

TARTAK LEARNING CENTER

RESOURCES RENEWED

מקרות מתחדשים

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 29, 2004

QUICK TIPS FOR SUMMER!

Jewish activities for your students & congregants to do over the summer. Learn while having fun!

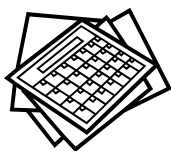
- *Read Jewish books (kids & adults).
- *Listen to Hebrew music in the car.
- *Play a Jewish board game or online Hebrew game.
- *Visit a Jewish museum or historical site.
- *While on vacation, go to Shabbat services. Afterwards talk about the similarities/differences to your home congregation.
- *Attend a Jewish wedding or bnai mitzvah. Afterwards, talk about what made it a Jewish event.
- *While at the park, talk the miracle of creation.



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Tartak Summer Hours!



Monday 9:00-3:00
Tuesday 9:00-3:00
Wednesday 9:00-3:00
Thursday 9:00-3:00



You are always welcome to come browse the Tartak in person or online at www.huc.edu/tartak.

Resources & Ideas: Summer Holidays



Lag Ba'Omer-May 9th



For Primary Grades:

Torah on one foot. Cut out a large foot or shoe from poster board. Teach students the famous Hillel story where he taught Torah (Golden Rule) while a man stood on one foot. Have students come up with their own golden rule or other summary verse of Torah and paste them on the foot/shoe. (Jewish Holidays by Kohl Jewish Teacher Center Staff p.39)

For Intermediate Grades:

What would you do? Teach the basic history of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Post 3 signs around the room: 1) Save yourself by abandoning Judaism 2) Fight the Romans 3) Hide and continue to study Torah. Have students go to the option they might have chosen. Discuss/debate their choice. (Teaching Jewish Holidays by Robert Goodman p. 209)

All Synagogue:

Have a picnic or maccabiah sports festival and explain the connection to Lag Ba'omer



Yom Yerushalayim-May 19th



Early Childhood/Primary Grades

Watch and discuss the video Jerusalem, from Shalom Sesame series.

All Synagogue

View the film Follow Me, The Story of the Six Day War by Sisu Entertainment and discuss/recall the impact of the Six Day War on world Jewry

At Home

Explore all about Israel at www.israel4kids.org. Great interactive fun and learning!



Shavuot-May 26th



Early Childhood/Primary Grades:

Read the book The 11th Commandment by the Children of America (Jewish Lights). Come up with your own ideas for an 11th commandment.

Primary Grades/Intermediate Grades

Study the biblical passages of Moses on the mountain and the golden calf. Compose a diary entry from the perspective of Moses, Aaron, or Miriam.

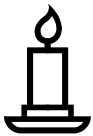
Complete the activities in The Ten Commandments by Nancy Karkowsky. The book contains one chapter on each of the commandments with stories and exercises.

Study Ruth chapter 1. Discuss what friendship/family means to you.

All Synagogue

Read the book of Ruth. Potential discussion topics include: family relations, role of women in Judaism, role of the convert, and connection of Ruth to Shavuot.

Hold a synagogue family service and dairy/fruit meal. Discuss the tradition of eating dairy and of bringing the first fruits to the ancient Temple. Challenge: Only use Biblical foods.



Tisha B'av-July 27th



Primary Grades

Share the heroic tale of Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai and how he saved Jewish learning.

Intermediate Grades

After the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, Jews were scattered throughout the world. Where do Jews live today? Pick a country and research its Jewish community.

High School/Adults

Study excerpts from the book of Lamentations. How is Jeremiah's message relevant to us?

Hebrew Union College
Jewish Institute of Religion



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Summer Fun for Families

The Jewish Family Fun Book by Danielle Dardashti and Roni Sarig

This resource book full of ideas and resources is a must-have for families! Among its many recommendations, it details at-home holiday, vacation, and everyday projects, and it annotates recommended family books, software, websites, and much more!

The Shiron Series: Music for Children
by Transcontinental Music

This 3 CD compilation for kids can be purchased as a set or by individual CD. Each CD highlights about 20 songs appropriate for certain ages. Great for listening in the car or at home.

Director's Extras

*Mazel Tov to all graduates! Remember, we are a resource for alumni too!

*Improve your teaching skills this summer by reading the following Tartak resources:

A Guide to Small Congregation Religious Schools by Lawrence N. Mahrer & Debi Mahrer Rowe

A great resource for HUC-JIR students involved in Jewish education at pulpits or internships. The book addresses both practical and philosophical issues in Jewish education ranging from bnai-mitzvah requirements to the role of tzedakah in religious school. Its appendix offers samples of essential teaching tips.

Teaching for Success by Dorothy C. Herman

This resource book on Jewish teaching contains many valuable resources for both the novice and experienced teacher. Each brief chapter offers practical examples. Topics range from creating community to effective communication with parents.

The Ultimate Jewish Teacher's Handbook ed. Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz

This reference book is composed of articles by Jewish education experts. Topics vary from educational content, to setting, to audience. If you are struggling with a specific issue in Jewish education, check this book for advice.