

# First International Dialog on the Israel Educator

ט'–י"ב תמוז תשע"ד July 7th–10th, 2014  
Jerusalem, Israel

A conference-in-motion focusing on the professional development of Israel educators, intended for reflective practitioners representing a wide range of ages and experiences, hailing from Israel, North America, and 15 countries around the world. Together, we will engage in conversation making use of key sites and experiences to elicit deeper discussion on a set of themes:

## 1. HA-MECHANECH LE'YISRAEL, MI'HU?

## המחנך לישראל, מיהו?

The knowledge, characteristics, skills, experiences, values and commitments that make for an effective Israel educator and the questions he or she needs to address in the process of becoming one

## 2. THE MAKING OF AN EFFECTIVE ISRAEL EDUCATOR

## טיפוח של מחנך אפקטיבי

The language of Israel education and how we teach it, with reference to existing frameworks in which such training is already taking place and in consideration of new frameworks that might be developed

## 3. WHAT COLLABORATION LOOKS

## כך נראה שיתוף פעולה

Formulation of a declaration of principles regarding the professional development of Israel educators, determination of priorities, setting an agenda and considering partnerships for moving forward

Each of these themes has its own subset of questions, which will be raised throughout the conference in a variety of ways. Anticipated outcomes include:

- Articulation of the fundamentals integral to the development and nurturing of Israel educators
- Proposals for new or expanded and enhanced programs of professional development
- Establishment of an international professional association of Israel educators
- Preliminary mapping of the needs for Israel education curricula and materials

As the conference will be taking place against the background of the recently approved Joint Initiative of the Government of Israel and World Jewry for Securing a Thriving Jewish Future, due consideration will be given throughout to practical proposals that might be integrated into that undertaking, as well as to other collaborations that might further our common objectives

MONDAY | 9 JULY ● יום שני | ט' תמוז

## המחנך לישראל, מיהו? הבנת זהותו של המחנך לישראל

### HA-MECHANECH LE'YISRAEL MI'HU? UNDERSTANDING THE ISRAEL EDUCATOR'S IDENTITY

The question "Hamechanech l'Yisrael, Mi'Hu?" is one of the most important issues we face, as an educator's identity has great potential impact on the life of the community he/she serves. It is the mechanech – the educator – who has both the mandate and responsibility to traverse the vast world of Jewish times and spaces, sharing with his/her community a meaningful, compelling and relevant narrative of Jewish living. The educator is therefore not merely a talented storyteller, but an architect. Certainly this is the case in regard to the Israel educator who must assist his or her charges in building a coherent and meaningful construct through which Israel might be integrated into their self-identity.

Fundamentally, building this construct requires that the Israel educator develop his or her own understanding of Israel as a Jewish state and its significance in regard to the meaning of being Jewish. So it is with this enquiry that we launch our collaborative journey of exploring the identity and qualities of the impactful Israel educator. As the importance of Israel in Jewish life can no longer be taken for granted, the challenge for the Israel educator is how to articulate it in a manner resonant for those with whom he or she is engaged. We will explore that challenge today through creative and meaningful mifgashim between educators from Israel and abroad and across generations, clarifying for ourselves - individually and as a collective – how we understand Israel in the framework of Jewish education.

The afternoon "field trip" will involve interaction with those who are consciously addressing the question of Israel's Jewishness in a variety of innovative frameworks. The evening program will provide a looking glass into Israel from the perspective of an "outsider" wanting "in." Through these experiences, which will challenge us to consider anew our relationship with Israel wherever we live, we will begin to develop a larger and more complete understanding of each other and ourselves – while furthering our objective of characterizing the Israel educator.

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- 10:00**     **REGISTRATION | הרשמה**  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ha'Aliya Street 1, Jerusalem
- 10:30**     **DEPART BY BUS FOR BEIT MAIERSDORF, HEBREW UNIVERSITY, MT. SCOPUS**
- 11:30**     **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS | ברוכים הבאים**  
*Beit Maiersdorf*  
Dr. David Breakstone, Vice Chairman, World Zionist Organization  
Brig. General (Res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, Director General, Ministry of International Affairs and Strategy  
Ms. Anne Lanski, Executive Director, The iCenter
- 12:00**     **WHY AM I HERE? | למה אני פה?**  
*Beit Maiersdorf*  
Sharing reasons for coming and expectations in small groups
- 13:15**     **LUNCH | ארוחת צהריים**  
*Beit Maiersdorf*
- 14:00**     **INNOVATION IN EDUCATION | חינוך במבט חדשני**  
*Beit Maiersdorf*  
A program facilitated by Systemic Inventive Thinking (S.I.T.) aimed at stimulating us to think about where we want this symposium to take us and how we might get there.
- 15:30**     **HA-MECHANECH LE'YISRAEL- MIHU? | המחנך לישראל, מיהו?**  
*Field Experience including dinner*  
Travel to sites of educational or social innovation; program with staff and participants highlighting the Israel they are actively engaged in creating. See program details following this schedule for more information about each of the four tracks.
- 18:30**     **DINNER | ארוחת ערב**
- 20:30**     **"IT SOUNDS BETTER IN AMAHARIC" | "באמהרית זה נשמע טוב יותר"**  
*Beit Avi Chai, 44 King George*  
One-man show revolving around the Ethiopian immigrant narrative

TUESDAY | 8 JULY • יום שלישי | י' תמוז

**בנייתו של מחנך אפקטיבי: בניית נרטיב ומקומה של ישראל בסיפור היהודי**

**THE MAKING OF AN EFFECTIVE ISRAEL EDUCATOR:**

**BUILDING NARRATIVE AND THE PLACE OF ISRAEL IN OUR JEWISH STORY**

Yesterday we began addressing the challenge of training Israel educators by highlighting the necessity of their working through their own understanding of Israel's Jewish character and its import for the formation of Jewish identity. Today we begin to explore the diverse narratives through which these understandings might be expressed – and to consider how Israel educators might integrate contemporary issues into the narratives through which they engage their students.

Our focus will be on stories – our own stories, Israel's stories, and the stories we use to bring Israel to life, including those of the people we will be meeting and speaking with whose lives give expression to a diversity of values, and together comprise the story of Israel. We will also consider if that story of Israel can or should be separated from, or taught without a solid grounding in its history. Both conceptually and practically, we need to reflect on the correct balance between engagement with contemporary issues on the one hand and ensuring familiarity with the past on the other.

As to the field experience through which we will be examining these issues, there will be four tracks, each suggesting a different narrative through which Israel might be taught. With all this diversity, is there a universal Zionist narrative we can identify? Are there multiple narratives, and if so, can they coexist side-by-side?

**8:15 BUILDING NARRATIVE: | בניית נרטיב ומקומה של ישראל בסיפור היהודי שלנו**

**THE PLACE OF ISRAEL IN OUR JEWISH STORY**

Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ha'Aliya St.1, Jerusalem

The meaning and importance of narrative in education in general, and the particular narrative through which each of us relates to Israel. Introductory remarks in plenary by Dr. Zohar Raviv, followed by discussion in breakout groups on how we make use of narrative in our various educational capacities.

**10:15 FROM ALTNEULAND TO TEL AVIV | מאלטנוילנד לתל אביב**

**Field experience ending in Tel Aviv**

Field experience suggesting a narrative for Israel education and raising a number of questions: How do I understand the Zionist vision? How do I deal with the challenges, conflicts, circumstance and realities that have prevented its full realization, even as I celebrate Israel's miraculous achievements and wonderful vibrancy? And how do I constructively engage those I am educating in these matters? See program details following this schedule for more information about each of the four tracks.

**18:00 FREE TIME IN TEL AVIV, INCLUDING DINNER ON OWN**

**זמן פנוי בתל אביב כולל ארוחת ערב**

**20:00 "THE VOICE OF ISRAEL" | אירוע חברה ותרבות**

**Neve Schechter, 42 Chelouche St., Neve Tzedek, Tel Aviv**

Since meeting on "The Voice," Maytal Michaeli and Etzion Meir have developed both a friendship and artistic relationship resulting in music about Jewish identity and life for young people in Israel. They will involve us in their journey, enriching our own.

**21:30 BUSES RETURN TO JERUSALEM | נסיעה חזרה לירושלים**

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First International Dialog on the Israel Educator

WEDNESDAY | 9 JULY • יום רביעי | י"א תמוז

מירכוז: מקומה של ישראל בחינוך יהודי והמקום של יהדות בחינוך לישראל

FINDING CENTER

THE PLACE OF ISRAEL IN JEWISH EDUCATION AND  
THE PLACE OF JEWISH IN ISRAEL EDUCATION

Having expanded our exploration of the meaning of Israel for ourselves and our students by considering diverse narratives for telling its story, today we focus on what is "center" - a primary question in how we experience Israel Jewishly wherever we reside. Among the issues we will explore is how our centuries-old liturgy and poetry is consistent with or in conflict with the way in which we live our lives as we investigate the meaning of Jewish center, both for the Jewish people as a whole and within Israel itself. In the afternoon, we will begin "translating" our experiences into practical next steps.

8:00

**BUILDING NARRATIVE: DEBRIEFING**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ha'Aliya Street 1, Jerusalem

8:30

**IF I FORGET THEE O JERUSALEM HAR HABAYIT AND HAR HAZIKARON**

**אם אשכח ירושלים: הר הבית והר הזיכרון**

Field Experience

To what extent is our Jerusalem "Har Habayit" and to what extent is it "Har Hazikaron"? Through site visits and study of texts, we will be exploring the complexities of a reunited Jerusalem as well as the meaning of sovereignty, vision and sacrifice, civil religion, and the significance of the two mountains for Israel and the Jewish people. We will also consider the place of comfort and discomfort in Israel education. If some measure of "unsettling" is essential for good education - what is the measure in Israel education, particularly as it relates to Jerusalem? See program details following this schedule for more information about each of the four tracks.

12:30

**WORKING LUNCH AT HERZL CENTER | הרצל במרכז צהריים ארוחת**

Herzl Center, Mt. Herzl

Reflection on morning experiences: Zion and Zionism - In what way is Jerusalem "center" for me? What impact does this have on me as an Israel educator? What do I mean when I say, "Next Year in Jerusalem" - and what do I do about Tel Aviv? What is the place of Israel in peoplehood education? What is the place of Zionism in Israel education?



## 14:00 FINDING INSPIRATION CONCEPTUALIZING ISRAEL EDUCATION

### מקורות להשראה: המשגה של חינוך לישראל

Herzl Center, Mt. Herzl

Wide range of workshops highlighting the thinking behind diverse educational initiatives both in Israel and abroad. Descriptions of the workshops can be found in the program details following this schedule.

14:00-15:00 **Workshop 1**

15:00-15:30 **Break, Exhibition, Dessert**

15:30-16:30 **Workshop 2**

Descriptions of the workshops can be found in the program details following this schedule.

## 16:45 THE ISRAEL EDUCATOR: MOVING FORWARD | עם המבט קדימה

Herzl Center, Mt. Herzl

Facilitated workshops integrating the enrichment of the last few days into the design of practical next steps, desired outcomes and concrete proposals for future collaboration. The workshops, which will continue on Thursday morning, will be conducted in the following areas. Workshop descriptions can be found in the program details following this schedule.

- Certification of Israel Educators Abroad for Formal Settings
- Certification of Israel Educators Abroad for Experiential Settings
- Training Israeli Israel Educators for Work with Youth from Abroad
- In-service Training in Israel for Israel Educators from Abroad
- Israel Education on the College Campus
- Meeting the Challenges of Zionist Education in Israel
- ZEN and the Art of Israel Education
- Mapping Curricular Needs for Israel Education Worldwide

## 18:00 FREE EVENING IN JERUSALEM; DINNER ON OWN

### ערב חופשי בירושלים כולל ארוחת ערב

Buses will depart Mt. Herzl for the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rechov Ben Yehuda, Emek Refaim, the Mamilla Mall and the newly renovated First Station.

**THURSDAY | 10 JULY** ● **יום חמישי | י"ב תמוז**

**כך נראה שיתוף פעולה: חינוך לישראל בקהל הרחב**

**WHAT COLLABORATION LOOKS LIKE:**

**ISRAEL EDUCATION AMONG THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

Today, against the background of recent research regarding the challenges and opportunities in the field of Israel education, we will begin determining our priorities while setting an agenda for moving forward. After concluding the workshop sessions begun yesterday, we will share ideas and proposals that have emerged from this process and consider practical next steps for implementing them.

**CHECKOUT | יציאה מהחדרים**

The day will be spent in the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel

**8:30**

**HEARTS AND MINDS: GLOBAL RESEARCH IN ISRAEL EDUCATION**

**חינוך לישראל: תמונת מצב**

Overview of recent research in Israel education, focusing on the challenges and opportunities it presents - Dr Alex Pomson

Update on the Initiative of the Government of Israel and World Jewry – Hagay Elizur and Yael Weiss Gadish

**9:45**

**THE ISRAEL EDUCATOR: MOVING FORWARD | עם המבט קדימה**

Continuation of yesterday's workshops and drafting of proposals. Where relevant, the workshops will relate to the place of Hebrew in Israel education, to the element of "mifgashim," to the phenomenon of delegitimization and BDS, and to principles of professionalization of the field.

**13:00**

**LUNCH | ארוחת צהריים**

**14:00**

**DIALOGUE: SETTING THE AGENDA FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION**

**רב שיח: קביעת סדר יום לשיתופי פעולה עתידיים**

Presentation of workshop results and conference highlights with a broader audience of interested parties followed by discussion of practical next steps

**15:15**

**Keynote Speaker | נואם מרכזי**

DR. YUVAL STEINITZ - MINISTER OF INTELLIGENCE

**16:00**

**CLOSING SESSION | להתראות**

Evaluation

Declaration regarding the professionalization of Israel education and launch of a professional association of Israel educators.





## Program Details

Monday, July 7th

### HA-MECHANECH LE'YISRAEL- MIHU?

המחנך לישראל, מיהו?

Travel to sites of educational or social innovation for an interactive program highlighting the Israel those we are visiting are actively engaged in creating.

#### 1. The TALI Education Fund

Interaction with Israeli colleagues at the TALI Education Fund at the Schechter Institute, exploring the challenges of teaching Judaism in Israel's non-religious state schools.

#### Jewish Education in the Jewish State

Meet with **Dr. Eitan Chikli**, Executive Director of the TALI Education Fund who will provide a brief overview of the Jewish education landscape in Israel as well as the crucial role TALI plays in shaping Jewish/Israeli identity in more than 250 schools and pre-schools throughout Israel.

#### The TALI Rabbi: Challenges of Spirituality and Prayer in non-Orthodox Israeli Schools

Engage with Schechter graduate, **Rabbi Elisha Wolfin** who will share his personal classroom experiences as a non-Orthodox school rabbi and lead the group through a model class on prayer based on TALI's Siddur, with melodies. **Dena Thaler**, director of the TALI textbook division, will present a selection of TALI teaching materials and talk about their use in TALI schools.

#### Mifgash with TALI Educators

An hour devoted to interaction and dialogue with TALI educators, including TALI school principals and lead staff.

#### 2. Beit Morasha

Beit Morasha is a groundbreaking educational institute in the areas of Jewish-Israeli identity and leadership, dedicated to deepening and enhancing Jewish values in Israel. We will meet with Beit Morasha founder and president, **Professor Benjamin Ish-Shalom**, who will present his vision regarding the unity of the Jewish people. We will then meet with participants in the Shiluv and Nativ programs. Shiluv is a unique program integrating Jewish studies and army service for Israelis of diverse backgrounds, and Nativ is an educational army program for soldiers, primarily from the FSU, wishing to convert to Judaism that exposes them to the diversity of Jewish tradition.

During this site visit, we will have the opportunity to get to know the participants and learn about the Jewish identity issues that concern them. We will also hear from the head of Beit Morasha's Jewish Identity Department about its long-standing partnership with the IDF Education Corps in development of Jewish values and identity programs for soldiers and officers in the IDF.

### **3. Hitorerut Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Awakening)**

*"Everyone has a city called Jerusalem."*

Between religious, secular and Ultra-Orthodox, between Jews and Arabs, between Jews of the Diaspora and ghost apartments, Jerusalem is a city of disputes - over Shabbat, Kashrut, and keeping young people in this city. One could even say that Jerusalem is the most complex city in the world. While some might see this as a disadvantage, more and more young adults are populating the city, embracing this "disadvantage" as an opportunity to cultivate the city's uniqueness.

Against the background of a number of sites in the city, we will hear about and talk about the tensions, the debates, the numbers, the real estate and the politics that are of concern to Hitorerut Yerushalayim, a grass-roots political party established by young people passionate about the city, and learn of their vision for the capital of Israel as the capital of the Jewish world. This field experience will be led by Hanan Rubin, one of the leaders and founders of "Hitorerut" who, at the age of 31, is a member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council, holding the portfolio of Young People, Students and Young Families.

### **4. Be'eri Program - The Hartman Institute**

As part of its mission to implement innovative initiatives to engage Jews around the world in a brand of Judaism and Zionism that holds contemporary significance for them, the Shalom Hartman Institute introduced the Be'eri program for secondary education in Israel.

The pluralistic, values-based Be'eri Jewish-Israeli identity education program enables students in secular Israeli high schools to reclaim ownership of their Jewish identity by presenting them with a Judaism that is meaningful and relevant to their daily lives. A resource center for high schools, Be'eri introduces hundreds of educators and tens of thousands of students throughout Israel to a multifaceted and diverse approach to Judaism.

During this visit to the Hartman Institute we will meet students and teachers that are both learning at the Be'eri program and teaching topics relating to Jewish identity in their schools.



## Program Details

Tuesday, July 8th

### FROM ALTNEULAND TO TEL AVIV

#### מאלטנוילנד לתל אביב

*These field experiences will suggest a variety of narratives for Israel education that considers Israel today in light of the dreams of its visionaries, relating in the process to such complex issues as its struggle for peace, the challenge of creating a state both Jewish and democratic, matters of social justice, and the privileges and responsibilities of Jewish sovereignty.*

#### 1. From Altneuland to Tel Aviv: Vision, Reality and Tomorrow

Lead Educator: Dr. David Breakstone

This field experience will suggest a narrative for Israel education that presents the State of Israel as a work-in-progress, inspiring our learners to explore today's realities both in the light of the dreams of its visionaries and the efforts of those who are today striving to fulfill them.

**The Vision:** Herzl's Zionism: The Creation of an Exemplary Society, at the experiential Herzl Museum and Education Center. Focus on what Herzl intended when he spoke of a Jewish state – or, perhaps, a state for the Jews.

**The Reality:** Polarization in Beit Shemesh. Dialog with both the city's narrowly defeated "secular" mayoral candidate as well as supporters of the victorious Haredi incumbent, hearing their perspectives on what is happening in the city and its implications for Israeli society.

**Tomorrow:** Engaging the Less Engaged in Jewish Tradition. Discussion in Neve Tzedek with the founder of ShabaTLV, an outreach program engaging young professional Tel Avivians in a Shabbat experience, and with Masorti rabbis who have launched an initiative to engage the same sort of young people in conversation about Judaism over a beer in a bar.

We will conclude the day with reflection on how to constructively engage the next generation in grappling with the serious challenges facing Israel today while simultaneously celebrating its marvelous vibrancy.

#### 2. From Altneuland to Tel Aviv: The Construction of Narratives

Lead Educator: Dr. Zohar Raviv

This field experience will combine site visits, relevant text studies (both classical and contemporary), and processing sessions to articulate some key challenges associated with

Israel Education – yet always in relation to Jewish values, educational philosophies and approaches.

We will visit David's Tomb on Mt. Zion to explore the important distinction between Authenticity and Relevance in narrative construction; move on to Ne'ot Kedumim to study texts which outline the Jewish evolution from Divine Authorship to Human Authority, and its educational implications thereof; continue to the Manta Ray beach in Tel-Aviv to discuss "The Romantic and the Realistic in the Making of The First Hebrew City"; and conclude at the Hall of Independence to discuss the Declaration of Independence as a major tool in addressing Israel's multiple narratives.

### 3. From Altneuland to Tel Aviv: From My Story to Our Story: Weaving Narrative in Israel Education

*Lead Educators: Adam Stewart and Clare Goldwater*

Stories play a central role in how we – and our learners – understand and relate to Israel. Today we will dive deep into the use of stories in Israel education, as we explore some common applications of narrative – from Ammunition Hill to the Rabin Center – and how they are used to carry content and meaning. Together, we will also explore our own stories, and discuss where our narratives fit in the work we do, and how we move between "my story" and "our story." The day concludes with a lively discussion with writer and food critic Gil Hovav who relates the story of his great grandfather Eliezer Ben Yehudah to himself, his life, and his Israel.

### 4. From Altneuland to Tel Aviv: 'La Disperazione e Speranza'

#### Field trip in five movements, exploring the place of hope and despair in our work

*Lead educator: Vadim Blumin*

How do we cope with moments of despair and where can we find wellsprings of hope, both personally and professionally?

**1. Presto Maestoso** - *con brio* [1] with **Vadim Blumin**, Makōm content and training specialist, historian and social activist, framing the day and clarifying its big questions;

**2. Allegro Scherzando** - *con bravura* [2] with **Shay Charka**, one of Israel's best-known cartoon artists, exploring the language of humor and visual art;

**3. Andante Furioso** - *con fuoco* [3] with **Hagai El-Ad**, the executive director of B'Tselem, previously the executive director of ACRI and The Jerusalem Open House, meeting the challenges of Jewish sovereignty in the field of human rights.

**4. Allegretto Vivace** - *con moto* [4] – with **Michal Barkai**, the founder of ALMA- Derech Eretz academy for female leadership in the periphery, learning first-hand about the struggle for distributive justice and equality for women and young adults in the periphery.

**5. Finale - Adagio Incalzando** - *con dolcezza* [5] – at **NATAL**, the National Trauma Center, with Vadim Blumin, processing and reflecting on our experiences and encounters, pulling together all the people, the places and the stories we've met and explored, encompassing the everyday challenge of both 'hugging and wrestling', hope and despair.

## Program Details

Wednesday, July 9th

### IF I FORGET THEE O JERUSALEM: HAR HABAYIT AND HAR HAZIKARON

אם אשכח ירושלים: הר הבית והר הזיכרון

*Through site visits and the study of texts, we will be exploring the complexities of a reunited Jerusalem, as well as the meaning of sovereignty, vision and sacrifice, civil religion, and the significance of the city for Israel and the Jewish people.*

#### 1. If I forget thee O Jerusalem: Har Habayit and Har Hazikaron

*Lead Educator: Shalom Orzach*

In what way is Jerusalem “center” for us, and what are the implications of that for us as Israel educators? To what extent is our Jerusalem “Har Habayit” and to what extent “Har Hazikaron” (Mount Herzl)? What are we referring to and what do we mean when we say “Next year in Jerusalem” - and what do we do about Tel Aviv? Is there a “disconnect” between the liturgy, poetry and longings we teach and the way – and where – we live our lives? What is the place of comfort and discomfort in Israel Education? If some measure of unsettling is essential for good education – what is the measure in Israel education, particularly as it relates to Jerusalem?

The educational excursion will address the following overarching themes:

- How do we define Holiness? Biblical and contemporary
- How do we understand the role of Har Zeitim (Mount of Olives), Mount Zion, and Har Herzl in the Zionist Narrative?
- What is the role of public space in the formation of collective memory and identity?
- Who is included and or excluded by virtue of the choices made around these spaces (specifically the Kotel)?
- Who is considered “Gadol Hauma” who were/are the pre State “Gedolim”?
- How do these themes impact and or strengthen Israel/Jewish Education?

#### 2. If I forget thee O Jerusalem: The Art, Tension and Paradox of “Memory” in the Jewish Mindset --- from Amalek to Yehuda Amichai

*Lead Educator: Dr. Zohar Raviv*

This field experience will combine site visits, relevant text studies (classical and contemporary) and interactive activities designed to tackle the issue of Memory and Commemoration in narrative constructions and identity formations.

We shall begin in the Jewish Quarter, looking under our feet (literally) for signposts which advocate for the need to remember; we will then continue to the Kotel and address this “Jewish Microcosm” from a slightly different vantage point, through a joint activity.



The second part will feature Mt. Herzl, where we will look into various texts that discuss the commitment, application and burden of Memory in the Jewish mindset and the Israeli landscape.

### **3. If I forget thee O Jerusalem: The Sanctity of Beauty, the Obligations of Memory, and the Wisdom of our Eyes**

*Lead Educator: Robbie Gringras*

A unique tour of Jerusalem through the eyes of revolutionary photographer Yoram Amir – an artist and activist who once threatened to jump off Jerusalem’s Bridge of Strings to save the beauty of Jerusalem.

With Yoram’s expert aid we will witness the architectural clashes between old and new, temporary and eternal, as played out in downtown Jerusalem. A short walking tour will lead us to his charming gallery to allow us to dialogue with him and meet his art.

Following our encounter with Yoram we will convene to explore:

What are our personal responses to this encounter?

How should this additional perspective on Jerusalem affect our work as professionals?

(How) Should discomfort, cognitive dissonance, disappointment be moderated, avoided, or embraced in our work?

### **4. If I forget thee O Jerusalem: “The air over Jerusalem is saturated with prayers and dreams.” - Yehuda Amichai**

*Lead Educators: Barry Chazan and Michael Soberman*

Jerusalem’s official poet, Yehuda Amichai spent a lifetime writing some of Israel’s and Jerusalem’s most significant and meaningful poems. It is rare when one can stand in the places he dreamed, wrote and shared his magnificent words. Jerusalem is one such place. Walk in the footsteps of Amichai and rejoice in his poems in the very places that inspired Amichai and anyone who has had the pleasure of reading is work. Study where words and places come together in near perfect harmony!

During the trip, we will engage with the following questions:

- What narrative(s) of Israel and the Jewish people do we find in Amichai’s work?
- How can we use poetry as a window into Israel Education?
- What unique possibilities arise when we can stand where he stood, sit where he sat and dream where he dreamed?
- What is the importance of place in Israel Education?



## Program Details

Wednesday, July 9

### FINDING INSPIRATION: CONCEPTUALIZING ISRAEL EDUCATION

#### מקורות להשראה: המשגה של חינוך לישראל

*A wide range of workshops highlighting the thinking behind diverse educational initiatives both in Israel and abroad. Each participant will have the opportunity to take part in two different sessions.*

#### 1. Beit Morasha

Beit Morasha is a groundbreaking educational institute working in the areas of Jewish-Israeli identity and leadership, dedicated to deepening and enhancing Jewish values in Israel. In this session, participants will have an opportunity to understand the challenges Beit Morasha is tackling and to become familiar with some of the innovative educational materials it has produced in cooperation with the Education Corps of the IDF for Jewish identity programs for soldiers as well as for the conversion institute it operates in concert with the three major streams of Judaism, primarily for soldiers whose parents immigrated from the Former Soviet Union.

#### 2. Center For Israel Education (Atlanta, Georgia)

Jewish identity is enveloped by texts, sources, and their interpretations. Our decade of experiences with 1800 teachers proves that learning about modern Israel in formal and informal settings can be easily conveyed with use of sources. Using original materials from the Yishuv's nation building period, CIE will model methods and concepts that answer how and why Zionists succeeded. For an introduction to the method, please see "What Works in Israel Education" Ravsak, Spring 2009, <http://ismi.emory.edu/home/assets/documents/stein-publications/stein-ravsak-spring09.pdf>.

#### 3. The Department for Diaspora Activities (World Zionist Organization)

Not able to attract teenagers, young adults and students to activities? Feeling that Zionism is no longer "doing it" for anyone anymore? Join this workshop of the Department of Diaspora Activities to discover activity of a different kind - activity that succeeds in connecting the "non-connected" while instilling the values that are important to us. This experiential workshop will introduce you to the varied activities being developed by the Department:

Tachles - Learn Hebrew outside the ulpan setting - experientially, colorfully and actively.

Beit Ha'am - Evoke contemporary Zionist discourse through a plethora of modular programs for any time and any place.

Herzl Center Smart Wall - Learning Zionism through your fingertips with digital touch screens, asking questions and coming up with an answer to "What would Herzl say..."

Taste, experience, and receive content, tools and materials useful for activities among the next generation in the Diaspora.

#### **4. Eliner Library (World Zionist Organization)**

In this workshop, we will explore educational models and educational materials in different languages in the field of Israel Education targeted to young students around the world. In addition, at this session we will become familiar with the Eliner Library, a WZO publishing house, and will present two programs of Israel studies: "Mapat Shabbat" - showing the connection between the weekly Torah and Haftarah portions to the land of Israel, its cities and its institutions, and "Chalav U'Dvash" - the innovative Hebrew language instruction program, bringing everyday Hebrew to Jewish children everywhere. The Eliner library specializes in books on Israel and Zionism, Israel in prayer and Jewish law, and Hebrew language studies, including the "Gesher" series of books produced in easy Hebrew.

#### **5. Friends Across the Sea (TALI curriculum on Jewish Peoplehood)**

Friends across the Sea is a curriculum on Jewish Peoplehood for students aged 11-13 produced by the Tali Education Fund that provides students with an understanding and appreciation for the concept of peoplehood by engaging them in a variety of media and methods - map study, dilemmas, historical documents, a local French Jewish newspaper, classical Jewish texts and more. The program has been taught in Israeli schools for over a decade and was recently translated into English and adapted for use overseas with the goal of creating a body of content that could serve as the basis for a joint learning experience on the subject of Jewish Peoplehood and Israel. The program includes an especially designed website where both parties can interact with their 'friends across the sea'.

In this workshop, we will examine the curriculum as a basis for exploring the goals, principles and methods relevant for teaching Jewish Peoplehood and Israel to Jewish students today.

#### **6. The Herzl Education Center (World Zionist Organization)**


One of the Center's underlying principles is creating a bridge between past and present, which will promote Herzl's legacy and his Zionist vision among the next generation, in order to ensure a Jewish future with values, vision and imagination. Come and see for yourselves how Herzl's writings are more than relevant to today's Jewish world.

The Center on Mt. Herzl offers a broad range of activities: special workshops, conferences, seminars, in-service courses and various ceremonies suited to Israelis as well as Jews from the Diaspora. In addition, the Center produces new educational material for formal and informal settings, to help instill Jewish and Zionist education in Israel and the Diaspora.

We will introduce you to our educational methods, unique and interactive "smart wall" and the variety of educational and experiential walking tours that we provide on this remarkable mountain that tell us the stories of the leaders of the Zionist Movement while shedding light on Israel's current affairs. This session is especially relevant for those that organize trips to Israel.

#### **7. The Herzl Experience (Herzl Museum, Mt. Herzl, World Zionist Organization)**

The innovative Herzl Museum offers a state-of-the-art, audio-visual encounter with the visionary of the Jewish state and his pursuit of the Zionist dream. This thought-provoking, 45-minute experience engages the visitor in Herzl's analysis of the Jewish condition, his bold aspirations, his tumultuous personal journey, the greatness of his achievement, the depth of his disappointments, the power of his vision and the challenge of his legacy.



It also provides a stimulating narrative for Israel education readily applicable to formal and informal educational frameworks abroad. Participants in this session will have an opportunity to enjoy the Herzl Museum in its entirety as well as spending a short amount of time discussing the relevance of “a visit to Altneuland” to the work they are engaged in.

### **8. The iCenter for Israel Education**

**Mission:** The iCenter works to advance high-quality, meaningful and innovative Israel education by serving as the national hub and catalyst for building, shaping and supporting the field.

**Vision:** The iCenter envisions generations of young North American Jews for whom contemporary Israel is an integral and vibrant part of their personal and collective Jewish identity. This vision includes a pre-K through grade 12 Jewish educational system in North America that fully incorporates Israel – people, land, history, language and culture – into the very fiber of its overall mission. Jewish educators across the system will see the engendering of knowledge about, and connection with, Israel as essential to their educational agenda. Furthermore, Jewish educational institutions will integrate Israel into all areas of learning and activity.

This workshop will provide an introduction to the iCenter and its work.

### **9. iEngage (The Hartman Institute)**

Power and Powerlessness

Like other sovereign nations, Israel uses military power or its ability to exercise this power—as the foundation of its independence and a means of safeguarding it. In the face of the modern critique of power as a corrupting force, how does Judaism perceive the moral foundations, responsibilities, and challenges of power? We will consider these important challenges using materials produced by the iEngage project of the Shalom Hartman Institute.

### **10. Keshet Hadash (Jewish Theological Seminary)**

Keshet Hadash, JTS’s Davidson School of Education’s semester-in-Israel program, is the only long-term, Israel-based graduate academic program that is dedicated to training Israel educators. Funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation, its goal is “to prepare a select cadre of Jewish educators to transform the field of Israel education by developing a sophisticated love of Israel that is nurtured through immersion in and deep understanding of the complexities and nuances of Israeli life, culture, politics and society.” In this workshop, we will explore Keshet Hadash’s vision, its translation of vision into practice, and responses of its participants over the first three cohorts. The session is based upon the recently published article “Vision, Curriculum, and Pedagogical Content Knowledge in the Preparation of Israel Educators”, *Journal of Jewish Education* 80/2, 2014, 121-147, by Ofra Backenroth and Alex Sinclair.

### **11. The Lookstein Center (Bar Ilan University)**

How does one engage school age children from the broad range of the Jewish community in a creative, eye-opening, age appropriate and fact-filled way to learn about and connect to Israel, its past history, current dilemmas and future aspirations? In response to requests from schools in North America, The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education of Bar-Ilan University was faced with addressing these challenges while developing a comprehensive

curriculum for elementary school students. This workshop will engage you in addressing those challenges and will demonstrate how they were resolved and brought to life in the curriculum. For background information on the curriculum, see [http://www.lookstein.org/israel/israel\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.lookstein.org/israel/israel_brochure.pdf).

### **12. Makom (The Jewish Agency for Israel)**

When loyalties are not inherited, when information is rarely mediated, when Jewish identities are so dynamic and volatile, and when Israel is so volatile and dynamic – how do we educate young adults towards an autonomous enthusiastic and informed commitment to Israel in their Jewish lives? Robbie Gringras of Makom would like to share Makom’s thinking and approaches, and ponder with you on some of the challenges.

### **13. Mofet**

MOFET Institute is a unique institution that deals with the professional development of teachers, operating in all the educational colleges in Israel. The International Wing at Mofet creates and distributes the knowledge gained in the field of education and training educators in Israel. Activities are carried out using the most advanced technologies and are offered in a number of languages (English, Spanish, and Arabic), directed to a variety of audiences: Jews and non-Jews, Jews from all streams of Judaism, and teachers and administrators in Jewish schools. The International channel conducts training programs specific to the areas of teacher training, seminars in Jewish leadership and study tours in Israel on various issues. It spreads knowledge also using content portals in Jewish education in English, academic portal in education in America and a portal for Arabic speakers, as well as promoting distance learning using Linares and courses online. This workshop will demonstrate part of the International Channel through two activities:

- MoFone - for those looking to plan training programs for educators in Israel with smartphones or tablets
- DIGITALALTNEULAND – for those planning a study tour to Israel with Israel educators with reference to sites and their geographic location

For more information: <http://www.mofet.macam.ac.il/eng/Pages/default.aspx>

### **14. Twining Schools (The Jewish Agency for Israel)**

The Jewish Agency’s School Twining Network actively brings Israel education to Jewish schools around the world by connecting them with a twin school in Israel. In order to set common goals in the form of student outcomes that point towards transformational aspirations we would like the experience to achieve, we have developed educational standards and benchmarks for school twinning programs. We have embarked on a pilot, implanting the standards in several communities in Israel and abroad and have partnered with the Israeli Ministry of Education in offering professional development for teachers involved in the process. We will share the draft standards document with the participants, seeking their feedback and will talk about the process we went through to develop these standards and how it benefits our work in Israel Education. The workshop will also include examples of school twinning programs which abide by these standards.



Wednesday 16:45-18:00 / Thursday 09:45-13:00

## Moving forward – Workshops Proposing Practical Next Steps

### מקורות להשראה: המשגה של חינוך לישראל

- 1. Certification of Israel Educators Abroad for Formal Educational Settings**

There are many Jewish educators who believe that Israel need be integral to the development of the Jewish identity of their students, but who have not had formal training in the field of Israel education. What sort of frameworks might we develop to afford them the opportunity to get that training and what are the contents, experiences and processes they need to engage? This workshop is intended for those interested in advancing training personnel for formal education.
- 2. Certification of Israel Educators Abroad for Experiential Educational Settings**

As above, but intended for those interested in advancing training for personnel for experiential education (camps, youth movements, community centers, Israel experience programs, etc.)
- 3. Training Israeli Israel Educators for Work with Youngsters from Abroad**

With the significant increase in the number of youngsters participating in a wide range of Israel programs, and the growing request for Israelis to work in a variety of Jewish educational frameworks abroad, there is a need to professionally train personnel to meet these challenges. Participants in this workshop will suggest models for doing so.
- 4. In-service Training in Israel for Experienced Israel Educators from Abroad**

Even those who have been engaged in Israel education for years need an opportunity to experience every-changing realities and to work through with colleagues how to engage their charges in the issues and challenges facing contemporary Israel. This workshop will propose frameworks for in-service training in Israel, and consider such things as the desired make-up of such groups, the contents and experiences they should be exposed to, the pre- and post-activity they need go through.
- 5. Israel Education on the College Campus**

The increasingly vocal and strident BDS campaign that seeks to delegitimize Israel that is rampant on college campuses around the world demands that opportunities for Israel education be available to our own young people who find themselves inadequately prepared to contend with the charges being made against Israel and the Zionist idea. This workshop will consider the sort of programs that might be initiated in order to meet this need.
- 6. Meeting the Challenges of Zionist Education in Israel**

Even in Israel, we cannot take for granted that our young people are versed in and committed to the Zionist idea. Is Israel just the place where I happen to have been born, or does it have a claim on me that transcends this accident of birth? Does the Zionist idea demand of me that I be consciously engaged in building an exemplary society, or does it mean that I can simply strive to be "normal" as are my contemporaries in other countries? This workshop will consider how to invigorate Israel education in Israel.

**7. ZEN and the Art of Israel Education**

The ZEN we are talking about here is the Zionist Educators Network, a proposed framework for those engaged in the field of Israel education. No such professional network yet exists, and this workshop will consider what one might provide: a forum for sharing best practices, a chat room for dealing with hard questions that arise in the classroom or camp bunk, a bulletin board for posting job opportunities, a platform for organizing in-service training seminars locally or in Israel, and more. What are the needs and how might they be met?

**8. Mapping Curricular Needs for Israel Education Worldwide**

This conference is focusing on the need for training professionals for the field of Israel education, but there is no ignoring the need that also exists for materials that they might work with. This workshop will begin exploring priorities in terms of what is most needed where. For what age level? For formal or experiential settings? For what sectors of the population? In what countries and in what languages? What steps need to be taken to clarify the needs and who do we propose going about meeting them?

**9. New Paradigms for Israel Education**

This workshop is completely open-ended, intended for those who want to share or explore ideas other than those appearing above.