



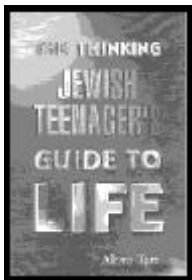
The Jewish Education Center Of Cleveland's Óã-- a newsletter for educators

Vol. VIII No. 3 **December 14, 2001** **á"ñùú àì ñèèè**

Adolescents

Being A Jewish Teenager in America: Trying to Make It, by Charles Kadushin, Shaul Kelner and Leonard Saxe (Massachusetts: Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, 2000).

The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies developed a comprehensive picture of the attitudes and behaviors of contemporary young Jews via a large-scale study of teens and their parents. Not surprising, the adolescents who responded to the survey care about being Jewish, but do not express allegiance to their religion by engaging in practices that set them apart from American culture in which they are trying to “make it.” This is an interesting snapshot of Jewish teens, and a “must read” for all who work with them.



The Thinking Jewish Teenager's Guide to Life, by Akiva Tatz (MI: Targum Press Inc., 1999).

This book provides Jewish teens with an approach to life's most important issues from an authentic Jewish perspective by examining basic elements of Jewish thought and practice. Within the pages of this book, Jewish youth will find keys to many of life's challenges, with avenues to re-examine their values and visions. The author demonstrates how Jewish ideas and principles can guide decisions, major life choices, relationships, and enhance personal growth.

With All My Heart, With All My Mind, by Sandy Asher (NY: Simon and Schuster, 1999).

In this anthology, 143 well known Jewish authors respond to the challenge of growing up Jewish in a uniquely personal way, offering stories from their heart, experience and imagination.



-Reviewed by Judy Fant, Director, Youth Initiative

Websites

JVibe (<http://www.jvibe.com>) is run by Jewish teens for Jewish teens, offering a place for adolescents to connect, share opinions, and explore Jewish culture.

Birthright Israel (<http://www.birthrightisrael.com>) has built an online community for Jewish teens who have participated or wish to participate in the Birthright Israel program. Besides program information, teens can take part in virtual tours, study texts, engage with prominent Jewish authors, or connect with friends.

-Reviewed by Maury Greenberg, Director, Technology Resources & Professional Development



Prejudice: The Monster Within. Knowledge Unlimited, 1996, 30 minutes, color.

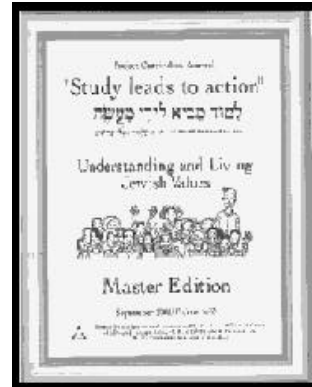
This video weaves interviews with middle and high school students discussing their own experiences and attitudes about prejudice, with background information of examples of prejudice, from slavery to the crisis in Bosnia. It examines the reasons that prejudice has developed, as well as how individuals can identify prejudice in themselves and work to overcome it. This video offers an interesting window into the minds of adolescents.

-Reviewed by Bonnie Shapiro, Ratner Media and Technology Center Associate

PCR "Study Leads to Action," Understanding and Living Jewish Values Curriculum NEW! Developed in 2001

Created for grades six through nine, this values/middot curriculum is a compendium of units on a variety of Jewish "big ideas" that target the major issues in an adolescent's life. Grade six focuses on the timely topics of *mitzvot* and God as students prepare for their *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*. Grade seven includes *dereh erez* (appropriate behavior), specifically targeting the teenage issue of *lashon hara* (gossip). Grade eight explores the values behind each section of Hillel's famous quote, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" giving students a chance to partake in a social justice project. Grade nine allows students to take social justice a step further, learning how to advocate for an issue of interest. Each unit includes background on the values, Jewish texts and copy-ready resource sheets for student use. Originally developed for a Reform supplementary school setting, the activities will also be successful in other movement schools, as well day schools.

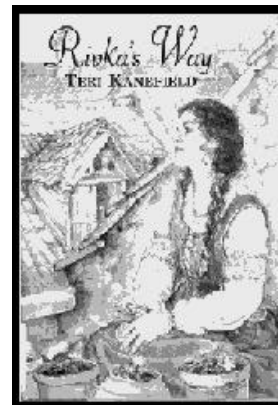
This curriculum may be purchased from the JECC Curriculum Department. For additional information, contact Estee Gold-Kaplan, Curriculum Department assistant (371-0446, x114).



-Reviewed by Melissa Bernstein, Curriculum Associate

Rivka's Way, by Teri Kanefield (Chicago: Front Street/Cricket Books, 2001).

Fifteen year old Rivka's parents have arranged for her to marry a man she has never met. She gets a stomachache just thinking about it! Adding to her distress is the fact that she has never been outside of Prague's Jewish quarter. Respectable Jewish girls living in the 18th century were expected to obey their parents, but Rivka rebels. Dressed as a boy, she explores the city and countryside and eventually is able to come to terms with her place in the world. Appealing characters, an engrossing plot, and a well-realized setting make this historical novel meaningful to modern teens.



-Reviewed by Linda R. Silver, JECC Librarian