

National Jewish Early Childhood Network



Conference 2007 Program Information

From the President



Dear National Jewish Early Childhood Network Members,

It is with excitement that I look forward to your arrival in Chicago. The NJECN conference week provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and experience with colleagues while learning new methodology and practice. That learning is a gift that we can use in the many Jewish early childhood programs which we represent.

NJECN is strong and relevant and we continue to build our organization so that our mission is achieved and our growth progresses.

The conference this year will be filled with programming that is truly thought provoking. The Tuesday school tours will provide you with views of Jewish early childhood centers that offer developmentally appropriate preschool curriculum, relationship based practice, emergent curriculum, Reggio Emilia philosophy, documentation, Jewish Accreditation, early literacy, pre-math programs, implementation of traditional educational theories and Jewish tradition. Thank you to the school directors and teachers from the Board of Jewish Education Early Childhood Centers, Moriah Early Childhood Center and North Shore Congregation Israel Gates of Learning Preschool for opening their centers to us.

We are counting on seeing all of you at our open membership meeting on Tuesday evening, November 6th and at "Jazz it up in Chicago!", our welcome reception where you will be able to connect with your colleagues and friends and catch up on the events of the last year.

Our program on Wednesday morning includes speakers who will address "The Pedagogy of Shema" from their individual perspectives. Dr. Alise Shafer has had much experience with the use of documentation as data for classroom research on children's construction of knowledge. Rabbi Karyn Kedar is known for her ability to guide people in their spiritual growth and Maxine Handelman has early childhood expertise as well as deep Judaic knowledge. The experience and wisdom of these three talented presenters will shed additional light on the Tuesday tour day and weave our program together while teaching us. We will have an opportunity on Wednesday afternoon to reflect and process all that we have learned.

The Shabbat dinner is a special time and I invite you to join us to participate in this warm yearly event. It will be held on November 9th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago at 7:00 p.m. It is a wonderful way to celebrate with your colleagues and friends in a peaceful setting which can't be replicated at other times.

Again, I am so pleased to be able to welcome you to Chicago and to the NJECN meeting.

With best wishes.

Nina Chaitin

President, National Jewish Early Childhood Network

Special thanks go to the following organizations and schools for their generous contributions to help offset the cost of programming.

The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
The Community Foundation for Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago
The Jewish Community Centers of Chicago
The Board of Jewish Education Early Childhood Centers of Metropolitan Chicago
Moriah Early Childhood Center
North Shore Congregation Israel Gates of Learning Preschool

Tuesday, November 6th School Tour Day

Bus pick-up at the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel
and drop-off at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel 7:45 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.



Option 1

North Shore Congregation Israel Gates of Learning Preschool

North Shore Congregation Israel Gates of Learning Preschool is a half day Jewish Preschool serving children 15 months to 5 years old in classes ranging from 1 day per week to 5 days per week, with optional extended day programming. The Preschool unites Jewish tradition with developmentally appropriate preschool curriculum; it emphasizes the building of relationships between teachers and children, teachers and families, families and families, and families and synagogue. A highly qualified staff and uniquely small ratios are the Preschool's greatest assets. Gates of Learning is accredited by NAEYC and by The Early Childhood Kehillah of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Director, Marsha Richman. Breakfast will be provided.



Option 2

Moriah Early Childhood Center



At **Moriah Early Childhood Center**, the staff is a cohesive community of advanced degree professional teachers and consultants all committed to a philosophy of Jewish life long learning. Relationships are valued and nurtured, with intentionality given to the formation of partnerships between and across children, staff and families in our program. Within our unique establishment of a preschool operating within a day care center, we program for children 12 months (parent/ toddler classes) through 6 years of age. Jewish values and traditions are seamlessly integrated into an emergent curriculum inspired by the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Having been chosen as 1 of 13 schools to participate in a national program to enhance educational quality, Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI), every facet of our program has evolved with tangible evidence of growth apparent in our environment, professional development, parent participation and documentation. Join us to see what makes Moriah a kehilla k'dusha [sacred community] of children, parents and faculty. Moriah ECC is accredited by NAEYC and by The Early Childhood Kehillah of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Jill Kantor, Director. Breakfast will be provided.

Both busses will join together at Moriah for a catered lunch,
followed by an afternoon tour.

Afternoon Visit

Board of Jewish Education Early Childhood Centers

The final stop will be the Board of Jewish Education Early Childhood Center at B'nai Tikvah. Founded as a lab school, the NAEYC accredited Board of Jewish Education Early Childhood Centers of Metropolitan Chicago have the objective of integrating leading research on children's social, emotional and intellectual development into a Judaically-based curriculum. From a beginning enrollment of 14 in 1975, we are now five schools with an enrollment of 500 children. For over 30 years, the Board of Jewish Education Early Childhood Centers (BJEECC) have been at the forefront in implementing new preschool concepts ie: Vivian Paley/Erikson Institute's Early Literacy program, a pre-math program from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Vygotsky's theories. The BJEECC was instrumental in introducing the acclaimed early childhood program developed in Reggio Emilia, Italy to the Chicago area Jewish early childhood community; it is a natural integration into our program as it combines the very best of theories of child development with our curriculum. Our professional staff is a collaborative group of learners that are on a continuous journey of learning and growing. Nancy Manewith, Director of the BJE Early Childhood Centers.



\$65 per person – Members

Choose Option 1 or Option 2 on registration form

\$75 per person – Non-members

Registration is required, deadline October 25

Tuesday evening, November 6th
Hyatt Regency Chicago Cominsky Room, 8:00 p.m.

Open Membership Meeting

followed by a reception

Jazz it up in Chicago!

Join your Jewish Network friends and colleagues to schmooze, listen to music, nosh, drink, see old friends, make new friends.

No fee to attend meeting

\$8 per person for reception

Wednesday, November 7 Pre-conference Session

McCormick Place Conference Center -South Building S401

The Pedagogy of Shema:

Listening and Collaborating with Children, Families and Colleagues

- 8:00 a.m. Registration, bagel nosh, visit the vendors
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks by Nina Chaitin NJECN President
Welcome by Peter Friedman Executive Vice President, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
D'var Torah by Mark Horowitz Director, Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative
- 9:30 a.m. Maxine Segal Handelman
Consultant for Early Childhood Education, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
"Partnering with Families - Guiding the Journey"
- 10:00 a.m. Dr. Alise Shafer, Director, Evergreen Community School, Santa Monica, California
"Head, Heart and Soul: What it Takes to Listen "
- 11:45 a.m. Rabbi Karyn Kedar, Senior Rabbi, Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, Glenview, IL
"Shema: Listening to the Whispers of God"
- The morning program ends at approximately 1:00 p.m.
- 1:45 p.m. Optional facilitated small group discussions
Follow-up to tour day, morning session, etc.

Box Lunches are available for purchase - \$28 per person

Registration is required, deadline October 25

Meet the Speakers

Alise Shafer is the founder and director of Evergreen Community School in Santa Monica, CA where she and her faculty make extensive use of documentation as data for their classroom research on children's construction of knowledge. She is also a coach for the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative. Dr. Shafer is a contributing author to the book, *Teaching and Learning: Collaborative Exploration of the Reggio Emilia Approach* and teaches at several local colleges and universities. She speaks at conferences throughout the United States and abroad and has consulted with schools in Australia, Israel and Peru. Dr. Shafer has visited Reggio Emilia six times.

Rabbi Karyn Kedar is the Senior Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in Glenview, Illinois, and is widely recognized as an inspiring leader who guides people in their spiritual and personal growth. She is the former Director of the Great Lakes Region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Rabbi Kedar was the first woman to serve as a rabbi in Jerusalem. She is a gifted writer and storyteller, and the author of *The Dance of the Dolphin and God Whispers*. Rabbi Kedar has also been a regular commentator on 30 Good Minutes.

Maxine Segal Handelman is the Consultant for Early Childhood Education for the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. She holds an M.A. in Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School of Education of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and an M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Pacific Oaks College. Maxine is the author of *Jewish Every Day: The Complete Handbook for Early Childhood Teachers*, *The Shabbat Angels* and *What's Jewish About Butterflies*. Maxine has presented keynotes and workshops at conferences across North America and is a professional storyteller.

Rabbi Nina J. Mizrahi is Director of the Pritzker Center for Jewish Education of the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago. She is responsible for shaping the agency-wide Jewish mission in the early childhood centers, day camps and resident camps.

Rabbi Mizrahi was ordained by HUC-JIR (NY). She is certified by the BJE of Greater New York as a Jewish Family Educator and also as a Reform Jewish Educator. She participated in the first Jewish Community Center Association/ Mandel School Jewish Educators Initiative, a two-year educational initiative designed to stimulate Jewish Community Center Jewish Educators to forge new paths for formal and informal Jewish education in JCC.



Shabbat Events



Friday, November 9

Shabbat Dinner

Hyatt Regency Chicago
7:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom A

Join us for an evening of song & celebration

Special guest speaker Rabbi Nina J. Mizrahi

Candlelighting available at sundown

\$75 per person—members

\$85 per person—non-members

Registration is required, deadline October 25

Saturday, November 10

Shabbat lunches available

12:30 p.m. pickup, Hyatt Regency Chicago

\$30 per person

Registration is required, deadline October 25

Closing meeting and Havdalah Service

Hyatt Regency Chicago
5:30 p.m. Columbian Room

Special Membership Categories

The National Jewish Early Childhood Network is dependent on the kindness of our members and supporters. Please consider making a donation so that we may provide the best possible annual conference for early childhood Jewish education professionals in the United States.

Contributor
\$75

Friend
\$100

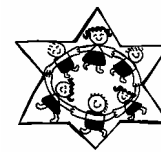
Patron
\$150

Angel
\$500

Benefactor
\$1000



Reservation/Membership Form



Please copy and complete one form for each participant

Please mail form and payment to:

Helaine Groeger, 11 Wonder View Court, N. Potomac, MD 20878

Questions? Call 301-354-3203 or email lainevg@aol.com

ACTIVITY	DATE	DETAILS	CHARGE	TOTAL
Annual Membership Dues			\$18 Teacher Host City \$25 Teacher \$36 Director \$36 Supporter \$50 BJE/Agency \$100 Vendor	
Special Membership			\$75 Contributor \$100 Friend \$150 Patron \$500 Angel \$1000 Benefactor Other:	
School Tour Day	Tuesday, November 6	Option 1 _____(Gates of Learning) Option 2 _____(Moriah)	\$65 members \$75 non-members	
Open Membership Meeting & Reception	Tuesday, November 6	I plan to attend the: Meeting yes no Reception yes no	No charge for meeting \$8 for reception	
Pre-Conference Session	Wednesday, November 7	I plan to attend yes no	No Charge	
Box Lunch	Wednesday, November 7	Lunches _____	\$28 per lunch	
Shabbat Dinner	Friday, November 9	Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____	\$75 members \$85 non-members	
Shabbat Lunch	Saturday, November 10	Lunches _____	\$30 per lunch	
Closing Meeting and Havdalah Service	Saturday, November 10	I plan to attend yes no	No Charge	

All food served at NJECN events is certified kosher by the Chicago Rabbinical Council.



Total enclosed \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to "NJECN".

If paying with school/agency check, participant's name should appear on check.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____
Street address City State Zip code

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

Your position _____ Types of programs offered _____

Synagogue Affiliation and type _____ or Agency Affiliation _____

Please note: All program fees are non-refundable after October 25, 2007