

National Jewish Early Childhood Network



Conference 2008 Program Information

From the Presidents

Dear National Jewish Early Childhood Network Members,

It is with excitement that we look forward to your arrival in Dallas. 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 in unique settings. Thank you to the school directors and teachers from Akiba Academy and Temple Emanu-El Pre-school for opening their centers to us.

We are counting on seeing all of you at our open membership meeting on Tuesday evening, November 4th and at our "All-American...Apple Pie, Baseball and Chevrolets!" welcome reception where you will be able to connect with your colleagues and friends, catch up on the events of the last year, and watch the Presidential Election results.

Our program on Wednesday morning includes speakers who will address "Reconnecting to the Joy of Teaching" from their individual perspectives. Rivy Poupko Kletenik, Director of the Seattle Hebrew Academy, will present, "Teaching Our Biggest Ideas to Our Littlest Children", and Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld, early childhood educator and author, will discuss, "L'Chayim and Other Basics".

The Shabbat dinner is a special time and we invite you to join us to participate in this warm yearly event. It will be held on November 7th at the Adolphus Hotel 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, we are so pleased to be able to welcome you to Dallas and to the NJECN meeting.

With best wishes.

Paula Sayag and Leslie Slan

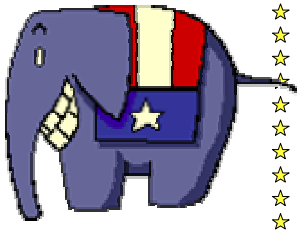
Co-Presidents, National Jewish Early Childhood Network

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

IS ELECTION DAY

SO REMEMBER TO VOTE VIA

ABSENTEE BALLOT!



Tuesday, November 4 School Tour Day

Bus pick-up and drop-off at the Adolphus Hotel
7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.



Temple Emanu-El Pre-School



Laughter, joy, songs, learning through play and discovery are some of the sights and sounds of Temple Emanu-El Pre-School. This is a special place for children ages 3 months to Pre-K to experience an environment filled with activities that facilitate learning through play. Active play provides children with opportunities to investigate what interests them-to solve problems, establish relationships, and gain independence.

Children learn about Jewish holidays and traditions through hands on activities. Parents and children celebrate Shabbat each week with songs, prayers, stories and blessings. We are creating Jewish memories for children to take with them for the rest of their lives. Temple Emanu-El Pre-School encourages the developmental growth of children incorporating the tenets of Reform Judaism.

The educational philosophy of the Temple Emanu-El Pre-School is based on meeting the developmental needs of children. The programs are designed to meet each child's emotional, social, cognitive and physical needs. A highlight of the school is the Gan Shalom (Garden), which is integrated into our curriculum where the children plant, harvest, compost, and connect to nature.

Temple Emanu-El Pre-School is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for having demonstrated substantial compliance and excellence with nationally recognized criteria for high-quality early childhood programs, and participates in the Dallas Association of the Education of Young Children (DAEYC), the Teacher Learning Center of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and the Jewish Pre-School Director's Council.

Shelly Sender, Director of Early Childhood Education.



Akiba Academy



Akiba Academy's Early Childhood program, part of the co-educational modern Orthodox Day School, has the best of everything: staff, facilities, curriculum and education. Combine this with our love of children and an enriching Jewish environment, and you've got everything you need for your young child to grow to his or her highest potential!

The Akiba Early Childhood program is designed to meet the most rigorous standards in the classroom in terms of teacher qualification, teacher/child ratios, safety and education. Akiba Academy is one of 13 schools nationwide chosen to be part of the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI), ensuring that our education is among the most progressive programming in the country.

Children learn best in an atmosphere that is both challenging and nurturing. Early childhood classroom experiences play an important role in determining a child's attitude toward school. For this reason, Akiba's Early Childhood program is carefully structured to meet the needs of every child, and heighten his or her sense of self-worth.

The teaching staff works as partners with parents, offering opportunities for experiential learning based on the developmental level of each child. The result is an arousal of each child's curiosity and imagination, encouragement of independent thinking, and promotion of positive interactions with other children.

At Akiba Academy, the children are taught to live and celebrate their Jewishness. Our Jewish environment, like our academic environment, is carefully planned to promote positive spiritual development. The children are surrounded by colorful Jewish symbols, and the sights, sounds, tastes and smells that we have come to associate with our traditions.

Jordana Bernstein, Director of Early Childhood Education.



\$65 per person – Members

Includes transportation, breakfast and lunch

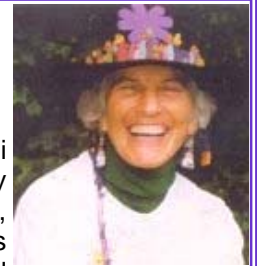
\$75 per person – Non-members

Registration is required, deadline October 24



Meet the Speakers

Rivy Poupko Kletenik is a Jewish American female lecturer and educator. Mrs. Kletenik is Head of School at the Seattle Hebrew Academy. Her appointment generated some controversy as she is a woman and therefore not a rabbi. This disagreement led in part to the creation of rival Torah Day School. She was presented with the American Jewish Press Association first prize award for commentary in 2001. She writes a monthly Jewish advice column for Seattle's JTNews called JQ. Rivy teaches at SHA and lectures throughout the community and nationwide on All Things Jewish. She was awarded the 2002 Covenant Award for Outstanding Jewish Educators and was honored as Distinguished Alumna at Touro College last year. She was the 2006 Seattle Hadassah Honoree.



For more than 46 years, Mimi Brodsky Chenfeld has playfully and lovingly taught teachers, parents, and children of all ages in Canada, Taiwan, and throughout the U.S., and she continues to travel extensively. Her two collections, Teaching in the Key of Life (NAEYC) and Teaching By Heart (Redleaf Press), plus articles, stories, and poems are enjoyed worldwide. Since 1970, she has taught in numerous schools and programs in Columbus, Ohio. Her favorite student evaluation is from a six-year-old boy who dubbed her "The Queen of Fun!"



Shabbat Events



Friday, November 7

Shabbat Dinner

Adolphus Hotel
7:00 p.m. Century Ballroom AB

~Join us for an evening of ~
Song & celebration

Installation of the 2009 Board of Directors
Special guest storyteller, Jordan Hill

Candlelighting available at sundown

\$75 per person—members

\$85 per person—non-members

Registration is required, deadline October 24

Saturday, November 8

Shabbat lunches available

12:30 p.m. pickup, Adolphus Hotel

\$30 per person

Registration is required, deadline October 24

Havdalah Service

Adolphus Hotel
6:00 p.m. John Neely Bryan Room

Led by Jenna Kalkman and Shosh Khorob

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 /Vendor
\$100

Patron
\$150

School
\$360

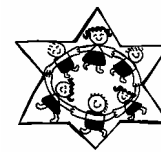
Angel
\$500

Benefactor
\$1000

(maximum fee for all staff)



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 laineyg@aol.com

ACTIVITY	DATE	DETAILS	CHARGE	TOTAL
Annual Membership Dues			\$20 Teacher Host City \$30 Teacher \$40 Director \$40 Supporter \$55 BJE/Agency \$100 Vendor	
Special Membership			\$75 Contributor \$100 Friend \$150 Patron \$360 (maximum) School \$500 Angel \$1000 Benefactor Other:	
School Tour Day	Tuesday, November 4		\$65 members \$75 non-members	
Membership Meeting	Tuesday, November 4	I plan to attend yes no	No charge	
Welcome Reception	Tuesday, November 4		No charge - members \$10 non-members	
Pre-Conference Session	Wednesday, November 5	I plan to attend yes no	No charge	
Box Lunch	Wednesday, November 5		\$25 per lunch	
Shabbat Dinner	Friday, November 7	Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____	\$75 members \$85 non-members	
Shabbat Lunch	Saturday, November 8		\$30 per lunch	
Havdalah Service	Saturday, November 8	I plan to attend yes no	No Charge	

All food served at NJECN events is certified kosher by

Dallas Kosher

The Vaad Hakashrus of Dallas, Inc



Total enclosed \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to "NJEEN".

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 24, 2008