



# The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland's

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*A monthly resource newsletter*

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**Editor's Note:** In this issue of *ùãâçä éôã* (*Dapei HaHodesh* - The Monthly Pages) we focuses on family education. Jewish tradition stresses the importance of learning together as a family unit. Of late, the field of family education has blossomed, incorporating drama, literature, educational trips, and text study into rich, authentic experiences. In addition, many institutions and individuals are utilizing the internet to deliver high quality Jewish educational programs into the home.

The Curriculum Resources Department welcomes your visits to the Ratner Media & Technology Center and Teacher Center to examine these recommendations and browse through our extensive collections.

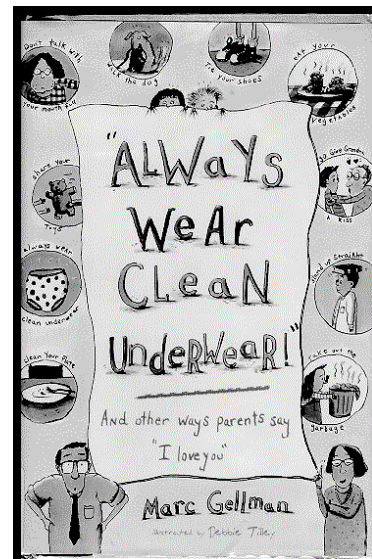
*L'shalom,*  
Maury Greenberg - Editor

### **LITERARY LINKS**, By Linda Silver

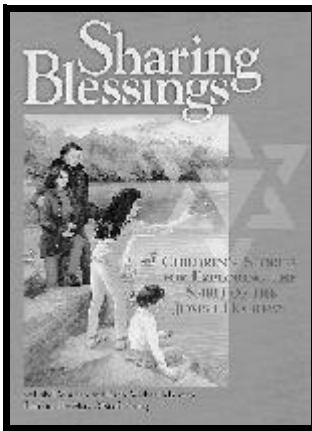
"Always Wear Clean Underwear" and Other Ways Parents Say "I Love You" by Marc Gellman. Illus. by Debbie Tilley. (NY: Morrow Junior Books, 1997).

Rabbi Gellman talks to kids about what he calls "the List" - those do's and don'ts that parents repeat over and over again. His point is that for every "Eat your vegetables" or "Don't pee in the pool"

there is a hidden meaning that helps kids get through life. Eating your vegetables helps you learn that what you want is not always what you need. Not peeing in the pool is a way of exercising self-control even when no one knows what you're doing. And why do parents have "the List?" In Rabbi Gellman's opinion, it's an expression of love, a crazy way of saying "I love you." Although addressed to young people, this is also enjoyable and instructive for adults because it provides some insight into behavior that often seems automatic. With very little Jewish content, it is still a wise and witty book. Recommended for grades 4 - 7 and adults.



Sharing Blessings: Children's Stories for Exploring the Spirit of the Jewish Holidays by Rahel Musleah and Rabbi Michael Klayhman. Illus. by Mary O'Keefe Young. (Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 1997).



The realistic experiences of a modern day Jewish family form a strand that connects these short stories about each of the holidays. Each holiday is given an appropriate theme - wonder for עֲשׂוּ אֵלֶיכֶם (*Tu Bi-Shevat*) and gratitude for יָמֵי פִּזְמוֹן (*Purim*), for example - which Ilana and David Kedner, their mom, dad, and grandparents discuss or in some way fulfill. At עֲשׂוּ אֵלֶיכֶם (*Tu Bi-Shevat*), David and Grandpa take a walk in the snow-covered woods, using their eyes and ears to note the small, but remarkable natural changes going on all around them. For יָמֵי פִּזְמוֹן (*Purim*), the Kedners enjoy all the usual celebrations and also fulfilling the Jewish obligation of וְיָבִיטְהוּ בְּחַיֵּי הַבְּרִיָּה (*bikkur holim* - visiting the sick), which they also take seriously all year. For parents who want to make the spirit of the holidays a meaningful part of their entire family's experience, this is a good way to inspire parent-child dialogue. Recommended for grades 2-5 and adults.



### TECHNOLOGY BYTES, By Maury Greenberg

The new blockbuster movie from DreamWorks "The Prince of Egypt"™ uses realistic animation, special effects, and songs to capture the imagination of children, drawing them into the Exodus narrative. By hooking into this pop culture phenomenon, parents and educators alike are presented with an outstanding opportunity to engage children in עֲשׂוּ אֵלֶיכֶם (*Torah*) study. The film raises interesting questions regarding the power of G-d, issues of identification, the sanctity of scriptures, and the role of midrash in exegesis. A number of teachers' guides, specifically designed to place the movie into a Jewish framework, are available in the Ratner Media & Technology Center and on the internet. [\*Note: Due to differences between the Exodus narrative as described in the עֲשׂוּ אֵלֶיכֶם (*Torah*) and portrayed in the movie, some Jewish educators have warned their communities' to err on the side of caution and not go to this movie. Please consult your local rabbi.]



### Prince Of Egypt Educator Guides

- "The Prince of Egypt™: For Religious Leaders, Lay Leaders, Parents & Teachers" (DreamWorks, 1998) available on-line at <http://www.sparksmag.com>
- "Prince of Egypt: For Grown-Ups Seeing The Movie With Children" (The BJE of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, 1998) available on-line at <http://www.bjesf.org/family/prince/index.html>
- "Family Time for Torah: Exodus" (Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education of Greater Philadelphia, 1998) available on-line at <http://libertynet.org/acaje/ftorah.html>
- Let My People Go...To The Movies (JCCA: 1998)

## Jewish Family Web Sites



[www.sparksmag.com](http://www.sparksmag.com)

Developed by Rabbi Mark Levine, this web site sets out to make Jewish learning fun and relevant. A potpourri of historical fiction, interviews, Jewish links, and sounds will keep the entire family entertained and informed.

The Jewish Travel's Family Department puts a Jewish spin on travel ideas and advice. Locate kosher food and Jewish sites for your next family trip. Parents sending their children to Israel on an Israel experience program will want to check out the article entitled, "When bundling your teenager off to Israel: Never let them see you cry."



[www.jewishtravel.com/family/famindex.html](http://www.jewishtravel.com/family/famindex.html)



[members.xoom.com/torahwizard/](http://members.xoom.com/torahwizard/)

Looking for new material to spice up your Shabbat dinner discussions? A number of organizations and movements have עוֹרֵךְ (Torah) sites available for on-line research. Better yet, the Torah Search Wizard will make you look like the family scholar. This site offers the luxury of searching through a list of עוֹרֵךְ (Torah) web site for a theme or idea of your choosing.

Jewish Web Week is a celebration of Jewish unity and diversity. Each February, thousands of Jews assemble on-line to explore the "Jewish Web" and participate in Jewish internet activities. Browse as a family and see what you learn. This year, JWW 99 will take place from February 21-26.



[www.jww.org](http://www.jww.org)



**VIDEO VIEWS**, By Bonnie Shapiro

Gefilte Fish, 30 minutes, color, Ergo Distributors.



The video, an entertaining how-to guide for gefilte fish makers, is an important study of the Jewish generation gap. As we view three generations' approach to preparing gefilte fish, we witness sharp contrasts in evolving Jewish, North American customs and values. The film is an effective trigger for discussing tradition and family rituals.

The Good Deed, 14 minutes, B&W, Boston BJE.

This trigger film strives to focus Jewish families on what is really important during preparations leading up to, and including, the *אַװױ ׁא* (*bar mitzvah*) celebration. It provides a humorous look as one family prepares for its "big day" without regard to the mental trauma experienced by the *אַװױ ׁא* (*bar mitzvah*) boy.

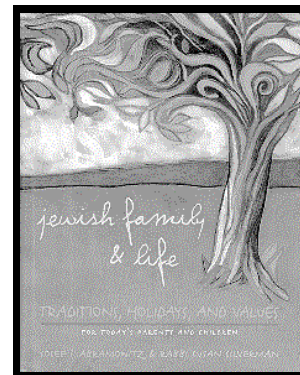


### CURRICULUM CORNER, By Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz & Julie Auerbach

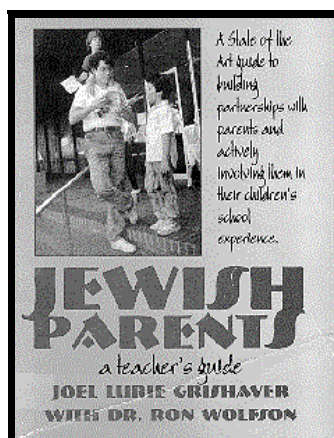
There are a wide variety of materials now available to those creating family education experiences. Quite a few of these resources have been reviewed in previous editions of *עֲדוּ עֲאֻ אֶע* (*Dapei HaHodesh*). They are "reprised" here along with a couple of newer materials for consideration.

Jewish Family and Life: Traditions, Holidays, and Values, by Yosef I. Abramowitz and Rabbi Susan Silverman (NY: Golden Books, 1997).

This is a great resource for parents looking for ways to incorporate Judaism into their family's lives; especially those who may be "coming back" to their heritage. The book does a masterful job weaving traditional information and texts with the real-life questions and concerns of parents - balancing religious priorities and secular life.



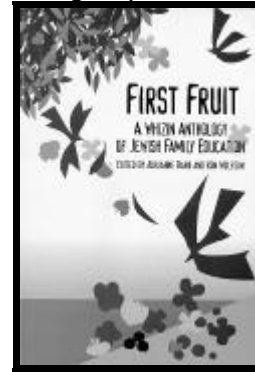
Jewish Parents: A Teacher's Guide, by Joel Lurie Grishaver, with Dr. Ron Wolfson (LA: Torah Aura Productions, 1997).



This resource helps create a bridge between the classroom and family life. There are sections devoted to family homework, family education days, and multi-generation classroom activities, among others. The focus is on opening teachers' eyes to the ways parents and teachers can be partners in their work of educating children.

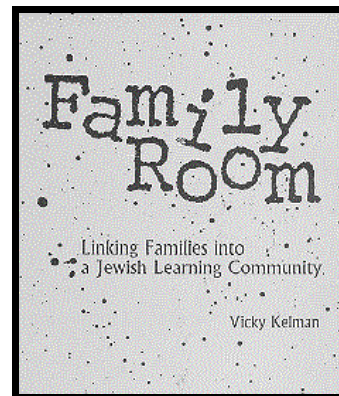
First Fruit, A Whizin Anthology of Jewish Family Education, edited by Adrienne Bank and Ron Wolfson (Los Angeles: The Shirley and Arthur Whizin Institute for Jewish Family Life, 1998).

This collection of thirty-six articles by leading family educators offers a broad spectrum of perspectives on the state of Jewish Family Education (JFE). A diverse group of authors, each considered a “pathfinder in family education,” provide unique perspectives. Highlights include articles on Whizin origins and personal experiences and insights from JFE pioneers. Articles explore different venues for JFE, including homes, synagogues, schools, and museums, camps, and trips. For example, Diane Tickton Schuster and Betsy Dolgin Katz write on adult education, highlighting key questions: When are adults ready to move on to their own learning beyond a JFE program? From where are these adults coming and what are their stories? What kinds of programs will suit them best?

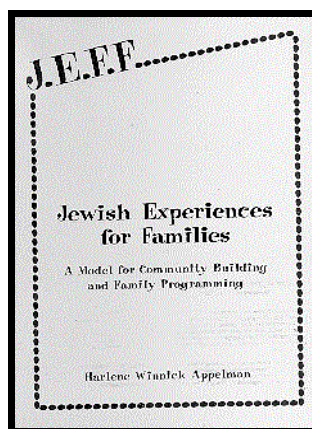


Family Room: Linking Families into a Jewish Learning Community, by Vicky Kelman (Los Angeles, CA: The Shirley and Arthur Whizin Institute for Jewish Family Life, 1995).

“Family Room is a model of education which seeks to build community among a small group of families, while at the same time strengthening the Judaic knowledge of each participating family. Different from a *חבורה* (Havurah - learning group), which focuses more on the adults, Family Room strives to involve children and adults as equal participants in the monthly two-hour meetings. The author states clearly that Family Room doesn’t replace more normative Jewish education experiences for the youngsters involved; rather, it can complement formal Jewish educational programs. Ms. Kelman provides family educators with an easy-to-use two year detailed outline of monthly meeting plans, including all normally hard-to-find materials. A great resource for family educators!

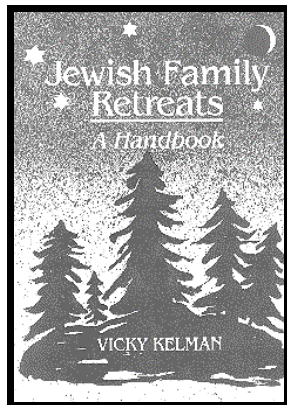


Jewish Experiences for Families: A Model for Community Building and Family Programming, by Harlene Winnick Appelman (Southfield, MI: Jewish Experiences for Families, 1995).



Jewish Experiences for Families (JEFF) is a community-based family education model. This book describes both the community-process that created and sustains JEFF, as well as specific program outlines including those designed as “extravaganzas” and others that target age levels, interests, or formats (congregation-wide programming and retreats). There is an unevenness in the quantity of material and details for different age groups. In spite of this limitation, family educators will find ideas to spark their thinking as they plan programs.

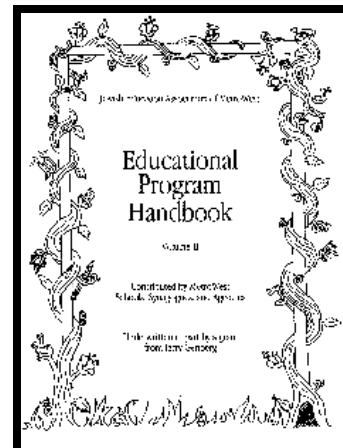
Jewish Family Retreats: A Handbook, by Vicki Kelman (NY: The Melton Research Center for Jewish Education, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America AND Los Angeles, CA: The Shirley and Arthur Whizin Institute for Jewish Family Life, 1992).



This book provides guidance for those creating family camp/retreat experiences, from the time of the decision to do so until the program concludes and is evaluated. A potpourri of program ideas are given, as well as copies of handouts used in actual events, helping the planners move from step to step in the process, with very concrete guidance.

A Collection of Family Programs, (MetroWest Detroit: Jewish Education Association of MetroWest, 1995).

This is a HUGE collection of family education programs developed by congregations and other organizations following an easy to read format. Not every program fills in the specific details of minute-by-minute how-to's, but enough information is provided (along with a contact person) for a family educator to apply to his or her own setting. A second volume of this collection, Educational Program Handbook, Volume II, provided classroom materials and includes a strong family education section. Both these volumes were underwritten in part or full by a grant from Jerry Genberg.



**All items reviewed in עֲדוּמָה עֲאֻמָּה (*Dapei HaHodesh*) are available in the Ratner Media & Technology Center or the Teacher Center of the JECC.**

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