

# TARTAK LEARNING CENTER

## RESOURCES RENEWED

## מקורות מתחדשים

Volume 6, Issue 2

December 2007

### Tell Me a Story!

Many visitors to the Tartak Learning Center come in search of a story. We heard you, and we've added to our story collection. Among our newer items:

- *The Jewish Story Finder: A Guide To 363 Tales Listing Subjects And Sources* by Sharon Barcan Elswit. The title says it all.
- *The White Ram: A Story of Abraham And Isaac* by Mordicai Gerstein
- *What Makes Someone A Jew?* by Lauren Seidman. A picture book celebrating Jewish diversity
- *Sarah, Also Known as Hannah* by Lillian Ross Hammer. Historical fiction, based on immigration to NY in 1910.
- *Tikvah Means Hope* by Patricia Polacco. Tikvah the cat survives a fire — by hiding in a *sukkah*. Based on a true story.
- *Three Times Chai* by Laney Katz Becker. 54 Stories.
- *The Cardinal's Snuffbox* by Kenneth Roseman. The reader makes decisions that determine the outcome of the story set during the Spanish Inquisition.

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### Tartak Learning Center Hours



Monday - Thursday

9:00 - 5:00

Friday: 9:00 - 3:00



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

# Did you know we have...

The Tartak Learning Center has lots of **movies** that will bring new perspectives into any classroom, pulpit, or internship. Below is a list of some of our favorites! So pop some popcorn, plan a lesson, and enjoy!

## **For a Hebrew School Classroom:**

Think about showing ***Shalom Sesame: Jerusalem*** for a Hebrew School classic. View it ahead of time in order to develop some activities to reinforce the language taught in the movie.

## **Adult Hebrew Class:**

For an experience in listening to adult level Hebrew, and an introduction to Israeli culture, watch Renen Schorr's ***Late Summer Blues***. This acclaimed film chronicles the lives of seven Israeli students as they come to terms with their impending induction into the army.

## **Teaching Heroes:**

The Tartak carries biographical movies about Hank Greenberg, Yochanan Ben Zakai, Yitzchak Rabin, Golda Meir, King David, and more!

## **Exploring Jewish Identity:**

***The Chosen***, a classic film re-telling of Chaim Potok's best-selling novel, follows the story of two teenage boys determined to remain friends despite the deep differences between their styles of Jewish observance.

## **Adult Education:**

A provocative look at the hidden lives of gay and lesbian Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, ***Trembling Before God*** tells the stories of people struggling to reconcile their love for Judaism with the biblical prohibitions regarding homosexuality.

## **Teaching About the Holocaust:**

Depending on the age of your program participants, the Tartak carries several movies that are appropriate for teaching important lessons about the Holocaust. For a hopeful message, ***Paperclips*** is an inspiring message about power of memory. For adults, Steven Spielberg's ***Schindler's List*** tells the true story of Oskar Schindler, a member of the Nazi party who saved the lives of 1,100 Jews.

## **Exploring Interfaith Issues:**

For a lighthearted look at Interfaith relationships that is sure to prompt interesting conversation, watch ***Keeping The Faith*** with Ben Stiller and Edward Norton.

*Compiled by Sara Mason, Tartak Learning Center Intern*

## Recent Acquisitions: 10 New Curriculum Guides

One of the unique features of the Tartak Learning Center is that we are the only repository of the curricular materials produced by students of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education. Instead of writing a thesis, education students prepare a "Curriculum Guide" as their final project. It is designed for a specific series of lessons over the course of a camp session or academic year. It contains guiding notes to the teacher, suggested learning activities, possible assessment tools, and a detailed rationale explaining the goals of the curriculum. A list of all curriculum guides can be found in the Tartak Learning Center and online at [www.huc.edu/tartak](http://www.huc.edu/tartak).

The guides described below are five of the ten new additions, submitted by the RHSOE graduates of May 2007. The first five guides were be profiled in the last issue.

Gersh Lazarow	<p><i>Finding the Kedusha In Kashrut: An Ethical Guide For Jewish Teens</i> (Grades 9-10, Camp/Informal Education)</p> <p>This curriculum looks to challenge learners to explore the kedusha (holiness) inherent in biblical kashrut. Having done this, the curriculum then offers opportunities for learners to ask how these "kosher" values might be applied to our shopping practices, our relationships with others, and then finally our treatment and perception of ourselves.</p>
Rebecca Saliman	<p><i>Seeking God</i> (Grades 4-5, Day School, Camp)</p> <p>During this semester-long curriculum, students will examine various understandings of God in the <i>TaNACH</i>, liturgy and other Jewish texts, reflect on times they have felt God's presence, and explore ways they might connect with God in their own lives. As students explore various paths to finding God with the help of sources from Jewish tradition and Jewish thinkers, they will work toward articulating their own beliefs about God.</p>
Ann Sanguinet	<p><i>Two Rabbis: Three Opinions -- An Introduction to Rabbinic Texts for the Day School</i> (Grade 8, Day School)</p> <p>This curriculum guide invites eighth grade Jewish day school learners to examine rabbinic texts including Midrash, Mishnah, and Talmud in order to develop a deeper understanding of rabbinic thought on ethics and values and the world of the Rabbis. Through interaction with rabbinic texts, learners will increase their own Jewish knowledge base and acquire some of the tools and information to make informed decisions about their own Jewish lives.</p>
Josh Whinston	<p><i>Shabbat: A Spiritual Quest</i> (Adults, Adult Education Program)</p> <p>This guide is intended for learners who might already have some familiarity with Shabbat liturgy and ritual. They might be looking for a deeper understanding and more nuanced approaches to their current observance or looking to increase their observance. This guide will challenge both instructor and learner to examine current understandings of Shabbat and create new ways of thinking about Shabbat.</p>
Julia Witkow	<p><i>Laughing to Fit In</i> (Grades 9-10, Religious School)</p> <p>This curriculum traces the evolving communal Jewish identity in America throughout the 20th Century. Learners will have the opportunity to examine jokes, written texts, and clips from movies and television for deeper meaning about Jewish stereotypes and the interaction between Jewish and American culture. They will also be given the opportunity to reflect on what these ideas mean for their own identities, both individually and as a group.</p>

Hebrew Union College-  
Jewish Institute of Religion

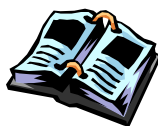


Tartak Learning Center

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Save the Dates



**Tartak Treasures  
January 15-16, 2008**

We're displaying some of our latest and greatest materials. Come see what's been "hidden in plain sight" on our shelves.

**Tu B'Shevat materials, too!**

Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

12:10—1:15 pm in the Lainer Beit Midrash

Facilitator: Richard Siegel

Watch your mailbox for more information

**Director's Cut**

**Our collection is growing.**

In recent months, several members of the campus community have relocated their offices within the building, left the College-Institute, attended conferences, or perhaps just cleaned out their bookcases. The Tartak Learning Center then became the beneficiary of many new and "gently used" educational leadership materials, Jewish holiday texts and stories, Hebrew teaching resources, and tools for secular education.

We'll display some of these new-to-us items at the **Tartak Treasures Resource Fair in the lobby on January 15-16**. We'll give away some duplicate and triplicate copies; as well as some older materials "recovered" from the storage trailer in the parking lot. Watch for details.

*Lynn*