GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING
Community Resource Guidebook
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The Torah has a taste for everyone. Everyone, no matter their level of learning, can interact with the Torah.

—Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2015

For the sixth consecutive year, the Global Day of Jewish Learning will reach every corner of the Jewish world and bring Jews of all beliefs and backgrounds together in a day of study and unity. Thank you for putting your community on the map!

NOVEMBER 15, 2015—A DAY OF LEARNING FOR ALL JEWS

On November 15th, Jews across the world will come together in their communities to study Jewish texts and teachings. The guiding values of the Global Day of Jewish Learning are: fostering Jewish unity, empowering individuals through increased Jewish knowledge, and creating meaningful shared experiences. Our interest is to spark and nourish a love for Jewish learning—and to celebrate the unity that Jewish learning can achieve.

The Global Day is for all Jews regardless of educational background or religious affiliation. The classes have been created for all audiences; no prior knowledge of Hebrew or Jewish text is necessary in order to participate. The curriculum includes a variety of formats and modifications based on local interests and learning levels. The curriculum will be available in English, Hebrew, Russian, and Spanish.

The theme for this year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning and curricular materials is **Love: Devotion, Desire, and Deception**. Each curricular unit will explore a different aspect of love and use a variety of Jewish texts.

HISTORY

A project of the Aleph Society, the Global Day was originally created as a one-time event to mark the completion of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz’s monumental translation and commentary on the Talmud. However, the survey results spoke of a communal desire to continue Rabbi Steinsaltz’s mission of “Let my People Know” through an annual Global Day of Jewish Learning. This past year, 500 communities joined the fifth annual Global Day of Jewish Learning on November 16, 2014—an outstanding success.

IN PARTNERSHIP

The Global Day project is spearheaded by the Aleph Society together with American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the Jewish Federations of North America, and Shefa Institute. Partnership2Gether: The Jewish Agency Peoplehood Platform is a Community Partner. Additionally, over 30 supporting partner organizations, representing a broad spectrum of Jewry, encourage their members to organize or attend local events.
Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz

RABBI ADIN STEINSALTZ

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is internationally regarded as one of the leading scholars and rabbis of this century, and of the last. As described in Newsweek, “Jewish lore is filled with tales of formidable rabbis. Probably none living today can compare in genius and influence to Adin Steinsaltz, whose extraordinary gifts as scholar, teacher, scientist, writer, mystic and social critic have attracted disciples from all factions of Israeli society.”

Born in 1937 to a secular family, Rabbi Steinsaltz has authored more than 60 books and hundreds of articles on Jewish mysticism, religious thought, sociology, biography, and philosophy. The best known of these is his interpretation of the Talmud, the seminal work of Jewish culture. His The Thirteen Petalled Rose is considered a modern classic of Jewish mysticism.

He is the first person since the medieval sage Rashi to have completed a full translation of and commentary on the Babylonian Talmud. This historic achievement was commemorated in 2010 by the inaugural Global Day of Jewish Learning, which has since become an annual international event in over 40 countries.

Koren Publishers Jerusalem has recently launched the Koren Talmud Bavli, and English edition of the Steinsaltz Hebrew Talmud. The debut volumes garnered a 2012 National Jewish Book Award.

Other honors include Israel's inaugural Israeli Presidential Award of Distinction, the Israel Prize and the French Order of Arts and Literature. Renowned as an original and open-minded thinker, Rabbi Steinsaltz has lectured and taught in hundreds of communities around the world.
As its name suggests, the Global Day of Jewish Learning is a day of world-wide encounters with Jewish ideas and sacred texts. The Global Day of Jewish Learning reaches every corner of the Jewish world and brings Jews of all beliefs and backgrounds together in a day of study and unity.

This year's Global Day of Jewish Learning will focus on Love: Devotion, Desire and Deception. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz has explained:

- The very first element in any kind of love is caring about something. There cannot be love when one does not care. The real opposite of love is not hate, but indifference. (*Simple Words*)

- There is no essential difference between the love of God and the love of man. But since the love of God is not described in numberless publications sold at corner kiosks, with illustrations and cartoons, the matter seems to be much more difficult. (*Pebbles of Wisdom*)

- Good and bad qualities are not set opposite one another, with love always on the side of the good and the other qualities always on the side of the bad. Rather all the attributes, all the emotions, and all the potentialities of the heart and personality are set on the same level and considered good or bad, not according to some judgment of their intrinsic worth, but according to the way they are used. (*The Thirteen Petalled Rose*)

Focusing on “Love” will allow your participants to discuss topics like family dynamics, relationships, worship of the heart, and self-love. Each curricular unit will explore a different aspect of love using a variety of Jewish texts.

Biblical figures provide an accessible entry point to Jewish texts for the beginners in your community and represent a deep well of wisdom for all. What do the heroes and villains of our stories have to teach us about ourselves, today? Focusing on Biblical characters will allow you to explore topics like human nature, family dynamics, and leadership.

Centered on our theme, the Global Day Curriculum Guide will offer topics, source materials and questions for conversation. Facilitators will want to adapt this material to suit the educational background and interests of their groups. Far from being frontal lectures, the Guide's classes are meant to spark provocative and thought-provoking conversations. Each facilitator is free to construct discussions as s/he sees fit. In keeping with Rabbi Steinsaltz's diverse works, we will be drawing from a variety of primary texts and other sources. This year there will be 6 curricular units for adult learners, and one each for elementary school and middle schools students.

The curriculum will available in English, Hebrew, Russian, and Spanish. Again, PJ Library will join us to offer a resource for family programming; this will be based upon books that address an aspect of this year's theme and will be available in English. Curricular materials will be available in the summer.
GLOBAL DAY COMMUNITY COMMITMENT & REGISTRATION

The goal of the Global Day of Jewish Learning is to enable all Jews to engage with our Jewish texts. Rabbi Steinsaltz began this process close to fifty years ago through his translation and commentary on the Talmud. We continue it today in our communities by learning our Jewish texts together on the Global Day of Jewish Learning and throughout the year.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING?

Communities small and large mark one day on their calendar when differences can be left at the door and communities can come together to learn our shared Jewish texts. The Global Day is a non-threatening event where individuals have the ability to engage in Jewish learning—regardless of background or Jewish knowledge. On November 15th, 2015—the Jewish people will take some time out of their day to engage with the texts that unite us.

GLOBAL DAY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For the Global Day of Jewish Learning we encourage communities to:

- Create community-wide learning experiences by involving local JCCs, synagogues, federations, Hillels and schools;
- Stage Global Day events in a communal environment;
- Engage teachers and facilitators of various backgrounds and denominations;
- Involve different partners and collaborators in the planning process;
- Participate no matter the size or form of your community!

TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL GLOBAL DAY EVENT SITE

Your community must register online at www.theglobalday.org and follow the “Register for 2015!” link. Following registration, you will receive a user name and password that will allow you to access the online toolbox which will contain the curricular materials, template marketing and PR material, as well as other tools to help you plan a successful day.
You may want to begin by creating a team of community professionals, lay leaders, rabbis and educators. This team can assist in beginning discussion about the Global Day in your community. The questions provided here can help guide your planning and focus your discussions.

- What are our goals for the Global Day of Jewish Learning? Will we use this to launch, strengthen or conceptualize other Jewish study initiatives within our community? Can it initiate or strengthen bonds among local organizations?
- Who is our target audience? What is our target number of participants?
- Which organizations would serve as viable partners to further these goals and objectives?
- What resources, experience and strengths can each of our partners offer?
- Do our community partners have the facilities to host our event? Will we need more than one host location?
- What will the schedule for our community’s Global Day entail? What model would work best for our community?
- What does our budget look like? What are our sources of funding?
- Will a lay committee help further our goals?
- What role can volunteers play in planning, preparation and execution?
- Which community professionals, educators and lay leaders can help plan and execute the event? Do we need to bring in outside educators?
- How will we register participants for our event (phone, email or web)?
- How will we market our event? What will work best for our community—press releases, ads in the local papers, emails, flyers, mailings, announcements, social media?
- How will we know we have been successful? What criteria will we use to judge success?
- How will we capitalize on the experience of the Global Day? What will be our follow-up? Will we have an evaluation?
- What assistance will we need from the Global Day office in order to help support our community initiative? Guidance via meeting and phone calls, connecting to other communities, etc?

If you have any further questions, please contact Zach Cohen, Global Day Community Coordinator. He can be reached at 212-840-1166 or zach@theglobalday.org.
Since every Global Day of Jewish Learning event and every community’s resources will differ, it is impossible for us to provide “standard” estimated event costs. Below are some expenses that you might consider for your Global Day event.

**NOTE:** There is no cost to register for the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

**EXPENSES TO CONSIDER:**

- Reproduction of curricular material and program brochures
- Venue
- Food at the event (you may choose to provide snacks or meals—depending on your schedule—for purchase, or include the cost in your event registration)
- Audio visual equipment
- Advertising and marketing
- Keynote speaker honorarium
PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DAY

For some, the Global Day will be a first-time learning experience; for others who learn regularly, this may be their first opportunity to learn in a large group setting. For still others, communal learning may be a regular practice and it will be the international achdut, or unifying aspect, that provides meaning. The structure of your event will depend on audience, resources and local interests. Included in the following pages are a number of sample event schedules from communities which participated in prior years.

MODELS

There are three main models that we recommend for the Global Day of Jewish Learning (communities might choose one or a combination of two or three models):

- **ROUND-ROBIN**: Each session features several simultaneous classes on a specific theme. Teachers may repeat classes during subsequent sessions as participants switch classes.

- **BEIT MIDRASH**: The beit midrash model is a good choice if you envision your entire community learning together in the same room.

- **TOPIC FOCUSED**: Your day will focus on one of the provided themes and your classes or a keynote speaker would focus on that theme.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Regardless of the model you choose, keep in mind these resources that can be included in your event:

- Curricular material based on the theme, Love: Devotion, Desire and Deception (curricular materials will be available in the summer);

- Family and children programming through a PJ Library unit;

- A video class on the theme given by Rabbi Steinsaltz;

- Live online video learning through 24x24—to learn more about this visit www.theglobalday.org/24x24
SAMPLES FROM GLOBAL DAY 2010–2014

EVENT SCHEDULES
- Amstelveen, Netherlands (2014)
- Austin, Texas (2010)
- Beer Sheva, Israel (2013)
- Brazil (2010)
- Buenos Aires (2013)
- Buffalo, New York (2012)
- Eugene, Oregon (2012)
- Greensboro, North Carolina (2013)
- Kishinev, Moldova (2014)
- Paris, France (2014)
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2012)
- Saint Petersburg, Russia (2014)
- San Diego, California (2013)
- Winnipeg, Canada (2013)

COMMUNITY REPORTS
- Cape Town, South Africa (2013)
- Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine (2014)
- Howard County, Maryland (2014)
- Kiryat Malachi, Israel (2013)
- Knoxville, Tennessee (2013)
- Nikolaev, Ukraine (2013)
- Saint Petersburg, Russia (2014)
- Shanghai, China (2011)
- Trancoso, Portugal (2013)
- Tzfat, Israel (2012)

ARTICLES
- The Jewish Week, “The Longest Translation” (2010)
- The Jewish Week, “The Importance of a Global Day of Jewish Learning” (2014)
- Times of Israel, “Old-school educators go hi-tech to promote Torah accessibility” (2014)
Global Day of Jewish Learning
WERELDWIJDE STUDIEDAG

Thema: Helden, schurken, heiligen en gekken: het volk van het boek

zondag 16 november 2014
13.00-18.00 uur
prijs € 35,- incl. kosjere maaltijd
studenten: € 25

Samen leren, wereldwijd
Contact met studiegroepen over de hele wereld via live stream

e-mail info@crescas.nl
telefoon 020-640.23.80
informatie www.crescas.nl
Global Day of Jewish Learning

NOV. 07-10
1 WORLD. 1 PEOPLE. 1 DAY.
www.1people1day.org


Mark your calendars! Austin will join over 200 Jewish communities around the world for the first ever Global Day of Jewish Learning. This unique event celebrates the historic achievement of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, renowned Jewish teacher, philosopher, social critic and prolific author as he completes his 45-year project of Talmudic translation and commentary.

Join a stellar group of local clergy, spiritual leaders, and community members for a day of enriching, absorbing study and discussion on universal themes that unite us all and determine our shared human experience, present and future. Themes will cover environment, God, prayer, love, leadership, miracles, prayer, and tzedakah.

Rabbi Steinsaltz has been hailed by Time magazine as a “once-in-a-millennium scholar.” His lifelong work in Jewish education earned him the Israel Prize, his country’s highest honor.

EVENT SCHEDULE
(All events are located at the Dell Jewish Community Campus, 7300 Hart Lane)

11:30 AM-12:30 PM: Registration and pick up pre-ordered kosher box lunches.

12:30-1 PM: Welcome and introduction. Putting the Global Day of Jewish Learning in context.

1-1:45 PM: SESSION ONE

Theme: Leadership
Topic: Models of Leadership
Educator: Rabbi Alan Freedman
Code#: 1000

Theme: God
Topic: Arguing with God
Educator: Rabbi Kerry Baker
Code#: 1001

Theme: Environment
Topic: Trees, Life and War
Educator: Rabbi Rick Brody
Code#: 1010

Theme: Love
Topic: Love and Marriage
Educator: Rabbi Robert Kirzner
Code#: 1015

www.shaiomaustin.org/global

2-2:45 PM: SESSION TWO

Theme: Environment
Topic: The World is a Human Responsibility
Educator: Rabbi Neil Blumole
Code#: 2000

Theme: Tzedakah
Topic: The Man Who Would Give Too Much
Educator: Rabbi Moshe Trepp
Code#: 2005

Theme: Love
Topic: Beauty: Asset or Liability
Educator: Rabbi Rachel Kobrin
Code#: 2010

Theme: Miracles
Topic: Miracles as Signs and Wonders
Educator: Cantor Marie Betcher
Code#: 2015

3-3:45 PM: SESSION THREE

Theme: Leadership
Topic: Tale of Two Rabbis
Educator: Cantor Yitzhak Ben Moshe
Code#: 3000

Theme: Miracles
Topic: What’s in a Miracle
Educator: Rabbi Harold Liebowitz
Code#: 3005

Theme: Prayer
Topic: Three Keys: Hannah’s Prayer
Educator: Rabbi Eliezer Langer
Code#: 3010

Theme: Tzedakah
Topic: Keeping Commitments & Tzedakah
Educator: Rabbi Susan Lippe
Code#: 3015

4-4:45 PM: Wrap-up and Siyum (conclusion of study) broadcast from Jerusalem. Reception.

See Registration Form on opposite page.
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**שדרות 85, בניין מרכז מים, באר שבע**
**טלפון: 08-6474644/08-6474643/2**
**מייל: GesherBe@iaji.org, michalrb@gmail.com**

©2013 מכון לצרכים מיוחדים פנים ישראלית
NESTE DIA, CENTENAS DE COMUNIDADES EM TODO O MUNDO ESTARÃO CELEBRANDO, JUNTO COM O RABINO ADIN STEINSALTZ (EVEN-ISRAEL), A CONCLUSÃO DE SUA OBRA MONUMENTAL, INICIADA HÁ 45 ANOS:
UMA EDIÇÃO MODERNA E ATUALIZADA DE TODO O TALMUD.

PROGRAMAÇÃO:

17h  Abertura: Mensagem do rabino Adin Steinsaltz (Even-Israel)

17h15 O que é o Talmud? Sua história e seus cometaristas com rabino Efraim Shechter

17h45 intervalo com coquetel e sushi

18h  O Talmud na Vida Nossa de Cada Dia com o Prof. Dr. Jacob Dolinger

18h45 intervalo com coquetel e sushi

19h  A Cabalá do Talmud com rabino Avraham Tsvi Beuthner

19h45 intervalo com coquetel e sushi

20h  O Talmud e a preservação do meio-ambiente com Dr. Israel Klabin

EVENTO PARA MULHERES

HAVERÁ RECREAÇÃO PARA AS CRIANÇAS

Data: Domingo, 7/11  Local: Beit Lubavitch
R. Gal. Venâncio Flores, 221 Leblon - Entrada Franca!
Report- Día Mundial de Estudios judaicos de mujeres –Buenos Aires Argentina NOV17-2013 (In Spanish and in English)

El domingo 17 de noviembre se realizó en Buenos Aires el Día Mundial de Estudios Judaicos para mujeres en el Centro Ana Frank Argentina. El clima de estudio y de espiritualidad que se fue generando en el transcurso de la jornada hizo que la Torá, la creatividad, la tefilí y la amistad fueran los pilares de un hacer colectivo. El Rabino Adin Even Israel Steinsaltz, mentor de esta propuesta mundial disertó por medio de una video conferencia. Los talleres fueron dirigidos por la Dra. Diana Sperling (Filosofía), la Lic. Fany Gerson (Educación Judía), la Rabina Graciela Gryemberg y la Rabina Judy Nowominski. La Arq. Edit Shmukler y Edith Krasnob colaboraron en el proyecto. Mujeres con diferentes ideologías e instituciones se reunieron para estudiar Torá y disfrutar del estar en comunidad y aprender de las diferencias y de la diversidad. El desafío para el próximo año podría ser, B”H organizar grupos de 70 personas cada uno – en referencia al principio “70 rostros tiene la Torá”.

Ver los datos del reportaje realizado por RADIO JAI el 19/11/2013 a Fany Berta Gerson quien lideró el diseño y el desarrollo del proyecto comunitario “Día de Estudios Judaicos 2013 para mujeres” como una experiencia piloto y participativa. Los resultados y el impacto fueron muy positivos.
Agradecemos la oportunidad de haber podido ser parte de una comunidad de aprendizaje.

On Sunday Nov.17, the Global Day of Jewish Learning for Women took place in the “Argentina Ana Frank Center” in Buenos Aires.
Along the day, a learning and spiritual atmosphere was arising among the participants. The Torá, the creativity, the tefilí and the friendship were the pillars of a collective construction. Rabbi Adin Even Israel Steinsaltz, mentor of this global proposal lectured through a video conference. The workshops were led by Dr. Diana Sperling (Philosophy), Ms Fany Gerson (Jewish education), Rabbi Ms Graciela Gryemberg and Rabbi Ms. Judy Nowominski. Arch. Edit Shmukler and Ms. Edith Krasnob cooperated with the project. Women from different ideologies and institutions got together to study the Torá and enjoyed being in community and learning from the differences and the diversity. The challenge for next year could be, B”H, to make groups of 70 people each one - in reference to the principle “shibim panim la Torá” – 70 faces to the Torá.

The radio interview report that took place on 19/11/2013 in RADIO JAI BUENOS AIRES was about our global day and about Rabbi Adin Even Steinsaltz’s work. Please, go to the following link to listen to it – (it’s in Spanish)


I led the planning and the development processes of the educational and the community project “Día Mundial de Estudios Judaicos de mujeres”2013- Buenos Aires -as a pilot and a participative experience. The results and the impact were very positive.
Thank you for giving us the opportunity of taking part of a large learning community.

Fany Berta Gerson

Educational community project planner and managing director
Mujeres de distintas corrientes ideológicas estudian juntas la Torá

AMIGOS ARGENTINOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD HEBREA DE JERUSALEM

de 13 a 19.30hs - LAVALLE 1616 PISO 6

Inscripción previa estudiosjudaicos@hotmail.com Hasta el 8 de noviembre Vacantes limitadas

Creando en conjunto nuevos enfoques de colaboración y de creatividad en el judaísmo

Temática: Creatividad - Amistad - Tefilá

VIDEO CONFERENCIA CON EL RABINO EVEN ISRAEL ADIN STEINSALTZ MENTOR DE ESTA PROPUESTA MUNDIAL.

LA MISIÓN
Reunir al pueblo judío, una vez al año para celebrar nuestro texto común a través del estudio en comunidad.

LOS VALORES QUE NOS GUÍAN
Fomentar la unidad judía, potenciar a las personas a través de un mayor conocimiento del judaísmo y crear experiencias compartidas significativas.

Donación: para el material de estudio y refrigerio $100
Optativo: cada participante plantará un árbol en el Bosque de la Mujer Judía Argentino - Bosque Yatir en el Neguev
The 3rd Annual Global Day of Jewish Learning

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2012
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

“Jewish Concepts of Blessing and Gratitude”

On November 18, 300 communities across six continents will join together for the third annual Global Day of Jewish Learning. This year we are thrilled to have Cantor Mark Horowitz provide our keynote address. Afterwards, enjoy your choice of two workshops (listed below) offered by local clergy. The JCC Cafém will be open from noon to 5:00 pm!

This event is free and open to the community; however, tickets are necessary! To reserve tickets, please call Mindy Ponivis at 204.5380

Questions? Contact Jill Ginsburg at 204.5380 or jill@bjebuffalo.org

Rabbi Gary Pokras & Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein
Finding G-d, Finding Gratitude: How to Appreciate our Everyday Lives

Rabbi Perry Netter
Is There a Recipe for Prayer? A Lesson in Picking the Perfect Words

Rabbi Heschel Greenberg
The Four Dimensions of Gratitude: A Psychological, Legal & Mystical Approach to Gratitude

Rabbi Joshua Strosberg
Gratitude and Birchat HaMazon

Rabbi Irwin Tenenbaum
Blessing the Bad: How Do We Relate to Bad Things?

Rabbi Laizer Labovski & Rabbi Moshe Taub
Exploring Blessings: A Look At Some of Our More Creative Blessings

Sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Center’s 48th Annual Jewish Community Book Fair in cooperation with local synagogues and Jewish organizations.
Global Day of Jewish Learning

A day of world-wide encounters with Jewish ideas and sacred texts. Prepare to be inspired.

TBI is excited to participate in the 3rd annual Global Day of Jewish Learning, a community-based learning experience, this year focusing on the theme of Jewish Concepts of Blessings & Gratitude.

All events are free and open to the public. Donations to TBI’s Community Education Program gratefully accepted.

Choose a workshop from either or both sessions.

Help us plan appropriately by pre-registering. Click here to register online.

Learn more about Global Day at www.theglobalday.com.

Session 1: 9:00 am-10:30 am

Exploring Blessings: A Look at Some of Our More Creative Blessings
with Rabbi Boris Dolin

Our sages believed that every unusual sight deserved its own blessing — it was their way of savoring the moment. Did you know that when you hear thunder or see a beautiful view, traditional Judaism offers up different blessings to say? This unit helps us to appreciate how blessings can help us to slow down and appreciate the world around us.

Gratitude and Birkat HaMazon (Grace after Meals)
with Joan Bayless

Most cultures are thankful before the meal. Judaism emphasizes the blessings that we say when our plates are cleared. This unit centers on Birkat HaMazon, and explores the value of expressing gratitude both for the gift and to the giver of the gift.

Break: 10:45 am-11:15 am

Sisterhood Sunday Café
Enjoy baked goodies, coffee, tea (available for purchase) and a Global Day Video.

Session 2: 11:15 am-12:45 pm

Finding God, Finding Gratitude: How to Appreciate our Everyday Lives
with Rabbi Yitzhak Hubschman-Hankin

What are you grateful for in your life? What is the connection between gratitude and prayer? Through shared text study, this unit explores the idea that it is gratitude that connects us to ourselves, our community and God.

Mixed Blessings: Maimonides’ Radical Beliefs and the Questions Facing Modern Liberal Judaism
with Rabbi Maurice Harris

The medieval sage, Maimonides, upended some of the major theological beliefs of the ancient rabbis. Some of his most radical ideas helped open the doors for modern Jews to develop major innovations in Jewish belief and practice. In this session we’ll study an important passage in his famous philosophical work, The Guide of the Perplexed, and explore the mixed blessings of Maimonides’ concept of how Judaism evolves.

Gratitude: Beginning and Ending Each Day with Thanks
with Sarah Dolin

Explore concepts of gratitude and thankfulness through Jewish children’s literature, music and art. Families will have the opportunity to create meaningful morning and bedtime rituals for the youngest members of the family. For children ages 0-3 and their families.

All events are free and open to the public. Donations to TBI’s Community Education Program gratefully accepted.

Please pre-register; click here to register online.
The Global Day of Jewish Learning 2013
A great way to study with scholars and Rabbis from across Greensboro’s Jewish spectrum

Sunday, November 17, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
Temple Emanuel, 1129 Jefferson Road
Schedule of Learning Opportunities:

10:00am - Opening Blessing for all - Main Sanctuary

10:10-11:00am - Session 1

<table>
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<td>Rabbi Drorah Setel, Reform Rabbi at AHA</td>
<td>Rabbi TZiPi Radonsky, The Society of the Vav</td>
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<td>1st Floor Youth Lounge</td>
<td>Room 211</td>
<td>Room 101</td>
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11:00am-11:10am - BREAK

Refreshments will be available in the Lobby. All proceeds benefit the Temple’s teen service learning trips to New Orleans and Washington D.C.

11:10am-12:00noon – Session 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>\textbf{&quot;Creation and Creativity&quot;}</th>
<th>\textbf{&quot;Creating Community around the Study of Texts&quot;}</th>
<th>\textbf{&quot;Creativity and Torah Study&quot;}</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbi Fred Guttman, Temple Emanuel</td>
<td>Rabbi Andy Koren, Temple Emanuel</td>
<td>Amanda Mbuvi, writer and scholar</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Floor Youth Lounge</td>
<td>Room 211</td>
<td>Room 101</td>
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Temple’s regular Sunday morning adult classes are also open for participation:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Foundations of Jewish Family</th>
<th>Adult Hebrew - 10:00am-12:00 noon, Samra Nissan, American Hebrew Academy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Living – 10:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Susan Siegel, B’nai Shalom Day School</td>
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This program is a joint effort of Beth David Synagogue and Temple Emanuel. Greensboro is one of 400 communities worldwide taking part in this year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning. This year’s theme is Creating Together: Jewish Approaches to Creativity and Collaboration. The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings the Jewish people together once a year to celebrate our shared Jewish text through community based learning.
16 ноября 2014
День Еврейских Знаний
11:00 - 17:00

Если тебе от 15 до 30 лет, приглашаем тебя на уникальную программу Global Day - Всемирный День Еврейских Знаний

Еврейские танцы, работа с текстами, еврейская кухня, арт мастерские, режиссура, школа Dj, Крав Мага, и другие мастерские в день еврейских знаний

в программе: Литературная комедия «ЛЁВУШКА» по произведению А.Крыма,
Государственный молодежный драматический театр «С улицы Роз»

Открытие персональной выставки и мастер-класс Елены Голубь

022-509-646, 022-509-669, 022-509-602, 022-509-671
The third Global Day of Jewish Learning will take place on Sunday, November 18th, hosted by Mechon Hadar and Drisha Institute. Last year, we had over 250 participants coming to learn with teachers representing almost 30 institutions from around New York City.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning unites Jewish communities around the globe to celebrate our foundational Jewish texts through community based learning. The inaugural event celebrated the completion of the Steinsaltz Talmud and counted over 400 communities in 48 countries and on six continents – clear evidence of the importance that Jews everywhere place on the shared experience of study.

Recordings of sessions will be posted after the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

- Schedule
- List of Co-Sponsors

Schedule:
Morning at Drisha Institute (37 West 65th Street, 5th floor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</table>
| 10 a.m. | **Familial Blessings in Genesis**  
Rabbi David Silber  
*Lecture Hall* |
| 11 a.m. | **The Blessings on Food: A Halakhic-Theological Exploration**  
Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot  
*Lecture Hall* |
| 12 p.m. | **"When God Prays": A Literary Analysis of a Provocative Talmudic Story**  
Professor Michael Chernick  
*Lecture Hall* |
|        | **Our Avot: How Religiously Observant Were They?**  
Rabbi Stephen Friedman  
*Room 4* |
|        | **"And a Man Came Upon Him": Mystery Men in Genesis**  
Shuli Taubes  
*Room 4* |
|        | **The Power of Advocacy: Action That Leads To Study (That Leads To Action)**  
Ilan Kaplan  
*Room 4* |
|        | **Communicating Empathy in One Word: Amen Jonah Gefen**  
*Room 2* |
|        | **Grateful For and Grateful To: Some Philosophical Underpinnings of a Gratitude Infused Relationship**  
Joe Septimus  
*Room 2* |
|        | **God of Whose Fathers? Converts to Judaism and the Language of Prayer**  
Rachel Furst  
*Room 2* |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Session 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Ve’heyeh Bracha: Being Blessed; Becoming Blessers</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi David Ingber</td>
<td><strong>Placing the Name on Israel: Theory and Practice of Birkat HaKohanim (&quot;Priestly Blessing&quot;)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky</td>
<td><strong>Or Else! Lighting Shabbat Lamps and the Danger of Childbirth - A New Interpretation of Mishnah Shabbat 26</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Judith Hauptman</td>
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<td><strong>The Blessings of Shifting From Positional Power to Shared Leadership</strong>&lt;br&gt;Shifra Bronznick</td>
<td><strong>Hannah’s Prayer: When Prayer Meets Activism</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Aviva Richman</td>
<td><strong>Blessings Remixed</strong>&lt;br&gt;David Wolkin</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>The Jewish Blessings of Intermarriage: How Interfaith Couples and Families Can Contribute to a Jewish Renaissance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Ari Fridkis</td>
<td><strong>Arami Oved Avi: From Text of Gratitude to Text of Redemption</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi William Plevan</td>
<td><strong>Amen, Amen, Amen... Does God Say “Amen” to Our Blessings? And What Does “Amen” Really Mean Anyway?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Scott Boltin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mindfully Cultivating Gratitude Through Tikun Middot</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Marc Margolius</td>
<td><strong>Or Else! Lighting Shabbat Lamps and the Danger of Childbirth - A New Interpretation of Mishnah Shabbat 26</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Judith Hauptman</td>
<td><strong>The Rock Whose Ways are Great; Blessing God in Times of Tragedy</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wendy Amsellem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>The Akweddanger of Gratitude</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Aaron Finkelstein Room 5</td>
<td><strong>Armed With Healing Crayons: A Rosh Chodesh Shabbos Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi clip Finkelstein</td>
<td><strong>Amen, Amen, Amen... Does God Say “Amen” to Our Blessings? And What Does “Amen” Really Mean Anyway?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rabbi Scott Boltin</td>
</tr>
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**Afternoon at Mechon Hadar (190 Amsterdam at 69th)**

**Co-sponsors include:**
- Advancing Jewish Women Professionals
- American Jewish World Service
- Columbia/Barnard Hillel
- Congregation Anshe Chesed
- Congregation B’nai Jeshurun
- Congregation Da’at Elohim/Temple of Universal Judaism
- Congregation Ramah Orah
- Congregation Shaare Zedek
- Darkhei Noam
- Drisha Institute
- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion/New York School
- Jewish Theological Seminary
- LimmudNY
- Mechon Hadar
- NYU Hillel
- Ohel Ayalah
- Prospect Heights Shul
- Rabbis for Human Rights - North America
- Romenu
- Uri LTzedek
- West End Synagogue
- Yeshivat Chovevei Torah
- Yeshivat Maharat
Dimanche 16 novembre
3e journée mondiale de l'étude juive
24 heures d'étude non-stop à travers le monde
à suivre en direct sur Akadem et Youtube

13h Paris
Dimanche 16 novembre à 13h (Paris, heure locale)
Michaël Sebban
Akadem, Paris

- 300 communautés à travers le monde organisent des enseignements sur un même thème.
- L’événement se double d’un programme de 24h non stop d’étude en diffusion mondiale.
- Samedi 15 novembre minuit -> Dimanche 16 novembre minuit, 24 enseignants prennent le relais sur Youtube.
- Akadem représente la France et propose de suivre l’événement en direct sur son site.

→ VOIR l’événement en direct sur Youtube

→ VOIR LE PROGRAMME COMPLET
Join the South Hills Jewish Community

Global Day of Jewish Learning
Sunday, November 16

2014 theme: Heroes and Villains, Saints and Fools: the People in the Book

10:15 a.m.
Beth El Congregation
1900 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, 15220 • (412) 561-1168
www.bethelcong.org
Israel Bonds Brunch with Avi Jorisch
Avi Jorisch is President and founder of the Red Cell Intelligence Group, a consulting and training firm specializing in national security issues relating to terrorism, illicit finance and radical Islam.
$18 couvert for the special program, which includes brunch. RSVP to 412-561-1168 by Nov. 12.

10:15 a.m.
Chabad of the South Hills
1701 McFarland Rd., Pittsburgh, 15216 • (412) 344-2424
www.chabadsh.com
“How Our Shortcomings Can Become Sources Of Joy”

10:15 a.m.
Temple Emanuel of South Hills
1250 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, 15243 • (412) 279-7600
www.templeemanuelpgh.org
“Deborah – Victory in the Hands of a Woman”
Presented by Temple Emanuel’s Beit HaMidrash, Adult Education Team. A Light Brunch will be served prior to the program, sponsored by Temple Emanuel Brotherhood.
RSVP to 412-279-7600 or E-mail to templeemanuel@templeemanuelpgh.org

10:30 a.m.
Beth Israel Center
115 Gill Hall Rd., Jefferson Hills, PA 15025 • (412) 655-2144
www.bethisraelpgh.org
“Deborah – Victory in the Hands of a Woman”
Moderated by Ken Regal of Just Harvest

7:00 p.m.
Congregation Ahavath Achim
(The Carnegie Shul)
500 Chestnut St., Carnegie, PA 15106 • (412) 279-1566
www.thecarnegieshul.org
“2014: The Year Of Living Dangerously In The Middle East”
Guest speaker Gregg Roman, Director of the Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, was recently featured in the news for his efforts to save the life of his friend, journalist Steven Sotloff, who was beheaded by ISIS.

All sessions open to the public

The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings Jewish people together for community-based learning, to foster Jewish unity, empower individuals through increased Jewish knowledge, and create meaningful shared experiences. The South Hills Jewish Community will join with more than 400 Jewish communities from 40 countries around the world.

Questions? Email southhills@jfedpgh.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>&quot;Daniel Shekhtman&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Shmuel Joseph-Agnon&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Yuval Neeman&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Robert Aumann&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Ana Yanat&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Amos Oz&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Kira Radinsky&quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30 - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Charity Action</td>
<td>Theater &quot;Dolls&quot; play</td>
<td>Master-class of Great Choral Synagogue</td>
<td>Olga Pushkareva</td>
<td>Dima Zitser</td>
<td>Sagi Rabovsky, Janna Yoffee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>『Subscriberlal Publishing』</td>
<td>&quot;A ball of wool&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Making a personal kippa&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Jumping king&quot; Interactive story for parents and kids 0-2 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Book-crossing of Jewish literature</td>
<td>Game zone GaGaGames Nataly &amp; Alex Kulikov &quot;Zentangle &amp; doodling of Jewish names&quot; Simultaneous exhibition with chess grandmaster Mark Taimanov</td>
<td>&quot;Medaber Ivrit&quot;</td>
<td>Alla Neiman</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Heroes of Tel-Aviv streets&quot; Interactive exhibition from Israel Culture Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Drawing of charitable lottery</td>
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<td>Dima Zitser</td>
<td>Alla Neiman</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Charity Action</td>
<td>Concert &quot;Heart is a bird, I am flying...&quot;</td>
<td>Trivia game &quot;Medaber Ivrit&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;What? Where? When?&quot; game for school students</td>
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<td>5:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Book-crossing of Jewish literature</td>
<td>Alla Neiman &quot;Here &amp; a fool: Inner harmony and outward face&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Museum Madatek&quot;</td>
<td>Youth club Tsameret &quot;Israel scouts against evil&quot; for school students</td>
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<td>6:10 - 7:10 pm</td>
<td>El Al Club</td>
<td>Semen Yakerson &quot;The great collector of Jewish books Abraham Firkovitch – a villain, a wise man or a hero&quot;</td>
<td>Eliezer Lesovoy &quot;Heroes in Jewish texts&quot;</td>
<td>Eliezer Lesovoy &quot;Innocent villains&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:10 - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Drawing of charitable lottery</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eliezer Lesovoy</td>
<td>Inna Aronova &quot;Find your inner hero, villain, wise man and a fool&quot; Theater master-class</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Andrei Urgant Artist's evening</td>
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The Global Day of Jewish Learning - November 17, 2013

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST NORTH COUNTY INLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING!
In concert with Jewish communities around the globe, Congregations Ner Tamid and Adat Shalom, will gather for a morning of communal study, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17!

SCHEDULE
9:30 Joint session of religious schools (grades K-7)
9:45 Adult session 1
10:40 Break
10:50 Adult session 2
11:45 Joint Siyum (concluding celebration) for adults and kids

This year's activities will be hosted at the Temple Adat Shalom campus.

The Global theme this year is Jewish Creativity. Children will meet by grade, in classrooms, to explore Jewish creativity through a variety of media. Adults will have the opportunity to participate in two of four presentations and discussions led by Rabbis Castiglione and Calne, Cantor Frank, and David Barzalai, West-Coast Director of ARZA, an organization dedicated to the just, religious freedom of all facets of Jewish expression in Israel.

“CREATIVITY OF PRAYER THROUGH MUSIC” - Cantor Lori Wilinsky Frank
The universal language of music is a powerful medium in our prayer service. It can transcend all texts. The chanting of Kol Nidre or a simple wordless nigggun or melody can touch us deeply. We will explore how Jewish worship music can connect us to our past and future; how effective use of music can transform a worship experience and enhance a prayer text to bring out a variety of different interpretations - allowing the worshipper to connect on many different levels of meaning and emotion. We will discuss what works, what doesn't, and why; how Jewish worship music has evolved and how it continues to evolve. If you've ever wondered how Jewish music plays a vital role in our worship service, you'll want to take part in this exciting discussion. Session 2 Only.

“CREATIVITY AND REVELATION” - Rabbi Nadav Calne
The introductions of Torah, Talmud, and Jewish values to the world are some of the greatest creative acts in history. To what extent are revelation, prophecy, and dialogue with God “creative” acts, or are they merely passive stonography? What are the roles of God and the individual person in acts of inspiration and epiphany? How can creativity help us to understand the nature of revelation, and revelation help us to understand the nature of creativity?

“CREATIVITY AND THE TRADITION OF PRAYER” - Rabbi David Castiglione
Prayer has always been our creative attempt to invite, know and commune with the Source of all creation. Throughout our millennia, prayer ("t’fillah/avodah) has changed and evolved. Is there a need to adjust Jewish prayer to meet the 21st century Jewish zeitgeist? Is there permission, within our faith, to do so? How limited should we be by obedience to tradition? Is prayer a noble creative endeavor, efficacious, or an exercise in human conceit?

“CREATIVITY AND THE ISRAELI ENTERPRISE” - David Barzalai
Israel, has been the epitome of modern Jewish creativity and survival. How is it then that the State of Israel still denies equal access and religious protection to all of its Jewish citizens? Learn about current efforts and strategies to bring legitimacy to all of Israel's Jewish streams of faith, and how you can help to further Progressive Judaism thrive as the most creative religious force in the Jewish homeland.

NOV-17-13
1 WORLD 1 PEOPLE 1 DAY
Take a Step Ahead.

The Global Day of Jewish Learning—November 17, 2013
Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster Street

On November 17th Jews around the world will share a day of Jewish learning, dialogue and exploration, joining together in celebration of all that unites us.

Join us for the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

www.theglobalday.com

At 10:30 am, choose from:
- “Studying a Hasidic Text on the Torah Reading of the Week” - Rabbi Alan Green
- “Creating the Amidah: How Our Defining Prayer Came Into Being” - Chazzan Anbal Mass
- PJ Library Program for Families with Young Children: “Mezuzah Madness”

12:00 pm: Brunch and Live Stream: “Let My People Know” – Rabbi Steinsaltz

1:00 pm: “Of Roses and Prohibitions: Creativity, Innovation, and Personal Choice in Jewish Thought” - Rabbi Ari Ellis (Showcased in worldwide satellite broadcast)

*10 at the door
For information or to reserve your spot call Florencia Katz: 204.480.7559
The Longest Translation

When he began the project, Rabbi Steinsaltz, then only 28, thought it would take a decade or two “at most.” JTA

Forty-five years after he began his revolutionary reworking of the Talmud, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz takes time to celebrate its completion — through learning.

Wednesday, November 3, 2010
Steve Lipman
Staff Writer

When Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz began his monumental project of translating the Talmud into contemporary Hebrew, piercing the dense layers of wisdom and commentary contained in the ancient text, Levi Eshkol of the now-defunct Mapai party was Israel’s prime minister, the young country’s population stood at a mere 2.5 million, and when a Beatles concert there was canceled, it was assumed the country’s leaders thought the Fab Four would corrupt its youth.

It was 1965. And for the next 45 years, working at first out of a cramped office in Jerusalem, Rabbi Steinsaltz, an Israeli scholar and author, would churn out tractate after tractate, translating by his own estimate “millions” of words from Aramaic into modern Hebrew and then English.
Along the way he did nothing less than free the Talmud from the province of a small number of scholars and make it available to a new generation of learners.

One of those learners was Rabbi Andy Bachman. During his student days at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in the early 1990s, the future rabbi taught an adult education course at Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope, where he now serves as spiritual leader. The course included study of the Talmud’s Berachot tractate, and he had the choice of three texts: the standard Aramaic version popularly known as the Vilna Shas, an English translation published by Soncino Press two generations earlier, and a more recent translation by Rabbi Steinsaltz.

Rabbi Bachman chose the Steinsaltz Talmud.

“It seemed a good tool,” he said. It introduced basic Talmudic concepts to students who had scant background in Talmud. Unlike the other versions, the text in Steinsaltz’s was in contemporary Hebrew, with vowels and punctuation marks, and it made Talmud study easier, Rabbi Bachman said.

This weekend, the decades-long Talmud project that has come to define Rabbi Steinsaltz’s life, that “good tool” as Andy Bachman understatedly put it, will culminate with the publication of the final tractate in the series, Ta’anit. The day, Sunday, Nov. 7, will be marked by a “Global Day of Learning.” Dozens of communities across the world will take part in what is both a celebration of Rabbi Steinsaltz’s work and, in keeping with his vision, an opportunity for Jews everywhere to grapple with life’s “Big Questions,” as he puts it, ones the rabbis who compiled the Talmud wrestled with themselves.

In an interview with The Jewish Week from his office in Jerusalem, Rabbi Steinsaltz, now 73, looked back over his Talmud project, what observers term an “extraordinary” achievement, one that revolutionized and popularized Talmud study — and also led to serious criticism in some Orthodox circles.

“Jewish knowledge belongs to everyone,” the rabbi said. “Our goal is not so much to ‘spread’ knowledge, but to give it back to its owners.”

Rabbi Steinsaltz, who grew up in a secular Jerusalem family and has written some 60 books and established educational institutions in Israel and the former Soviet Union, said he embarked on the Talmud project because “the world needs it,” referring to a knowledge of the Talmud’s wisdom and insights.

“Jewish learning is not a pastime — it is one of the essential ways that connects us to our ancestors,” he said. His goal: make the Talmud “more accessible” and take away “the stigma” of the text as irrelevant to the contemporary reader. “Everything [that is not readily apparent] should be explained.”

Over the years, Rabbi Steinsaltz’s explanations have had a global reach, in Orthodox and non-Orthodox circles alike.
At Congregation Or Zarua, a Conservative synagogue on East 84th Street, Rabbi Harlan Wechsler said some members of his weekly Talmud class team exclusively from the Steinsaltz Talmud, and he will often ask them about Rabbis Steinsaltz’s commentary on certain passages.

Herbert Shapiro, a member of the Or Zarua Talmud class for more than a decade, said he prefers the Steinsaltz Talmud. “For me” — someone without an extensive background in Talmud study — “it’s more comfortable.”

He and his wife donate a volume of the Steinsaltz Talmud to the congregation’s library every year.

In Silver Spring, Md., Zach Dyckman, a Modern Orthodox Jew who has been part of a small weekly Talmud class for more than 25 years, also said he favors the Steinsaltz Talmud, because of the Hebrew translations and the accompanying interpretations. “For me, it’s helpful.”

The Steinsaltz Talmud, according to Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, president of Clal — The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, “is used all over the place. I’ve seen it everywhere, from the offices of liberal rabbis to the offices of secular business leaders.”

Rabbi Steinsaltz’s approach of guiding learners, like an insightful grad school professor, through the thicket of legal and ethical teachings in the Talmud, has won praise.

“It’s like having a teacher explain [the text] to you,” said Rabbi Yitzchak Rosenbaum, associate executive director of the National Jewish Outreach Program. He calls Rabbi Steinsaltz’s Talmud project “a tremendous accomplishment. It’s extraordinarily impressive. It’s very creative.”

The Steinsaltz Talmud, Rabbi Rosenbaum continued, “is taking Talmud public,” so that it is no longer the exclusive domain of scholars. “The single greatest accomplishment is continuing to expand the popularity of Talmud study.”

Rabbi Steinsaltz’s Talmud, which includes his accompanying commentary and other related remarks from science or contemporary thought, marked a major departure from accepted tradition when it was first published nearly a half-century ago. Perhaps not surprisingly it often drew criticism from some Orthodox Jews because of its novel content and style. And there were those scholars who felt it was becoming too accessible to laymen.

The Talmud — both the larger, more-authoritative Babylonian Talmud, and the smaller Jerusalem Talmud — is a compilation of debates and discussions that took place in rabbinical academies after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. Fearing that the oral tradition would be lost, the generation’s religious leaders decided to record the teachings that can be traced, according to Jewish tradition, to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Rabbi Steinsaltz’s decision to, in essence, offer a new text of the Babylonian Talmud (the 1,500-year-old basis of Oral Law that is the foundation of advanced Jewish study) instead
of the accepted Vilna Shas (nearly 6,000 pages of vowel-less, punctuation-less Aramaic surrounded by commentary in Hebrew, and other reference notes), was seen by critics as a slap at Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Steinsaltz says he did not pay attention to the “ad hominem” attacks on his role in changing the character of Talmud study; if people could not find fault with the writing, they criticized the writer, he says.

While the Steinsaltz Talmud has sold some 3 million copies over the years, it hasn’t been without competition.

In the 1990s, around the time that Andy Bachman was teaching his adult education course, Mesorah Publications in Brooklyn introduced its ArtScroll Talmud, with the Aramaic text and an annotated English translation. Rabbi Bachman eventually began using that version for the subsequent Talmud courses he taught. He was not alone.

While ArtScroll, whose Talmud publication coincided with the increasingly popular Daf Yomi page-a-day Talmud study program, has largely become the Talmud of choice in Orthodox institutions, especially haredi ones, the Steinsaltz Talmud remains a book for intensive study for many other parts of the community, experts say.

Sunday’s Global Day of Learning will be both a standard siyum, the completion ceremony that takes place whenever a tractate of Talmud or another significant text is finished, and a vindication of Rabbi Steinsaltz’s vision.

“It’s more than my own personal celebration,” he says.

The event, coordinated by the Aleph Society (the 15-year-old organization that supports the rabbi’s educational activities), and organized by The Jewish Federations of North America, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the JCC Association of North America, will include, via the Internet, Jewish communities around the world from A (Albania and Azerbaijan) to Z (Zaporozhye and Zhitomir, in Ukraine).

Some 260 locations, including several in the Greater New York area, will participate in the event. Many have also initiated long-term educational programs in recent months.

“Even before the Global Day, you may also want to engage in some of the Big Questions that are part of our communal study, such as: “Does God answer prayer? What is my responsibility to Tzedakah? What is sex for? When we say ‘do unto others’ … who are the others,” Rabbi Steinsaltz wrote in an e-mail message.

“Each community … will decide what their day will look like — the Global Day team will provide each community with curricular materials, promotional materials and a handbook to assist with planning the day,” according to a statement from the JFNA.

The main ceremony, led by Rabbi Steinsaltz, will take place in Jerusalem’s City Hall.
The 45-year journey to complete the Talmud translation was “an enormous task,” the soft-spoken Rabbi Steinsaltz acknowledged. “The work wasn’t as easy as I had thought. I am not a fast writer by any means.”

With modern-day technology, he added, the project may have taken one-fifth as long.

When, back in 1965, the 28-year-old rabbi decided to do his own take on the Talmud, he estimated the project would take a decade or two. “At most,” he said, “20 years would be the maximum.”

Despite the drain on his time and energy, Rabbi Steinsaltz says he never thought of stopping. He kept going, he said, “in the merit of my ancestors,” the dedicated scholars who preceded him.

Now that the Steinsaltz Talmud is complete, is the rabbi ready to slow down?

“Never,” he said. “I have much more work to do, a whole list of books that I have to write.”

The rabbi said he has “two or three” major projects in mind. He offered no details.

“My plan is to live 170 years,” Rabbi Steinsaltz said. “The time is not allocated by me. The time is allocated by the Big Boss. I have lots of things to do.”

And so the next chapter — no, tractate — of his life has already begun.
Jewish knowledge is not just good to have. It is essential. Some may think that knowledge belongs to scholars, religious leaders and the elite. Not so in Judaism. For us, study is an essential demand upon everyone.

Of course, in history there were times when the general level of knowledge was not very high. Yet even then, study was always a major purpose and pursuit. Indeed, the very last paragraphs in Maimonides’ great work, “Mishneh Torah,” describe the grand vision of the Messianic Era: “For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Because Jewish knowledge is such a basic requirement, there have always been schools at every level, for both children and adults. Calling someone an “am ha’Aretz” — ignoramus — is a real insult, considered very offensive. Today, for reasons historical and otherwise, we are living at a time when this label applies to too many people. It is therefore our duty to enable those people to re-acquire that knowledge. The Torah says: “Moses commanded us a law, an inheritance of the congregation of Jacob” (Deuteronomy 33:4). In the Talmud, Rav Yehuda comments on this verse in Rav’s name: “Whoever withholds a halacha from his disciple is as though he had robbed him of his ancestral heritage” (Tractate Sanhedrin 91b). In other words, everyone has a share in this inheritance, and depriving someone — anyone — of what belongs to them is tantamount to theft.
Study is not easy, especially if one did not receive a good Jewish education from one’s parents or at school. It is not easy for an unlearned person to acquire knowledge. A Global Day of Jewish Learning, where people from hundreds of communities around the world study the same text, is one way of encouraging study, or at least the taste of study. Perhaps this small taste will encourage participants to go on and continue their learning, either with others or on their own. The Global Day of Jewish Learning takes place this year on Nov. 16 (theglobalday.org).

Because so many thousands of people are studying together, the Global Day of Jewish Learning transforms a solitary event into a venture that belongs to everybody. We are uplifted and inspired when people from all walks of life gather together in study; our neighbors and our friends, our families and those whom we have never before met. We have not delegated Jewish knowledge to the professionals. We have made the claim that it belongs to all of us.

The Global Day serves one more critical purpose. We are a nation that is spread all over the world, divided by distance, different languages and ways of life, and sometimes also by ideas. We are more fragmented than we can afford. When people of different ages and professions gather together and are immersed in a common cause, we create new common denominators, new shared experiences and values. These will serve us well — not just on one Global Day but also at other times and in other areas of life. We can feel that there is something that unites us.

Often we feel united only in the face of calamity. But our common inheritance, too, can surely help us re-establish many connections and repair many broken lines of communication. The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings hundreds of diverse communities together in an embrace of this central pillar of our inheritance, the pillar of Jewish learning. I hope we use this experience — and what it creates in us and for us — as a ladder for climbing higher up to reach the place where we are supposed to be.

This year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning will be held Sunday, November 16. To get your community involved and/or to tune in to the live internet broadcast component featuring scholars, artists, rabbis, and authors from around the globe visit www.theglobalday.org or call 212-840-1166. The Global Day is under the aegis of Rabbi Steinsaltz.

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November 13, 2013

Jewish learning goes global

BY SALVADOR LITVAK

http://www.jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/article/jewish_learning Goes_global

A global conference of Jewish learning, including music and art performances, will take place online over a 24-hour period on Nov. 17. The Global Day of Jewish Learning will broadcast “24x24” — 24 classes from 24 speakers around the globe — free of charge and live using Google Hangouts On Air and YouTube. Scholar Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz will speak at 10 a.m.

The Global Day will unite 400 communities in 40 countries through the study of Jewish texts. Sponsored by the Aleph Society, the Global Day will be supervised by Rabbi Steinsaltz, who recently completed a 45-volume Hebrew translation and elucidation of the Talmud, the first such commentary since the 11th century. He is also the author of 60 books on philosophy, language, mysticism and history.

Rabbis, scholars, artists and professors will engage with this year’s Global Day theme, “Creating Together: Jewish Approaches to Creativity and Collaboration.”

Sinai Temple’s Rabbi David Wolpe will teach “How Moses Learned to Speak,” and Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, executive director of Mechon Hadar in New York, will challenge viewers with his talk, “How Can I Pray What I Don’t Believe? Creativity and Prayer Interpretation.” The band Stereo Sinai will perform songs and discuss their Jewish-text-based lyrics in their session “We Steal Lyrics From God.” Multimedia artist Hanan Harchol of Jewish Food for Thought, in his hour on “Making Jewish Wisdom Accessible Through Art,” will screen two episodes from his animated series and give a tour of his current exhibition. Novelist Dara Horn will describe the “The Theological Art of Storytelling.”

Viewers around the world will be able to sit in on classes broadcast from in-person community events worldwide. Virtual communities and individuals at home will be able to ask questions live on Twitter, Facebook and Google+. These videos will also be available on YouTube.

Karen Sponder, Project Director, explained that “our use of Google Hangouts On Air marks the first time this platform will be used for Jewish learning on a global scale. We hope that ‘24×24’ will inspire others to use the Internet to unite the worldwide Jewish community and make it easier to access Jewish learning.”

I will be participating from Gettysburg, Penn., where I will be attending the festivities connected to the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address.”

Salvador Litvak wrote and directed the Passover comedy and cult hit “When Do We Eat?” His newest film, “Saving Lincoln,” explores Abraham Lincoln’s fiery trial as commander-in-chief through the eyes of his closest friend, Ward Hill Lamon. Continue the conversation at Facebook.com/AccidentalTalmudist.

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Old-school educators go hi-tech to promote Torah accessibility

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz’s annual Global Day of Jewish Learning on Sunday aims to harness the Internet to amplify the latest in Jewish education efforts

BY AMANDA BORSCHEL-DAN | November 13, 2014, 8:14 am |

Trailblazing Jewish thinker Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is a pioneer in making Jewish texts accessible to all who wish to learn. The Israel Prize winner, an author of some 60 books on an eclectic array of topics, is most associated with his Hebrew translation and commentary on the Talmud, but he is — above all — an educator.

In an effort to amplify his educational efforts, five years ago Steinsaltz’s Aleph Society instituted a Global Day of Jewish Learning in select Diaspora communities and institutions. Now a slick high-tech endeavor broadcast on Google Hangouts simultaneously everywhere, this year’s Global Day brings dozens of diverse educators onto your laptop for 24 hours of free text-based classes.

Taking place on Sunday, November 16, the theme of the fifth annual Global Day is “Heroes & Villains, Saints & Fools: The People in the Book.” Though most lessons will be in English, speakers residing in seven countries will discuss biblical characters in a choice of five languages with registered participants from some 400 communities in 48 countries around the world.

Most lessons are held in front of a live audience at institutions’ festive Global Day of Jewish Learning events. But the world is their stage as classes are also simultaneously livestreamed via Google Hangouts On Air.

From living rooms or coffee shops, participants across the Diaspora can live chat questions to the teachers or interact with other students via Twitter (@TheGlobalDay) and Facebook. And if a session falls in the wee hours of the night, no worries: the classes will also be available for posterity on YouTube.
For some, harnessing the power of a rapidly changing technology can be a double-edged sword.

"While the Internet has done much to improve our lives, it often facilitates a more atomized, disconnected world. Thankfully, this day of learning offers us the opportunity to leverage the Internet to connect deeply — to Torah and to each other," says Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, who is scheduled to teach during the Global Day.

Kaunfer, the co-founder and executive director of New York’s egalitarian learning program Mechon Hadar, also has an online learning initiative called Project Zug, which pairs Israelis and Diaspora Jews for virtual chevruta-style learning.

Other speakers include a wide variety of rabbis and educators, French Jewish mystic Michael Sebban and musician Alicia Jo Rabins.

A living library of Jewish texts

It is quite probable that most of the Global Day’s presenters will use a new resource called Sefaria to prepare their source materials.

One of the more exciting technological initiatives in the Jewish education world today, Sefaria calls itself “a living library of Jewish texts.” In line with the Steinsaltz accessibility ethos, the project promotes the idea of using free, new technology to make ancient wisdom available to all.

Sara Tillinger Wolkenfeld, the director of Education and Community Engagement at Sefaria, is scheduled to speak about Rachel’s voice in the Bible and rabbinic sources for the Global Day. She tells The Times of Israel her lecture was prepared using Sefaria’s trove of texts, all found at the click of a mouse.

While a seasoned educator herself who has taught at top institutions such as Drisha in New York, Wolkenfeld says her work at Sefaria often involves teaching educators about the project.

Although it’s perhaps the ultimate in free text-based education tools around, it is difficult to describe Sefaria. It is simultaneously a repository for sacred texts and their translations, a concordance that effortlessly lists the citations of words or biblical verses throughout all of the Bible and rabbinic literature, a platform upon which to create classroom handouts, and a community.

Like Wikipedia, Sefaria relies on volunteers to pay-it-forward and help load a wealth of texts and translations. And it’s working. Wolkenfeld proudly says the project recently passed the 1,000 mark of individuals who have contributed code or content to the website.
Wolkenfeld explains Sefaria runs “contests” for untranslated texts, with the “prize” being the use of your translation on the website. In this way it has seen the first crowd-sourced translation of the entire Mishnah,

Participation is as easy as making a personal profile and hitting the “help translate” button on the website. Anyone can submit, but there currently isn’t enough manpower to check over the translations. Says Wolkenfeld, “You can see where the translation came from and whether you want to trust or not.”

The translators interact by messaging each other through the site to discuss their word choices.

“The community translation becomes a playground,” says Wolkenfeld.

A very useful playground, however. While working on a personal project, Wolkenfeld said she noticed another woman was also translating the same esoteric text. She messaged her and proposed they team up, which will save them both countless hours.

The website is built to support multiple versions of texts and languages. Eventually, however, the team hopes to check and lock its own Sefaria-approved translations. Not, however, with the goal of making money from their reuse elsewhere.

All texts loaded to Sefaria are copyright free and users are encouraged to use them freely. There is no pay wall and the technical support staff will happily send requested snippets of code to one and all. A recent app on iTunes uses Sefaria code, says Wolkenfeld.

“We’re building a digital infrastructure for the future,” says Wolkenfeld. “We want to do things well now so it’s accessible to everybody.”

After centuries of moldy books and dusty manuscripts, Jewish scholars are just being introduced to the idea of “digital humanities.” The team and its cadre of volunteers has only begun to scratch the surface in implementing and leveraging all the opportunities afforded by effortless exploration of the data and texts.

“It really feels like being part of something big,” she says.
Melton Schools Participate in Global Day of Jewish Learning

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning provided a specially designed lesson to study as an official part of the 2013 Global Day of Jewish Learning, held Nov. 17, 2013.

Several Melton Schools participated and offered the lesson. Viv Amstey and Lauren Seitcher created a multi-generational setting for the Global Day of Jewish Learning in Cape Town.

“We had Esther Maisels (pictured below), our Rhythms teacher, teach 17 adults in the Sukkah of the Gardens Shul. There was great participation and robust debate and all present had an inspiring morning.

We had a master storyteller entertaining the kids in the “Small Sukkah” with PJ Library books for the first 10 minutes after which the kids had a snack. We then had a gentleman from the Jewish old aged home come to talk with the children on their life in “der heim” (the shool) and how they came to Cape Town as well as their early life in South Africa. One of the residents came with a portfolio of all his artworks and gave the kids a photocopy of one of his pieces which they were thrilled about.

We look forward to participating in 2014.

The GDJL is an initiative to unite Jews around the world through the study of our shared texts. It is under the aegis of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. This year’s theme was “Creating Together: Jewish approaches to creativity and collaboration.” Worldwide, the GDJL engaged 400 communities.

Monty Teperson shares copies of his artwork with children in Cape Town.
Global Day of Jewish Learning - Dnepro Region - 2014

Shalom dear colleagues and friends,

On November 16th JCCs of eastern Ukraine joined in the celebration of 5th Global Day of Jewish Education. This year the festival of Jewish knowledge named “The People of the Book: heroes and villains, righteous and fools” has involved children and adults of all ages and walks of life in the richest imaginable range of educational activities. Mostly, all sessions were held in two main directions: educational lectures, discussions and presentations and arts & crafts workshops and master-classes.

Particularly in Dnepropetrovsk Solomonica JCC in close partnership with religious Jewish community organized a vast Limmud-style event under the roof of the Menorah Center, which is the home to most of Jewish organizations in the city. The partnership, which has already become a tradition greatly enriched and diversified the range and content of the events attended by over 400 participants. Best Jewish lecturers delivered both introductory and advanced sessions in all fields of Judaism for teens, youth and adults while JCC madrichim and educators offered exciting and diverse master-classes and workshops for families and kids. The closing event concluded with the quiz on Jewish knowledge offering greatest Jewish books to the winners.

On November 14-16th in Zaporozhye, 100 members of the JCC youth programs attended the Shabbaton specially dedicated to voluntarism and Jewish learning. Among the highlights of the Shabbaton were a remarkable play about the life challenges of special needs people presented by youth volunteer club and Jewish poetry-based performance of JCC teen’s club drama studio. At the same time Zaporozhye JCC offered a creative Jewish learning program for children, and specially designed tour of Jewish Zaporozhye for adults.

Apart from classic topics of Torah studies, Jewish tradition and literature, over 1000 kids and adults all over the region had a chance to learn while discovering own creativity and talent at the vocal, dance, poetry, drama, chess or pottery-making master-classes and to enjoy the genuine feeling of belonging to a friendly, strong and resourceful community.

Please, see the photo report here: https://plus.google.com/photos/114258570614871609235/albums/6085192801426881361?authkey=CNSSgr-YotvLwE

Best regards,
Yoni Leifer and Dnepro JDC team

Всемирный День Еврейского Образования

Шапок уважаемые коллеги и друзья,

16 ноября Общины Центры региона восточной Украины присоединились к празднованию 5-го Всемирного Дня Еврейского Образования. В этом году фестиваль еврейских знаний под названием "Лицедеи книги, герои и злодеи, праведники и гуляю" привлек детей и взрослых всех возрастов широким спектром оригинальных и разнообразных образовательных программ. В основном все занятия проводились в двух направлениях: образовательные лекции, обсуждения и презентации и творческие мастер-классы.

В Днепропетровске ЕОЦ Соломоника в тесном сотрудничестве с местной религиозной общиной организовал круглый стол в стиле Лиммуда в здании центра Менора, в котором сегодня располагается большинство еврейских организаций города. Благодаря такому сотрудничеству, уже ставшему хорошей традицией, программа, в которой смогли принять участие более 400 участников, была максимально насыщенной и разноплановой. Лучшие лекторы провели как вводные, так и углубленные занятия по различным аспектам иудаизма для подростков, молодежи и взрослых. В то же время мадрехим и специалисты общинного центра приготовили увлекательные мастер-классы для семей и детей. День завершился викторией на тему еврейских книг, где вознаграждением для победителей стали прекрасные еврейские книги.

14-16 ноября Общинный Центр г. Запорожья организовал для 100 участников молодежных программ Шаббатон, посвященный теме волонтерства и еврейских знаний. Одними из наиболее ярких событий Шаббатона стали два театральных постановки: одна из них была подготовлена участниками молодежного волонтерского клуба и посвящена жизни людей с особыми потребностями, а вторую постановку по мотивам произведений выдающихся еврейских поэтов показали участники подросткового клуба Общинного Центра. В то же время Запорожский Общинный Центр подготовил увлекательную образовательную программу для детей и специально разработанную экскурсию по еврейскому Запорожью для взрослых.

Помимо обучения классическим темам, посещаемых Торы, еврейских традиций и литературы, более 1000 детей и взрослых по всему региону получили возможность приобрести новые знания о роскошь своих способностях на творческих занятиях по вокалу, еврейским танцам, поэзии, театральному искусству, гончарному делу и шахматам. Каждый мог насладиться прекрасной атмосферой и истинным чувством принадлежности к дружной и сильной общине.

Фотооотчет вы можете увидеть здесь:

С уважением,
Йони Лейфер и команда Джойнт Днепропетровск

Best Regards!

Yoni Leifer
JDC Representative
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Representative Office in Eastern Ukraine
Visit our website: www.jdc.org
The Jewish Federation of Howard County and the Howard County Board of Rabbis played host to 150 members of the county’s Jewish community who came together Nov. 16 at Howard Community College to participate in the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

Attendees were treated to presentations by 14 area rabbis who expanded on the theme, “Heroes, Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book.” The gathering marked the first time the community as a whole participated in the worldwide event, joining more than 500 communities in 40 countries participating in the fifth annual day of learning.

“[This is a] very important program for us as a community to come together. It’s something that has been missing in Howard County that people wanted to come together,” said Jessica Zellweger, marketing and communications associate at the federation.

Divided into two one-hour sessions, with a snack break in between, attendees chose from lectures with titles such as “Moses: Extraordinary Prophet or Just Your Average Mo?” presented by Rabbi Morris Zimbalist; “Modern Poetry, Contemporary Midrash — Drawing Inspiration for the People of the Book,” presented by Rabbi Sonya Starr of Columbia Jewish Congregation; and “Resurrection — Biblically Speaking,” presented by Rabbi Mendel Abrams of Beth Torah Congregation.

Rabbi Susan Grossman of Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia was among the clergy who participated in the first session with her take on “Heroines, Prophetesses and Queens — The Women of the Book.”
“On one hand, it means that the Jewish community in Howard County is coming of age,” said Grossman. “It’s thrilling to see the growth of community in this way and that the study of the Bible can be at the heart of the Jewish people — affiliated and unaffiliated.”

Betsy Singer Marcus of Columbia relished the opportunity to hear from other clergy from Howard County and to mingle with people from other congregations.

“It enhances our Jewishness to share our experience with people from other congregations and denominations,” she said.

Rabbi Daniel Plotkin, education director at Beth Shalom Congregation, presented “King David: Sinner or Saint?” describing the ancient ruler as a fascinating character and one of the most complex in the Bible. For Plotkin, communal learning is paramount to the transmission of Jewish knowledge to the younger generations.

“The goal is to encourage education as a lifelong pursuit,” said Plotkin. “For me, as a youth educator, it makes it easier for me to teach kids when there is an educated parent at home. When kids see parents and grandparents participate in Jewish learning they see that Jewish education is important.”

Board of Rabbis president Rabbi Craig H. Axler of Temple Isaiah in Fulton was thrilled with the outcome of this event.

“This idea of doing something as a community and exposing our groups to each other is a wonderful thing to do,” he said. “To have 14 rabbis with no friction … that encourages me on what we can yet do as a community.”
Soup, Partnership and the Global Day of Jewish Learning

Partnership2Gether, Kiryat Malachi

NOVEMBER 24, 2013

November 17th, was a special day. The “Global Day of Jewish Learning” (GDJL)

This year, Our Partnership has chosen to take a role and be part in our endless Jewish Chain that connecting us all over the world!

This year’s theme was “Creating Together” reflects the spirit and the core meaning of Partnership 2Gether. in our Partnership we had a learning session with the partnership lay leaders and professionals over nice bowl of homemade soup we discussed, through Modern and old Jewish\Israeli\Hebrew different texts, issues such as; common language, partnership, Jewish peoplehood and belonging.

The soup was great but the atmosphere was even greater and we all left back home with good taste for more....
Global Day was great! I created a bunch of different programs centered around the theme of creation and there were kids from pre-k through high school working on all sorts of different activities and rotating through them. There was also a track for adults.

The event was held at Temple Beth El, the congregation that I work with, but we were joined also by Heska Amuna Synagogue and the Knoxville Jewish Day School.

Below is a picture of one of the projects -- a massive Jewish star that was broken up into many pieces, with each triangle representing a different day and the center representing Shabbat. They all got a chance to decorate and at the end we put it all together. The idea now is that the star will rotate between Beth El, Heska Amuna, and the Jewish Day School.

Alachua Haskins

Education Fellow, Institute for Southern Jewish Life
Nikolayev Jewish Community

In Nikolayev Jewish Community the Global Day of Jewish Learning was held in the Jewish Community Center. This Day of Jewish knowledge touched people of all ages - students, young people and parents. We conducted classes in the library, and discussed: "The community and its role in Jewish life – sages’ statements on this issue"; “The Talmud as a collection of Jewish thought”; and "Beit Midrash as a continuation of the traditions of the Oral Torah." The interactive discussion topics impressed all the participants. The texts that were handed out to everyone caused a lot of debate and discussion.

The PJ Library program, “Creating Intergenerational Community Together” contributed greatly to our Global Day event. It was led by one of our educational programming leaders, Irina Korsun.

Mr. Michael Goldenberg

Chairman of the Community
The Day of Jewish Learning in St. Petersburg, Russia

On November 16 St. Petersburg became home for a Festival to mark the Fifth Global Day of Jewish Learning. The House of Jewish Culture ESOD was crowded. More than 600 people came to the holiday with their families — small children and grandparents. A team of volunteers encountered the visitors and helped them to find the appropriate studio or lecture. All the rooms were given the names of famous national heroes or scientists. Bounded by one theme “Heroes and Villains, Saints and Fools: The People in the Book” the events and entertainments lasted for the whole day. At the evening groups of youths and students came to play intellectual games. Visitors could buy souvenirs with the logo of the Festival, toys and books in the foyer of ESOD.

Charity Raffle organized in cooperation with the Jewish Fund Social (JEFS) became special feature of the Day of Jewish Learning. The partners of the Festival granted awards, Jean Freedman, director of the Israeli Cultural Center, and a representative of the El-Al Company drew the lottery. Charity Raffle brought money for the families at risk support.

At the evening the lottery drew Andrey Urgant. After that the well-known actor and showman gave a recital and talked about heroes, sages and fools.

Simultaneous exhibition with a famous chess grandmaster Mark Taymanov lasted for hours and a half. Jewish elders as well as talented youngsters were his opponents.

The inimitable French designer, Alla Neyman, kept with the Festival guests enthralling conversation about harmony in one’s choice of clothing, and the issue of living the life of real hero in the rhythm of modern life.

Local media widely announced and broadcasted the Day of Jewish Learning.

The event has been held by mutual efforts of the following Jewish organizations of St. Petersburg: “Jewish National-Cultural Autonomy — the Resource Center”, House of Jewish Culture ESOD, Grand Choral Synagogue, Israeli Cultural Center at the Embassy of the State of Israel, Charity Foundation “Regional Jewish Council in St. Petersburg”, Family Center “Adain Lo”, Jewish Agency for Israel, Hi-Tech Center “ORT-SPb”, Jewish Youth organization “Hillel”, Charity Center “Khesed Avraham”, Progressive Judaism Congregation “Shaarey Shalom”, Jewish Fund Social JEFS. The Federal Jewish National-Cultural Autonomy also supported the Festival.
The Global Day of Jewish Learning in Shanghai
An insight into the Shanghai Jewish Community

Jeanine Buzali
JDC JSC in Shanghai
November 14, 2011

The Jews in Shanghai are redefining the meaning of community. This city, like many other Asian cities with a substantial expat population, attracts a wide range of ages, nationalities, occupations, and personalities. Most people are here on a long-term temporary basis, but everyone seeks to make this place home. People are committed to socializing and building healthy support systems. Even though community-building has happened in a rather top-down fashion so far (there are five rabbis for about 2000 people), Jews are taking their individual responsibility to contribute to their community quite seriously. The question is, what will this community look like?

Through planning, and executing the first-ever Global Day of Jewish Learning in Shanghai, I learned a lot about what “the community” — used here as the population of people who self-identify as Jewish — wants and needs. It started out as a small thing, in my mind. I have been here for less than two months, networking solidly within the expat world and building a relationship with the all-Chinese staff at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum. As the first JDC person in the region in a very long time, and the first long-term foreign volunteer the Museum has ever had, the time was still unripe for me to swoop down on the Museum with an event that centers around discussing Jewish prayer (another layer of complication is the fact that Judaism is not recognized as a religion in China).

Or so I thought. I had called and texted about fifteen people whom I thought would be interested in the event. Word got around, and on Sunday morning, my Chinese colleague (who very kindly ignored all the less-precise details about what was happening) and I watched as 25 people poured into what used to be the Women’s Gallery of the Ohel Moshe Synagogue, in the Hongkou District of Shanghai.

Brunch was a great success, a mixture between a family-style breakfast and a buffet. As we started the session and I read the Shema prayer out loud, I chill went through me. I had been so busy with the preparations for the event, with worrying who would come and how it would go, that I had barely stopped to think about what it was that I was organizing. I had planned the session and had read the texts and the facilitator’s guide, but it was only in that moment when I said the prayer that I realized how many people in the last century, under a wide-variety of conditions, had said that prayer in that same building.

The interconnected nature of the Jewish world is truly remarkable. Here I was, sitting in an old synagogue that once was the heart of a ghetto of Holocaust refugees, in China, reading Rashi and Maimonides, with 25 other Jews, ages 20 to 75, from Australia, Israel, France, the US, Mexico, Brazil, the UK, Turkey, Canada, and South Africa. We had some Chinese guests who participated in the session and kept us entirely aware of where we were.

It was such an unexpected success that I had to wonder: all other things aside, what is the Global Day offering that people are craving so much? Expat communities tend to focus on the basics.
Holidays, Shabbats and births are the predominant things that unite people here. The community is based on religious aspects of Judaism. But Shanghai Jews want to interact on a much more social level. This is what is missing in the community, an outlet for cultural Judaism, an exploration and questioning of Judaism with other Jews. And that is exactly what the Global Day of Jewish Learning helped to provide.

After the session, my colleague gave the group a tour of the Museum. Many of the participants had never been to it before. It was wonderful to learn the history of the place where we had the session, and it gave the event additional depth.

On my part, I learned a lot: about the community, about my strengths and weaknesses as a community organizer, about what is difficult and what is easy in the situation I am in. Above all, I realized that I am in a position to collide worlds. Yesterday I felt the potential of that, the magnitude of being in such a position.

There are things to be done.
November 17, 2013

The Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center of Jewish Culture in Trancoso today welcomed more than three dozen Jews and descendants of Jews forcibly converted or persecuted by the Inquisition from all over the country and Spain who participated Trancoso’s Global Day of Jewish Learning event.

Rabbi Elisha Salas, Sheliach (emissary) to Portugal of Shavei ISRAEL (worldwide Jewish organization based in Jerusalem) guided the work.

Participants had the opportunity to learn a bit about the Jewish personalities of Trancoso and the Jewish roots of this historic city, and also about its borders - especially the border region with Spain and Tras-os-Montes.

Participants viewed the live internet broadcast of the lecture by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz Avin on "Creativity" and then engaged in a group discussion.

The Jewish studies performed today in Trancoso today addressed the themes of "Creating Bonds of Friendship: Acquire a Friend" and "Creation of Shabbat: Rest as a Creative Act."

The symposium dealt with issues and questions concerning "how each person has their own contribution to the world of creativity", "Is there no room for creativity in prayer or Jewish learning?" and "What role the arts play in Jewish life".

Rabbi Elisha Salas and Jose Levy Dominic chose to facilitate a Global Day event in Trancoso and at the Cardoso Center (which integrates Bet Mayim Hayim Synagogue) on behalf of Shavei ISRAEL due to "the meaning and impact that Jewish presence and heritage have had in Trancoso and its region, as well as the fact that many "bnei anusim" (descendants of Jews forcibly converted out of the Jewish faith) are increasingly in search of their roots of faith and blood and strongly wish to regain a vibrant Jewish identity.

"The Global Day of Jewish Learning exhorts us as individuals to increase our knowledge as communities, strengthening our communal efforts, and helps to unity us as part of the Jewish

The Global Day of Jewish Studies in Trancoso had major support from Shavei ISRAEL, chaired by Micahel Freund, and collaborated with Jewish researcher Luiza Lyra Metzker, the Jewish Community of Belmonte, the City and the town of Trancoso, and Trancoso company EEM Events.

Rabbi Elisha Salas

Sheliach, Shavei ISRAEL
Dear Friends,

I want to send you all a quick update about the Global Day of Jewish Learning event we held last week. The idea was put forth by Rav Adin Steinsaltz and has developed over the last three years into a worldwide event. There were some 300 communities around the globe from 40 different countries that participated. Livnot participated for the first year and represented Tzfat. For more details you can visit www.theglobalday.com.

This years topic was Gratitude and Blessings and we tried to bring the best of Tzfat into the learning and evening activities. The International Center of Tzfat Kabbalah, the Tzfat Hasder Yeshiva and Livnot educators led the learning. The event was focused on the community and the evening was conducted in Hebrew. While attendance was just over 30 for this first event, Tzfat was well represented. We had college students, medical students from the New Medical School in Tzfat, those from Shanat Sherut (a year of volunteering before the army), professionals, religious, and secular, anywhere between the ages of 18 through 80.

I was moved by the 18 year old and 80 year old learning together in chevruta, the observant and non-observant studying and listening to each other and from everyone signing together, finding gratitude in all that we had.

I see that as we develop the Kahal Project and connect it with our educational programming that we will reach ever greater numbers with the Livnot way and I think that is a good thing for the Jewish people.