

# TARTAK LEARNING CENTER

## RESOURCES RENEWED

### מקרות מתחדשים

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 27, 2003

## QUICK TIPS!

### Jewish Activities for "Non-Jewish" Holidays

#### Halloween

- Instead of traditional trick-or-treating, collect canned food or money to donate to a food pantry or charity
- Study the Jewish views on death and the afterlife
- Discuss the differences between Halloween and Purim

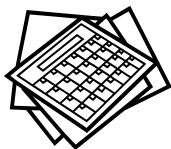
#### Thanksgiving

- Recite Jewish prayers of thanks (*Modim Anachnu Lach*) or write your own
- Participate in an interfaith Thanksgiving celebration
- Prepare a Thanksgiving meal for the homeless
- Learn about Jewish "pilgrims" and pilgrimage to Jerusalem
- Remember the Jewish expulsion from Spain in 1492 & the tragedy that befell American Indians

#### Inside this issue:

Quick Tips & Hours	1
New Nu?	2
Resources on "God"	3
Future Fun	4
Director's Extra	4

## Tartak Hours!



Monday 8:30-3:00  
Tuesday 9:00-3:00  
Wednesday 8:30-3:00  
Thursday 9:00-5:00



You are always welcome to come browse the Tartak in person or online at [www.huc.edu/tartak](http://www.huc.edu/tartak)

## New Nu?

### ***New Resource Books*** (Located in the Reference Section)

#### **Teaching Hot Topics: Jewish Values, Resources & Activities** by Rabbi Susan Freeman

A teacher resource book exploring hot topics such as body and medical ethics; sexuality; civil, political, and business ethics; ecology; and animal rights. Each unit includes a text study, related *middot* and *mitzvot*, activities, a glossary, bibliography, and instructions for the teacher. Activities are appropriate for middle school through adult learners and can be implemented weekly or as needed.

#### **The Ultimate Jewish Teacher's Handbook** edited by Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz

A collection of articles designed to aid Jewish teachers and educators of early childhood through adulthood. Articles range from teaching tips for new teachers and camp counselors to professional development in areas such as Jewish texts, prayer, history, Israel, holidays, and Hebrew.

### ***New Textbooks*** (Available for Check-Out)

#### **The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt** by Scott E. Blumenthal (Behrman House)

Designed for grades 2-3 this full color interactive textbook provides an introduction to the land and people of Israel. Readers "travel" through Israel in search of specific items. Along the way, they learn about Israel and acquire some Hebrew words.

#### **The Atlas of Great Jewish Communities** by Sondra Leiman (UAHC Press)

Designed for grades 5-6 this colorful and informative Jewish history textbook provides a wealth of information about world Jewry from biblical times to the present. Each chapter focuses on a community and its contributions to Jewish history. Textbook has a teacher's guide and music CD.

### ***New Music*** (Available for Check-Out)



#### **Jewish Songs for Classical Guitar** performed and arranged by Fred Fastow

An instrumental collection of Jewish folk songs, Shabbat and holidays songs, as well as songs of Jewish celebration such as *Havah Nagilah* and *Od Yishama*. Great background music for a program or before services!

#### **Kol B'seder: Songs for Growin' - Music for Jewish Families** vocals by Jeff Klepper

A collection of *brachot*, *tefilot*, and songs about holidays, rituals, and Torah. Great for family activities and comes with a companion songbook!

# Resources For Teaching About God

## ***Selected Books*** (Available in the Tartak Learning Center)

### **Teaching Your Children About God** by Rabbi David J. Wolpe (Adult)

*Andrea's Review: Excellent resource for parents and Jewish professionals*

In this book, one of several he has written on Jewish spirituality, Wolpe encourages adults to engage children in dialogue about God. Engaging in experiences such as Jewish rituals and Torah study, Wolpe acknowledges that the topic of God will stir up challenging questions, such as "Does God answer prayers?" and "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" Wolpe offers both traditional and modern Jewish responses. He admits however that it is best not to pretend to have all the answers. He stresses the importance and responsibility of struggling with theological questions and of continually developing a personal relationship with God.

### **Hello, Hello, Are You There, God?** by Molly Cone (Preschool-Grade 3)

*Sabrina's Review: Terrific resource for stories about God appropriate for young children*

Divided into three parts, each section focuses on basic questions young children ask about God such as "Why can't I see God?" and "How do I talk to God?" and responds with a short story. Following each story are discussion questions and family activities.

### **Partners With God & Living as Partners With God** (Behrman House Textbook Series)

#### **Partners With God** (Grades 3-4)

*Teresa's Review: Good textbook, but reading level more appropriate for Grades 4-6*

Through stories, photographs, and reflective exercises students are encouraged to explore words and actions that create a personal connection with God. The twelve study units teach core Hebrew words helping students express Jewish concepts such as being created in God's image, speaking to God through prayer, and asking God for forgiveness.

#### **Living As Partners With God** (Grades 4-6)

*Teresa's Review: Reading level more appropriate for Grades 5-7*

Continuing with the same format as the previous "Partners" book, this higher level textbook uses covenantal language and concepts to help students understand that we, modern Jews, are commanded to be a part of a Jewish community and perform acts of *tikkun olam*. Units include ethical decision-making, modern Jewish heroes, and usage of modern technology to fulfill *mitzvot*.

### **Finding God: Selected Responses** by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme (High School-Adult)

*Sabrina's Review: Great concise resource detailing a wide array of ancient and modern Jewish theologies.*

Sonsino and Syme chronicle various ways Jewish people have thought about God from the Biblical period to today. It is a helpful resource when dealing with questions of Jewish history and theology.



## ***Selected Websites***

"Talking about God in the Classroom" V'shinantam, UAHC National Teacher's Newsletter, No. III 5763 [www.uahc.org/educate/teacher/5763\\_3.shtml](http://www.uahc.org/educate/teacher/5763_3.shtml)

"God" Ask the Rabbi & FAQ [www.uahc.org/ask/questions.shtml#god](http://www.uahc.org/ask/questions.shtml#god)

Hebrew Union College  
Jewish Institute of Religion



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Future Fun



Dec. 2nd-3rd: Chanukah Holiday Drive

**Donate/Collect Chanukah lesson plans, programs, text studies, & services**

Dec. 9th: "Hebrew" Interactive

**Lunch & Learn exploring issues faced when teaching Hebrew (to children & to adults)**

***Both programs 11:30am-1:00pm***

## Director's Extras

Shalom! The Tartak Learning Center is pleased to share the following:

- \*We are excited to announce the launch of our website, [www.huc.edu/tartak](http://www.huc.edu/tartak)
- \*We recently acquired new books, CD's, & teacher resources. Come check them out!
- \*Quad 1 Report: Thank-you for making our High Holiday Drive and our first Interactive Lunch & Learn on "God" successful. With over 30 students (representing all 4 schools) & faculty attending, great resources were truly shared. Check out photos and further information online at [www.huc.edu/tartak](http://www.huc.edu/tartak)

\*\*Do you want advice on planning a lesson or program? Need the perfect Jewish text for a speech or text study? Not sure what activities are appropriate for your students? Come visit the Tartak Learning Center and we will be glad to help!