



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

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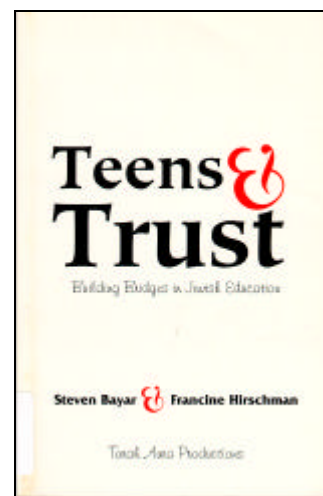
Tuning Into Teens

The front page of this issue looks at ways to guide our teenagers in the development of their Jewish identity. The back page offers a list of books and web sites that teenagers may be interested in reading or exploring themselves. – Felicia Rosen, editor.

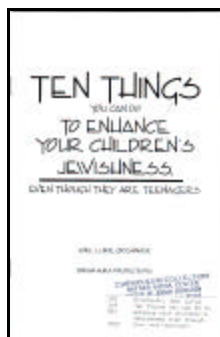
Teens & Trust: Building Bridges in Jewish Education, by Steven Bayer & Francine Hirschman (Los Angeles: Torah Aura Productions, 1993).

Teens & Trust is a “must-read” for all youth workers, teachers of adolescents and family educators! In a well thought-out manner, the authors explain the need for adults to plan the building of trust with teenagers. The book begins by exploring the *halahic* imperative to create trust between teacher and students, and then goes on to explore the characteristics of strong teachers. It also includes games, exercises and strategies for building trust.

The majority of the book explores scenarios and potential responses from Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform supplementary schools, summer camps and day schools. These scenarios help teachers, school directors and camp staff work with adolescents on issues of love and happiness, cheating on tests, eating disorders, peer relationships, and domestic violence (to name a few).



Ten Things You Can Do To Enhance Your Children's Jewishness -- Even Though They Are Teenagers, by Joel Lurie Grishaver (Los Angeles: Torah Aura Productions, 1994).



Based on three principles (personal influence, integration and repentance), Grishaver addresses ten common concerns in raising Jewish teens. Stressing that the desire to be “more Jewish” must come from within the teenager, Grishaver explains ways to help foster increased identity. This 15-page pamphlet's audience is parents, but it is also a great tool for family educators, teachers and youth workers. From parental modeling, summer camp, mentoring, to SATs, Grishaver gives great advice for anyone looking for a way to enhance a teenager's Jewish identity.

-- Both books are reviewed by Melissa Bailin Bernstein,
Curriculum Associate

Web Sites

For Jewish teen virtual communities that feature articles, creative writings, teen-submitted art and chat-rooms. Check out:

- Teen-To-Teen at <http://www.ttt.org.il>
- Jvibe at <http://www.jvibe.com>

For the latest in Jewish music, visit www.jewishmusic.com

-- Compiled by Maury Greenberg,
Director Of Technology Resources

Recommended Reading

Some excellent novels for teenagers have been published within the last year. They deal with issues that adolescents grapple with in real life: Jewish identity, personal autonomy, values and sexuality.

The Singing Mountain by Sonia Levitin (NY: Simon and Schuster, 1998).

Jewish identity and a young man's search for spirituality are the intertwined themes of this engrossing novel set in present-day California and Israel. To his assimilated parents' dismay, Mitch adopts an observant Jewish lifestyle. Mitch's cousin, Carlie, tries to reconcile the family as well as her own feelings toward Mitch.



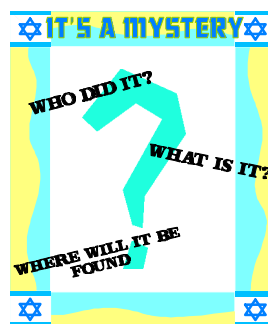
Two Suns in the Sky by Miriam Bat-Ami (Chicago: Front Street/Cricket Books, 1999).

This novel is set in the 1940s in Oswego, New York -- the site of the Emergency Refugee Shelter, the only shelter to be set up on American soil during World War II. Against this historical background, the novel explores a friendship and romance between an Irish-American girl from a devout Catholic family and a Jewish refugee boy from Yugoslavia.

-- Both books are reviewed by Linda R. Silver,
JECC Librarian

It's a Mystery

This game offers a new twist for reviewing information on Israel for middle and high school students. Students travel through bustling Israeli cities, rugged terrain and ancient sites. Players need to solve puzzles and mysteries to find out "who did it," "where the crime took place," and "what was stolen." These puzzles will allow students to practice their Hebrew decoding skills and review the history and geography of Israel. This game takes about 45 minutes to play and can be used in formal and informal educational settings. Students can play this game individually or in teams.



-- Created by Marci Rogozen & Ronna Fox,
Teacher Center Co-Directors