



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

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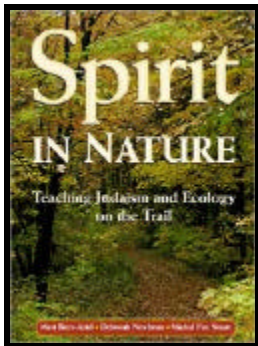
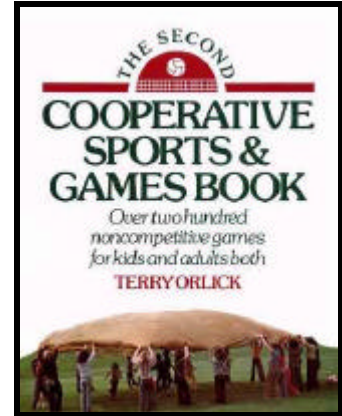
May 10, 2002

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Beyond the Classroom

The Second Cooperative Sports & Games Book, by Terry Orlick (NY: Pantheon Books, 1982)

The idea behind this book is simple: people should play together, not against each other. Terry Orlick created and collected over 100 games based on cooperation, not competition, for people of every size, shape, age, and ability, from pre-school to senior citizens. User friendly, this book is organized by age groups and contains photos, descriptions, and instructions. This rich resource offers many group building, non-competitive physical activities that foster cooperation and problem solving, while nurturing acceptance and sharing. Its approach and concept strongly connect with the Jewish understanding and values of ãì éã÷ (*kehilah*; community), and ì àøÜé í ò (*Am Yisrael*; the People of Israel).



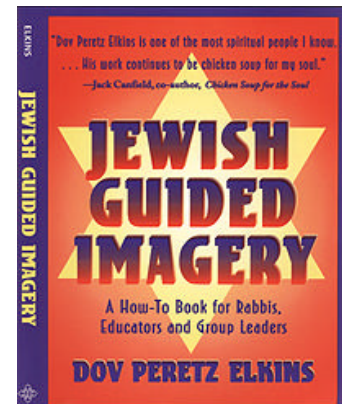
Spirit in Nature: Teaching Judaism and Ecology on the Trail, by Matt Biers-Ariel, Deborah Newbrun, and Michal Fox Smart (NJ: Behrman House, 2000)

This book is an invaluable resource that offers ways “to turn an ordinary walk in the woods into a journey of the spirit.” The activities have the potential of creating “Aha” moments, linking Jewish texts, prayers and blessings with nature experiences. It also includes information about the environment and the Jewish responsibility for caring for the earth. Easy to use, well organized and formatted, each activity provides ages, hiker’s goals, timing, materials, procedure, and questions for discussion. Each chapter focuses on a different aspect of outdoor experience, with topics such as Opening Our Eyes to Miracles, Trees - The Torah of Life, and Making *Makom* - Places in Nature.

-Reviewed by Judith Schiller, Director, JECC Retreat Institute

Jewish Guided Imagery by Dr. Dov Peretz Elkins (Princeton, NJ: Growth Associates Publishers, 1996)

Dov Peretz Elkins ventures into the realm of guided imagery explaining how these exercises can be a dynamic way to “hook” the learner into a subject and create deeper, more personalized levels of understanding. They can be used in a wide variety of formal and informal educational settings and occasions. Elkins provides insight into the goals and purposes of guided imagery, along with guidelines, preparation techniques and “how to’s” of setting the atmosphere for experiences of high impact. Included are almost twenty guided imagery scripts for the Bible, Rabbinical literature, Jewish history, prayer and Shabbat. This is an excellent introduction to learning and implementing this exciting “beyond the classroom” educational technique.



-Reviewed by Oren Massey, JECC Retreat Institute Educator

The Encyclopedia of Icebreakers: Structured Activities that Warm-Up, Motivate, Challenge, Acquaint and Energize, by Sue Forbess-Greene, L.M.S.W (CA: Jossey Bass/Pfeiffer, 1983)

This resource is full of activities that can be applied to a variety of learning situations, both formal and informal. The activities are well outlined, highly detailed, require a minimal time commitment, and are easily adaptable.



Escapades! (Las Vegas, NV : Talicor, Inc., 1996, Item #6600)



This resource is a must-have for all formal and informal educators. It contains hundreds of activities and games that can be used in classrooms, on retreats, at educational programs and events, whether indoors or out. Escapades! an index box full of activities, including cooperative group games, cooperative challenges, partner games, and “thrills & skills.” Each section is subdivided according to varying energy levels. One side of each card outlines and describes the specific activity and the other side illustrates the activity in picture format. Winner of the Parents’ Choice Gold Award. Adaptable for all age groups.

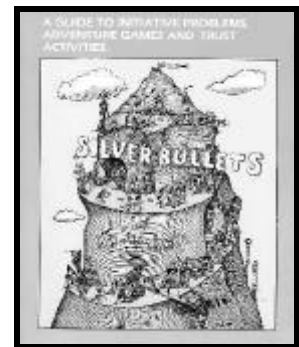
-Reviewed by Marla Korenstein, JECC Retreat Institute Educator

Silver Bullets, by Karl Rohnke (IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 1984)

Cowstails and Cobras by Karl Rohnke (IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 1989)

Quicksilver by Karl Rohnke and Steve Butler (IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 1995)

These fun and easy to read volumes are brimming with information and ideas to help a leader understand the underlying theory of experiential education and get started in designing an “out of the box” adventure-based program to suit a group’s specific needs. The books focus on sequencing, debriefing and closure and can guide the creation of a group building program that includes adventure, leadership, ice-breakers, initiatives and trust building.



-Reviewed by Jill Cahn, JECC Retreat Institute Educator

Websites

www.torahtrek.com Founded by Rabbi Mike Comins, TorahTrek teaches skills and provides opportunities for those whose spiritual journey leads through mountains and deserts, canyons and rivers.

www.jewishnaturecenter.org The Jewish Nature Center exists to promote Jewish environmental nature education in formal and informal educational settings.

www.jewishprograms.org Jewish programs is a pedagogic introduction of activities, programs and resources in Jewish education, created by The Joint Distribution Committee in Paris, International Community Development.

-Marla Korenstein, JECC Retreat Institute Educator

ERRATA

In the March 14, 2002 issue of *Daf: A Newsletter for Educators*, Claudia Z. Fechter’s name was omitted as author of the catalog and co-curator of the exhibit *For Everything A Season: Jewish Ritual Art In Cleveland*. The JECC apologizes for this error and directs readers to the JECC website, www.jecc.org, where the correct citation appears. [A virtual tour of the exhibit can be found at www.csuohio.edu/art/gallery/JewishRitualArt/index.html]