

National Jewish Early Childhood Network



Celebrating 30 Years

Conference 2009 Program Information

From the Presidents



Dear National Jewish Early Childhood Network Members,

It is with excitement that we look forward to your arrival in Washington. The NJECN conference week provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and experience with colleagues while learning new methodology and practice. That learning is a gift that we can use in the many Jewish early childhood programs which we represent.

NJECN is strong and relevant and we continue to build our organization so that our mission is achieved and our growth progresses.

The theme of the conference this year is building community. The Tuesday school tours will visit two Jewish early childhood centers in the DC vicinity which are truly examples of how a well connected school community is built. Thank you to the school directors and teachers from Ohr Kodesh Early Childhood Center and Adas Israel Gan HaYeled for opening their schools to us. On Tuesday afternoon we have the unique opportunity to tour Washington, DC from a Jewish perspective.

We are counting on seeing all of you at our open membership meeting on Tuesday evening, November 17th, and at our special 30th Anniversary reception where you will be able to connect with your colleagues and friends, catch up on the events of the last year, and honor those special people who made it possible for us to come together and share our common interest.

Our program on Wednesday morning includes speakers who will address "Building Kehillah: EC Does It" from their individual perspectives.

The Shabbat dinner is a special time and we invite you to join us to participate in this warm yearly event. It will be held on November 20th at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel at 7:00 p.m. It is a wonderful way to celebrate with your colleagues and friends in a peaceful setting which can't be replicated at other times.

Again, we are so pleased to be able to welcome you to Washington and to the NJECN conference and look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes.

Jenna Kalkman and Leslie Slan Co-Presidents, National Jewish Early Childhood Network

Washington's Monuments Through a Jewish Lens

Join tour leader Steve Kerbel for this unique opportunity to see the sites of our Nation's Capital from a Jewish perspective

Tour highlights include

Washington Monument ~ the Einstein Statue ~ Lincoln Memorial
Roosevelt Memorial ~ Jefferson Memorial

Bus will leave from the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel at 2:30 p.m.

Washington Monument tour only: \$36

Participants in the morning School Tours (see page 2): \$18

Registration is required, deadline October 23

Tuesday, November 17 School Tour Day

Bus pick-up and drop-off at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel



8:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. School Tour

2:30—5:00 p.m. Jewish Washington Tour (optional)

The Washington DC metro area has a number of wonderful early childhood programs and we are thrilled you are coming to our "town" to experience the warm, close community that we have built together. As much as we would like to take you to every school, we have chosen Ohr Kodesh's Early Childhood Center and Adas Israel's Gan HaYeled for our tour day. Both schools are exemplary in building a close community within their school and synagogue. They have also participated in a number of joint community programs including the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning Israel in Our Mind, Heart and Soul and Gan- Early Childhood Education Israel Study Program and the Study Institute in Reggio Emilia, Italy, (Exploring Reggio Through A Jewish Perspective). Enjoy this exciting and productive Tour Day!

Adas Israel Gan HaYeled Nursery School

Adas Israel's Gan HaYeled was founded in 1975. Starting with one class of three -year-olds, the Gan has grown to over 230 children with classes for two-five year olds including a Parent/Toddler and Nanny/Toddler program for children 18 months and older. Located in Washington DC, the Gan, as it is usually called, has been NAEYC accredited since 1994, is a PJLL Commended School and has received a number of national and local awards. Building relationships with the student, parent and staff is a cornerstone of the Gan, and the longevity of their staff along with their incredible parent commitment and synagogue support help the Gan bring to life the values and rituals of our Jewish tradition in an exceptional early childhood program.

Shelley Remer, Director of Early Childhood Education



Ohr Kodesh Early Childhood Center



In the fall of 1980, a group of Ohr Kodesh parents formed a Jewish nursery school. These parents wanted a synagogue-based nursery school that would connect Jewish experiences with a developmentally appropriate educational environment for their children. On the first year 35 students ages 3-4 attended the school.

Today, 29 years later there are more than 100 students, ages 2-5 years old, and they are now an integrated school that operates between 8am – 6pm and accommodates different needs of families. Their compass is composed by five core values: Reciprocal dialogue, sense of belonging, Jewish identity, continuity, and

developmentally appropriate practice. Ohr Kodesh is also one of the JECEI initiative schools since 2005, thriving for high quality in the Jewish Early childhood education field, and intended to serve as an model preschool for others to emulate.

Joanie Smeltz, Director of Early Childhood Education

School Tour ONLY: \$65 per person—Members \$80 per person—Non—members

Includes transportation, breakfast and lunch

School Tour and Afternoon Monuments Tour (see page 1 for details): Additional \$18 per person

Registration is required, deadline October 23

Tuesday evening, November 17th

Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Independence Ballroom E , 7:30 p.m.



Open Membership Meeting

followed by a reception

Celebrating 30 Years of NJECN



Join us to honor our founders & past presidents with a special candle lighting ceremony and special guest Lilian G. Katz, Ph.D.

sharing stories and music from her new book *Intellectual Emergencies- Some Reflections on Mothering and Teaching* written in collaboration with her son Stephen J. Katz

Join your Jewish Network friends and colleagues to schmooze, nosh, drink, see old friends, make new friends. **Dairy dessert will be served.** Members will receive a **WELCOME BAG!**

No fee to attend meeting

\$10 fee for reception

Wednesday, November 18 Pre-conference Session

Washington Convention Center –Room 202B

Building Kehillah- EC Does It

- 8:00 a.m. Registration, visit the vendors
(Due to the increased cost of programming, we will not be offering food or beverage service)
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks by Jenna Kalkman and Leslie Slan NJECN Presidents
Welcome by James Hyman Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, Rockville, MD
A New Federal Focus on Early Learning by Dr. Jacqueline Jones
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Early Learning, US Department of Education
- 9:45 a.m. Rabbi Nina Cardin Director of Jewish Life, Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore
The Triple-Stranded Thread is Not Easily Broken: Family, Community and Peoplehood
- 11:00 a.m. Building Kehillah: The Many Perspectives
Jacob Blumenthal, Rabbi, Shaare Torah, Gaithersburg, MD
A Rabbi's Perspective
Amy Jones, Parent, Orh Kodesh Early Childhood Center, Chevy Chase, MD
A Parent's Perspective
Jackie Howell, Teacher and Early Childhood Consultant, Rockville, MD
A Teacher's Perspective
JoHanna Potts, Chief Operating Officer, Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, Rockville, MD
From the Perspective of Interfaith Families
Mark Horowitz, Director, Early Childhood Education, Jewish Community Centers Association, New York, NY
From the Perspective of a National Jewish Early Childhood Leader
Facilitated by Naama Zoran, Developmental psychologist and early childhood consultant, Haifa, Israel
Questions & Answers
Building Community: A Visual Perspective Slideshow from our NJECN early childhood centers
- 12:45 p.m. Closing remarks and vendor raffle
- 1:00 p.m. Optional lunch and roundtable discussions, Board of Directors debriefing

Box Lunches are available for advance purchase – \$30 per person

Registration is required, deadline October 23

Meet Jacqueline Jones

Dr. Jacqueline Jones joins the Department of Education from the New Jersey State Department of Education where she served as assistant commissioner for the Division of Early Childhood Education. Prior to state government, Jones worked for 16 years at the Educational Testing Service (ETS) as a senior research scientist and director of early childhood research and development. Jones also has been a visiting associate professor at Harvard University and a visiting scholar for the National Assessment of Educational Progress at ETS. Jones has directed numerous federally- and foundation-funded projects on early childhood learning. She has many published writings and conference presentations on the topic and has lectured extensively on the subject. Jones earned her doctorate and master's degrees in communication science and disorders from Northwestern University, and has a Bachelor of Arts in speech pathology from Hunter College.

Meet the Keynote Speaker

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin is the Director of Jewish Life at the JCC of Greater Baltimore. Ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1988, Rabbi Cardin then served the Seminary in numerous capacities, including Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Special Assistant to the Chancellor and Visiting Lecturer in Theology. Rabbi Cardin is also Editor of *Sh'ma: a journal of Jewish responsibility*. She was the Founding Associate Director of the National Center for Jewish Healing; and Founder of the Jewish Women's Resource Center at the National Council of Jewish Women in New York City. She is the author of several articles and books, including *Tears of Sadness, Seeds of Hope: a Jewish spiritual companion to infertility and pregnancy loss*, and *A Tapestry of Jewish Time: a spiritual guide to the holidays and lifecycles*. Rabbi Cardin is one of the founders of SHLEIMUT, a new multi-disciplinary program in the emerging field of Jewish health, healing and wholeness. She lives with her family in Baltimore, MD.



Friday, November 20 Shabbat Dinner



Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 7:00 p.m. Independence Ballroom G

Join us for an evening of song and celebration & Installation of the 2010 Board of Directors

Candlelighting available at sundown

\$54 per person—members

\$90 per person—non-members

Registration is required, deadline October 23

Saturday, November 21

Shabbat lunches available

12:30 p.m. pickup, Grand Hyatt Washington

\$45 per person

Registration is required, deadline October 23

Havdalah Service

Washington Convention Center, Room 141

6:00 p.m.

Meet the Pre-Conference Session Presenters

Jacob Blumenthal serves as the Rabbi at Shaare Torah congregation in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Rabbi Blumenthal spent many years during and after receiving his B.A. in Jewish Studies and English Literature from the University of Maryland, working as a USY advisor, regional youth director of the Seaboard Region of United Synagogue and as the assistant director in the international Department of Youth Activities of the USCJ. Rabbi Blumenthal graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary in May, 1999. His background includes extensive experience in “experiential” and “formal” education with all age groups, from young children through adults.

Mark Horowitz is Director of Early Childhood Education for the JCC Association of North America. He is the founding Executive Director of the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI). Mark holds a Masters Degree in Education from SUNY Buffalo and received his investiture and an honorary doctorate in music from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He served as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Buffalo, NY; the Director of Education and Early Childhood at Temple Beth Am in Williamsville, NY; Assistant Professor of Religion and Fine Arts at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY; and as Supervisor of student teachers and teacher of Sociology of Education and Field Experience at SUNY at Buffalo.

Jacky Howell has been working in the DC Metro early childhood community for over 35 years. She has been a preschool teacher, trainer, and keynote speaker. Currently she is doing consulting in classrooms working with teachers, children and families as well as continuing with her training. She has published two articles in *Young Children* and recently published an article in *Early Childhood Education Journal*, “Using Rituals and Traditions to Create Classroom Community for Children, Teachers, and Parents”.

Amy Berkowitz Jones, Ph.D. is an educational researcher and consultant from Chevy Chase, MD. Since completing her doctorate in Educational Studies in 2007, she has had experience gleaned critical insights relating to policy, strategy and performance through quantitative analysis in both academic and private sectors. Amy first became a part of the Ohr Kodesh Early Childhood Center in 2006. The purpose of this presentation is to share her experience and viewpoint as a parent of a child enrolled in a Reggio Emilia inspired multiyear class, where twelve children and two teachers stayed together for the duration of a three year preschool program.

JoHanna Potts is the Chief Operating Officer of the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning in Rockville, MD and is leading a major congregational education change initiative, CE21. Prior to coming to the Partnership, JoHanna served as the Director of Education at Temple Shalom and Director of the Primary School at Washington Hebrew Congregation. In community life, she served as vice-president of the former Board of Jewish Education, as well as chair of the Educator’s Council of Greater Washington. JoHanna received her A.B. from Washington University in St. Louis in Art and Archaeology and M.A. in Education and Human Development and Jewish Studies from George Washington University. Her masters thesis was on Interfaith Families in Congregations.

Naama Zoran is a developmental psychologist, and has her PH.D in Education. Naama is a private consultant for day care centers, preschools and elementary schools throughout Israel for the past 28 years. She initiated a number of different early childhood projects including: establishing a core curriculum for two year olds, creating an Early Childhood program in Tel – Chai College in Northern Israel and bringing and leading the Reggio Emilia Approach to Israel. For the last four years she has organized a National Early Childhood Conference in Israel that focuses on “pedagogical awareness”. Naama lives in Haifa, Israel.



Reservation/Membership Form



Please copy and complete one form for each participant

Please mail form and payment to:

Helaine Groeger, 11 Wonder View Court, N. Potomac, MD 20878

Questions? Call 301-354-3203 or email laine yg@aol.com

ACTIVITY	DATE	DETAILS	CHARGE	TOTAL
Annual Membership Dues			\$20 Teacher Host City \$30 Teacher \$40 Director \$40 Supporter \$55 BJE/Agency \$100 Vendor	
Special Membership			\$75 Contributor \$100 Friend \$150 Patron \$180 General school \$360 (staff of 25 or less) \$560 (staff of over 25) \$500 Angel \$1000 Benefactor Other:	
School Tour Day	Tuesday, 11/17		\$65 members \$80 non-members \$18 afternoon tour of DC (if registered for morning tour) \$36 afternoon DC tour ONLY	
Membership Meeting	Tuesday, 11/17	I plan to attend yes no	No charge	
Welcome Reception	Tuesday, 11/17		\$10 charge	
Pre-Conference Session	Wednesday 11/18	I plan to attend yes no	No charge	
Box Lunch	Wednesday 11/18		\$30 per lunch	
Shabbat Dinner	Friday, 11/20	Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____	\$54 members \$90 non-members	
Shabbat Lunch	Saturday 11/ 21		\$45 per lunch	
Havdalah Service	Saturday 11/ 21	I plan to attend yes no	No Charge	

All food served at NJECN events is certified kosher by **Rabbinic Council of Washington**
The Vaad Hakashrus of Washington

Total enclosed \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to "NJECN".

If paying with school/agency check, participant's name should appear on check.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

Your position _____ Types of programs offered _____

Synagogue Affiliation and type _____ *or* Agency Affiliation _____

Please note: All program fees are non-refundable after October 23, 2009

The Passover Fundraiser

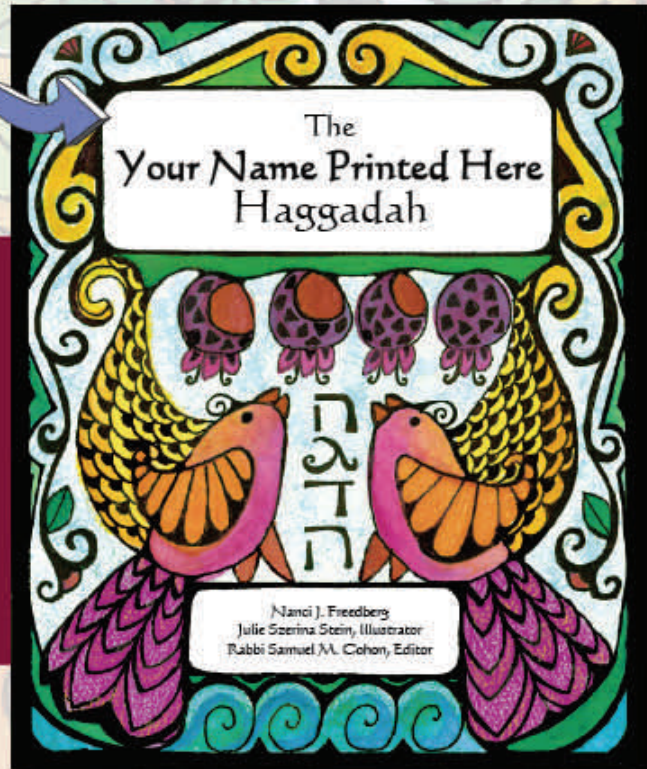
Personalized Haggadahs!

It's simple, practical and reinforces what is taught in the classroom.

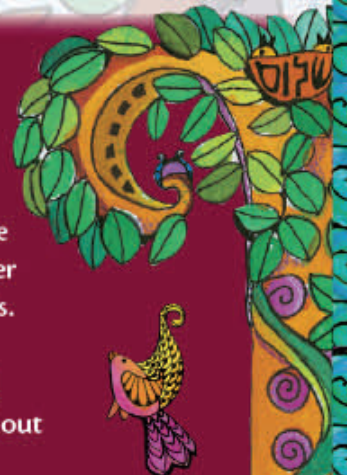
Haggadahs are sold for \$11/ea.
18% is given back to your organization

- Nearly 1,000 organizations have already participated
- No upfront costs & shipping is included
- No minimum orders
- No financial risk
- Order forms and marketing materials provided
- December–March fundraiser

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- The front cover of each Haggadah is personalized with first or last names.
- Families complete an entire Seder without skipping over essential Passover elements.
- The Haggadah is beautiful, complete and concise without extra interpretations.



Learn more: www.PromiseHaggadah.com

Leap into learning

Jewish Early Childhood Education at Gratz College!



- ◆ **Earn college credit online and add to your knowledge of early childhood education and Judaism**
- ◆ **Explore innovative curriculum practices**
- ◆ **Learn how to apply new techniques in the classroom**
- ◆ **Build your personal Jewish learning style**

All you need is regular access to a computer, basic knowledge about how to use email and the Internet, and about 4 hours a week for coursework, anytime...anywhere.

**For more information, contact
Lyndall Miller
Director of Jewish Early Childhood Education
lmiller@gratz.edu
215-635-7300, x 183 or go to our website
www.gratzcollege.edu**

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