



# RATNER MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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**JEWISH  
EDUCATION  
CENTER  
OF CLEVELAND**  
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**Staffed Hours:**  
**Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday**  
**8:30 am—5:00 pm**

The RMC, with the collaboration of area synagogue and Jewish school librarians, is excited to offer two summer reading programs:

- Preschool through grade four will be challenged to participate part in a reading program that culminates at an end-of-summer Mitchells Ice Cream and Hebrew Storytime Party.
- Grades 5-7 are invited to join a summer book club that will read two of the books mentioned about social responsibility in this newsletter: ***The Night of the Burning*** (Linda Press Wulf, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006) and ***The Storyteller's Beads*** (Jane Kurtz, NY: Hartcourt Brace & Co., 1998). The group will meet for discussions, drama, arts and other activities. The first 12 students to enroll will receive a free hardcover copy of the first book. Designed so children at camp can participate, too!

כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֻבִים זֶה לַזֶּה

(Kol Yisrael arevim zeh la-zeh)

*All of Israel is responsible for one another.*

Babylonian Talmud, Shevuot 39a

Renew your teaching by reexamining issues of social responsibility this summer. Check out the following accounts of real Jewish heroes who exemplified the *Talmudic* phrase, "All of Israel (i.e., all Jews) are responsible for one another:"



- Middle school students will find the true story of the Ochberg Orphans interesting and poignant. Isaac Ochberg's courage and generosity made a difference in the lives of 200 young orphans. The Sidney Taylor award winning book, ***The Night of the Burning*** (Linda Press Wulf, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006), tells how the Jewish philanthropist, Isaac Ochberg takes Devorah and her sister, both orphaned by *pogroms*, along with other "Ochberg Orphans" to South Africa. (For grades 5—8). A documentary, ***Ochberg Orphans*** (England: Rainmakers Film, 2008, DVD, 39 min.) contains unique archive footage and testimony from the surviving orphans. Also, view the website <http://ochbergorphans.com/> to learn more about the philanthropist and his orphans.

- Another story of a Jewish philanthropist's work is the illustrated book, ***Dear Mr. Rosenwald*** (Carole Boston Weatherford, NY: Scholastic Press, 2006). It is told through the viewpoint of a young African American girl, Ovella who attends a school built the Rosenwald Fund. From 1917 to 1932, Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., donated millions of dollars to build schools for African American children in the rural South. (For grades 3—6). For further information about the Rosenwald Fund, view ***Rosenwald Schools Initiative***. *National Trust for Historic Preservation*. <http://www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/sites/southern-region/rosenwald-schools/>

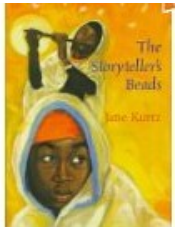
- The heroic story of the child's rights activist is retold in the chapter book ***Janusz Korczak's Children*** (Gloria Spielman, Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2007). Korczak was a doctor who established a Jewish orphanage in Warsaw. When the children were to be deported to a concentration camp, Dr. Korczak was offered his freedom. He refused and boarded the train with the children to Treblinka. (For grades 4—8).



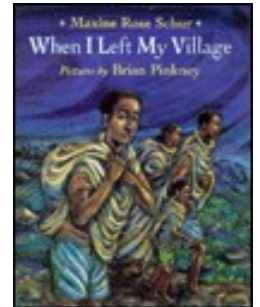
- The film ***Raid on Entebbe*** (Thorn Emi Video, 2007, DVD, 113 min.) retells of a heroic rescue by Israelis. In June 1976, terrorists hijacked an Air France plane and forced it to land in Uganda's Entebbe Airport which was years ago had been designed by Israelis. The Jewish passengers were held hostage, but because of their insider's knowledge, the Israeli forces sieged the airport and bravely rescued the hostages. Directed by Irvin Kushner. (For grades 7 and above).

The Jewish people have historically been socially responsible, extending beyond their own country's borders. In the 1980s, Ethiopian Jews, called *Beta-Israel*, fled from persecution and famine to Sudanese refugee camps. In 1984, "Operation Moses" began the airlift of *Beta-Israel* to Israel. Further "Operations" took place to rescue the Ethiopian Jews in the years to follow. The stories and films below reflect the heroic efforts and bravery of the Ethiopian Jews and those who aided in their rescue:

- A blind Jewish girl and a Christian girl overcome prejudice and suspicion as they help one another on a hazardous exodus from Ethiopia to a refugee camp in the Sudan in ***The Storyteller's Beads*** (Jane Kurtz, NY: Hartcourt Brace & Co., 1998) A teacher's guide is available.



- In the story ***When I Left My Village***. (Maxine Rose Schur, Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996), 12-year-old Menelik and his family are Ethiopian Jews who courageously escape from drought and persecution. They travel at night on foot through mountains, plains, and desert to a Sudanese refugee camp. From there, the people are airlifted to Israel; given homes, clothing, and food; and assimilated into a culture that offers them freedom, safety, and equality. (For grades 2–4).



- The film ***Live and Become*** (Menemsha Films, 2009, DVD, 140 mins.) centers on the beginning of "Operation Moses" airlift of *Beta-Israel* to Israel. A Christian woman in a Sudanese refugee camp wants a better life for her nine-year-old son in Israel. An Ethiopian Jewish woman, whose son has recently died, agrees to pass the boy off as her own son. But in Israel, the adopted mother dies. He is adopted by a liberal Israeli couple with two children. The wife becomes a fiery defender of the boy against the prejudices he faces as he begins a new life. Written and directed by Ra-du Mihaileanu. (For grades 9 and above).

- ***Falasha: Exile of the Black Jews*** (New York: Wellspring, 2004, VHS, 80 mins.) This documentary reveals the plight of Ethiopia's Jewish community and explores the politics that led to their amazing modern day exodus. Directed by Simcha Jacobovici. (For grades 9 and above).

Ever wonder how your small action can impact many? Check out the following sites and materials for ways to help your students become socially responsible:

- The May 2009 issue of ***Educational Leadership*** ([www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org)) is focused on the teaching of social responsibility. Contact the RMC to borrow a copy of the journal, or read selected articles online.
- ***The Teen Guide to Global Action: How to Connect with Others*** (Near & Far) to Create Social Change (Barbara A. Lewis, Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit, 2008) tells the stories of teenage change-makers while providing practical tools that can be used to get teens involved (e.g., how to research issues and map out projects, "quick tips" for fundraising, making protests and other actions, etc. (For grades 9 and above).
- "The Take Action Now" section of the ***Simon Wiesenthal Center*** website <http://www.wiesenthal.com/siteapps/advocacy/ActionCenter.aspx?c=IsKWLbPJLnF&b=4442025> contains lists of current situations worldwide which threaten Jewish livelihood. One event, for example, is the Iranian president's speech to the UN. Viewers click on the situation and partake in email or print letters protesting the occurrences.
- Individual and group actions taken against genocide, such as the Darfur Photography exhibit, are displayed in the *Preventing Genocide: Learn More and Take Action* section of the ***United States Holocaust Museum website*** [http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/take\\_action/action/community\\_in\\_action](http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/take_action/action/community_in_action).

The JECC has a wonderful "suitcase curriculum" for local loan that has a number of units that help children explore the ways the Cleveland Jewish community has shown responsibility locally and beyond. Contact Nachama Moskowitz ([nmoskowitz@jecc.org](mailto:nmoskowitz@jecc.org)) for more information on using these next year in class.