dinner
- Receiving, recording and printing the Scroll of Honor for the Delaware Valley Dinner
- Billing and collection of outstanding dues (at this point, calling, e-mailing and faxing bills)
- Developing the program and agenda for our May Board Conference Call and our summer retreat at Pearlstone

Your JEA Office is here to help and serve you, our members. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail if you have questions or if there are areas where we can better meet your needs.

NEWS FROM JTS

We continue to work on fostering a close working relationship with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Davidson School of Education as partners in our profession. We continue to explore and share avenues of collaboration and cooperation. Please note the following updates:

CHANCELLOR EISEN'S ADDRESS TO THE JEA CONFERENCE

We were pleased to host Chancellor Arnold Eisen when the JEA met in Chicago this past January. The Chancellor gave a rousing and insightful talk that included a lengthy question and answer period. We have just received a detailed transcription of the entire exchange from JTS. We have enclosed an excerpt from the end of the Chancellor's address with this mailing. You can access the entire address and question and answer session on our website www.jewisheducators.org and click on 'News.'

CHANCELLOR EISEN'S MITZVAH INITIATIVE

In his address, Chancellor Eisen spoke of the "Mitzvah Initiative" that JTS is piloting in a number of synagogues and that they hope to roll out to the entire Conservative movement within a year or two. The Chancellor has challenged us to re-examine the way we look at the concept of mitzvah and the role that mitzvot play in our lives. JEA has expressed an interest in partnering with JTS in the development and execution of the educational pieces of this initiative and providing support and expertise in any way that we can. Toward that end, we have met with Rabbi Marc Wolf, Director of Community Development for JTS and the person overseeing the Mitzvah Initiative. We will be developing a liaison committee and a representative of JTS will meet with our Board this summer at the Pearlstone Retreat to inform and update us on this project. We also expect to provide sessions and information about the Mitzvah Initiative at our 2009 Conference in Phoenix.

L'HITRA-OT TO DEAN STEVE BROWN

Most of you are aware that our friend and colleague, Dr. Steven M. Brown will be stepping down as Dean of the Davidson School at the end of this academic year. Steve will be heading the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy (formerly the Akiba Hebrew Academy) in Philadelphia. During his tenure, Steve has taken the Davidson School to new heights, grown its student population, diversified its program offerings and been a strong partner with JEA in working on professional development initiatives. JTS paid tribute to Steve and his accomplishments at a "Roast and Toast" on April 9 with a nice JEA delegation in attendance. We will miss Steve's presence at the Davidson School, but we know that the field of Jewish education will continue to benefit from his vision and leadership for many years to come.

B'hatzlacha Raba, Steve!

BARUCH HA-BA TO DEAN BARRY HOLTZ

JTS recently announced that Dr. Barry Holtz, also a friend, colleague and longtime JEA member has been appointed to succeed Steve as the third Dean of the Davidson School of Education. Barry is currently the Theodore and Florence Baumritter Professor of Jewish Education at JTS. He leads courses on teaching classical texts, professional development for teachers, philosophy of Jewish education, and current issues confronting Jewish education. He also served for twelve years as co-director of the Melton Research Center for Jewish Education, where he supervised the writing and publication of several volumes of the Melton Graded Curriculum materials for Jewish schools across North America.

B'hatzlacha Raba and welcome, Barry! We look forward to working with you!

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:

Howard and Jill Goldberg on the birth of their son Elijah Adar
Michael and Elyse Schatz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Leah
Malka and Rabbi Sam Kieffer on the birth of a new grandson Amiel Azarya

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