

*On The **E.D.J.E.***

**E-Newsletter of the Department of Jewish Education
Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey**

Ed Rivkin, Chair

F. Penina Hoffnung, Director

VOLUME 254

FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDING MAY 7, 2010

Guide to Reading the
EDJE

Blue is for **EVERYONE**
If you are a **TEACHER**,
read this color,
If you are a **DJE BOARD**
MEMBER, this one,
A SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR, this.

Our Vision:
to ensure the
continuity of a vibrant
Jewish people

Our Mission:
Achieving dynamic &
meaningful lifelong
Jewish learning

Programming across
the continuum of
Jewish beliefs &
practice

Reaching out &
creating a welcoming,
inclusive
Jewish community

Creating highly
effective Jewish
teachers

Engaging our Jewish
community with the
land and people of
Israel.

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Shabbat Shalom,

Dear DJE Board,
I could discuss at length my reflections of our two Pesach programs; Passover University and Passover Prep School. Some of the wonderful threads in both were the hours of preparation done behind the scenes by the wonderful DJE staff and many volunteers. In addition it was a true team effort during the running of these community events. My thanks to all who participated. Neither of these events could have occurred without you. Also Thanks to those that arrived at the campus extra early to run the additional special program for 5th and 6th grade religious schools.

As you will read in this letter, we are anxious to grow and our board. We are looking for dedicated volunteers interested in Jewish education, advocacy, marketing, and/or fundraising. If you know someone who may have an interest in further strengthening community Jewish education and continuity through the DJE, please have them contact me.

Finally I want to thank Gilah and Megan for their dedication and passion while members of the DJE staff. We will miss you and wish you both the best.

Shabbat shalom,
Ed Rivkin
DJE Chair

Changes

Gilah Lewis Sietz has left the DJE Pro Dev team as of May 1, she stays on as Midrashah Teacher Trainer Extraordinaire, however.

Megan Nachod has taken a full time position with Philadelphia Federation Early Learning at the Rodeph Sholom location and will be leaving us on June 1.

Refuah shlemah to ***Harriet Baker***, who has rejoined us to help out on Midrashah, unfortunately took ill this week & recovering nicely at home.

Some musical notes...

GOT A KEYBOARDIST? It was bound to happen. **Frank Karasick**, who for decades has been volunteering his keyboarding talent at Midrashah graduation ceremonies by playing the processional & recessional marches, the national anthems, & at least once, Hava Nagilah—is *unavailable* this year for Midrashah

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**DON'T FORGET
TO BUY
HANUKKAH
STAMPS—The
word on the
street is they
may be**

Graduation on May 23rd. And it's our big 60th Graduation Ceremony! Anybody know anyone who can fill in for Frank?

SNJ GOES HA ZAMIR...

We are VERY close to becoming an official HaZamir chapter community. HaZamir, the famed North American Jewish teen chorale society, has 18 other chapters. If all goes according to plan, SNJ chapter will open for business in the fall of 2010, tentatively planned for Wednesday evenings. We've procured the services of the amazing musicologist **Marsha Bryan Edelman** as conductor. The group will be open to 8th graders and up. Beginning in 9th grade, students will be able to use their participation in HaZamir for one course credit at Midrashah. The program's timing will dovetail with Midrashah's Wednesday night offerings, so students can stay on to take a second Midrashah class if they choose.

In addition to local chapter rehearsals & performances, the HaZamir experience also includes a convention in the Catskills with chapters from across North America, & an annual performance at an impressive venue in NYC.

Vivian Lazar, the coordinator of HaZamir, told us "it's got all the social stuff that any good Jewish youth group does, kids make great friends & meet kids from all over, it's just got the music." "Like USY with talent?" we asked. She laughed & said, "Yes, or like 'Glee', only Jewish & not so much on the dancing."

The DJE's been busy seeking the blessings of all the area Cantors before proceeding, and is now in the stage of getting all the other logistical details in order before signing on the dotted line. If you know any talented teens entering 8th grade... please send them our way! If you want to learn more about HaZamir check out <http://www.zamirfdn.org/index.php?p=11>

NOT QUITE ROCK STARS, BUT INSPIRATION FOR SOME...On the EDJE learned this week that **THE SHUK**, the Israeli traveling performance & education program that just wrapped up its North American spring tour took its name from none other than the DJE/Board of Rabbis Culture Shuk of yore. SNJ native son, turned Shuk Star **Ami Yares** mentioned that in an interview in before a Rhode Island performance recently. Such naches!

KEFIADA 2010:

'Happy to announce our community's Kefiada representative for Summer 2010 is **Lisa Colton**, currently finishing up her studies at Cornell University.

**discontinued
otherwise!**

**Mitzvah
Opportunity**

**Please help
Sandee Kline**

Barrack's Athletic Director, Mitch Kline's wife. Donate a swab sample for Sandee. This **Sunday, May 9th** and swabbing will be free.

10:00 AM - 12:00

Noon

@ Congregation Sons of Israel, 720 Cooper Landing Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

(Please print and post the attached flyer if you are in a position to do so.)

12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

@ Torah Links, 304 D Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Unbeknownst to us, Lisa comes from great Jewish Education yichus/pedigree—she is the granddaughter of Harris Colton who was active in the Bureau of Jewish Education days. Thanks to **Jackie**, our DJE walking historian for making the connection when seeing the last name.

Lisa will be spending six weeks in our **Partnership Two Thousand city of Arad**, living like an Aradnik & doing all kinds of creative English-reinforcement activities at the Arad community center's day camp.

The DJE will again be hosting the Kefiada Orientation for the whole P2K cluster on June 10 at the Siris Teacher Resource Center.

Meanwhile, though not necessarily musical, at the DJE the beat goes on...

PRO DEV Rabbi Miriam Hyman is meeting individually with each congregation's educational director about their dreams and desires for professional training for themselves & their faculties in the coming school year.

CONGREGATIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS Ellen Marks is scheduling meetings to also meet with an educator & at least one lay leader from each congregation to explain some changes in the rules for reporting & receiving payment for the program at your school. Meanwhile, final reports for THIS school year are due.

GRANTWRITING To Saltzman: This week the DJE finished up requests for PJ Library, Early Intervention, and Future Leadership Scholarships.

Siris TRC: DOUBLE TAKES ABOUT A CAKE Our favorite past time these days is watching newbies to the TRC checking out Lyn Sanford's amazing handiwork for **Shavuot**. Out of nothing but paper, Styrofoam & imagination, Lyn has created a holiday cheesecake that's so realistic, people actually ask if they can have a piece. Stop by & see it for yourself M-Th 9-5, F 9-2.

PJ LIBRARY CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 392 out of a possible 400!

CELEBRATE!

Planning for May 23rd's big **MIDRASHAH 60th**

GRADUATION Celebration. Location: TBS. Interested in helping out or attending? Contact Jackie or Karen.

ALL ABOARD!!

Job One for the DJE leadership board is growing itself. A

major effort to re-build the DJE Board is now underway. Lots of time has been spent in learning about best practices in board development and structure, finding out what other central agencies are doing with their boards, and adapting it to our purposes. To learn more about the kinds of people we are looking to invite, the role of the new board, and more, contact Ed Rivkin, DJE chair erivkin10@yahoo.com

Opportunities for Further Learning Coming Up:
Wednesday May 12 Community Yom Yerushalayim Celebration at Congregation Sons of Israel Cherry Hill 6:30-8:00 p.m. Rabbi Epstein & ZOA director Morton Klein are slated to speak.

Sunday, May 16, 2010 --- OPENING THE GATES OF TORAH

Including People with Disabilities in the Jewish Community Keynote Speaker with Dr. Dan Gottlieb
3:00 - 7:00 PM Congregation Beth Or, Maple Glen, PA

Sunday May 16 Breaking Bread Together

An uplifting and enlightening panel discussion of noted scholars from each faith on PRAYER IN THE THREE TRADITIONS 2-4 p.m. Free, donations gratefully accepted. St. Thomas More Church 1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill


Monday May 17 Empowering Our Kids with

Maureen Healy An educational evening for parents & teachers of young children. Free, 7:30 p.m. Congregation Mkor Shalom. Sponsored by Early Childhood Educators Council & the DJE.

HEBREW SCHOOL TEACHER -
TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM, BORDENTOWN, NJ

Temple B'nai Abraham (TBA), a Reconstructionist Congregation in Bordentown, NJ seeks a teacher for their Hebrew School. TBA is a small congregation, with a small school (approximately 20 students) The school meets for 60 sessions each year on Sunday mornings, 9 -12 and Thursday evenings, 4 – 7. Please contact Charlie Weiss at 609 802-2766 /Charlie@jande.org.

FINAL WORDS *The passing this week of two rabbis—Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, who was Yasir Arafat's advisor and Rabbi David Forman who founded Rabbis for Human Rights-- on two very different fringes of Judaism gave us pause to reflect on the*



seemingly illogical diversity of our people & our faith. If these two men were both rabbis what can that say about Jewish unity? We are heartened by yet another rabbi, the Rav Kuk, who spoke on this very topic:

There are those who mistakenly think that world peace can only come when there is unity of opinions and character traits. Therefore, when scholars and students of Torah disagree, and develop multiple approaches and methods, they think that they are causing strife & opposing shalom. In truth, it is not so, because true shalom is impossible without appreciating the value of pluralism intrinsic in shalom. The various pieces of peace come from a variety of approaches and methods which make it clear how much each one has a place and a value that complements one another. Even those methods which appear superfluous or contradictory possess an element of truth which contributes to the mosaic of shalom. Indeed, in all the apparently disparate approaches lies the light of truth & justice, knowledge, fear and love of God and the true light of Torah.

L'hitra'ot! See you in a fortnight, supporters of Jewish Education!

"The Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey cares for those in need, enhances Jewish life and ensures the continuity of a vibrant Jewish community locally, in Israel and around the world.