

The Department for Jewish Peoplehood–Oren

“Together, we share responsibility for the future of the Jewish people.”
(T. K., participant in an Educators’ mifgash)

In today’s Jewish world, educators, families, schools and communities are seeking ways to build positive Jewish engagement and create meaningful Israel experiences. The Department for JP-Oren is recognized as a leading educational resource in the field of Peoplehood for 20 years, and develops initiatives to deepen Jewish identity, promote engagement with Israel and connect people around the globe.

The staff are from a range of Jewish backgrounds and practice, and work in Hebrew, English, Russian and German. They are experts in program design, implementation and evaluation, and conduct research and participate in academic conferences. The Department works in partnership with communities, foundations and federations in North America, Europe and Israel. Program areas include:

- Partnerships and twinning between individuals, schools and communities
- Israel experiences for visitors, tourists, study missions and Israelis
- Workshops, seminars, conferences and web-based education
- Collaboration with academic institutions in North America and Europe
- Individual and Group Leadership development programs

Seminars, Delegations and Tours in Israel

The staff design, coordinate and lead educational missions and study trips that help increase Jewish knowledge, deepen identity, and foster Peoplehood between Jews and Israelis. Each trip includes academic study, touring, hiking, a kibbutz experience, a Shabbat weekend, and a mifgash – encounter with Israelis. They are designed for:

- Individuals who want to see Israel through a unique Jewish-Israeli lens
- Educators who are visiting, and want to make connections with Israeli schools
- Families who seek a new and meaningful way to visit Israel with their children
- Students who are motivated to learn more about Israel and Jewish life.

Recent trips included: students from JTS- Davidson Graduate School, MIT, Eastern Mennonite University, Potsdam and Erfurt Universities in Germany, and Jewish educators from San Francisco and from Suffolk County, Long Island.

Design StudiOr | Cover Photo Boaz Lanir

Oranim Academic College of Education is the leading and largest Teacher Training College in Northern Israel. Established in 1951, it grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in Humanities, Science and Education. A magnet for some of Israel’s brightest educators, writers, scientists and artists, students receive the finest educational training in Israel. Some 5,000 students come from the North, the Galilee and the Central regions– they are a diverse group of all ages, socio-economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and include Jewish-Israeli and Arab-Israeli students from urban and rural locales.

The Shdemot Center was set up by the College in 1999 for Education, Outreach and Community Building. The Center has two departments – **Community Building** in Israel and **Jewish Peoplehood** Globally. Both departments have years of expertise and recognition as leaders in their fields and serve as educational resource centers.

They provide a wide range of courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, and they help develop innovative field models and off-campus training of professionals and laypeople, educators and students, using the expertise of the Oranim College faculty and staff.

For more info, contact **Roberta Bell-Kligler**, Head of the Department for Jewish Peoplehood - kligler@netvision.net.il



May 2010

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School 2 School

The School to School program pairs day-schools, congregational and supplementary schools in North America with schools in Israel. It fosters partnerships and projects between school communities. The connections among administrators, teachers, parents, and students help them develop a better understanding of diverse local and global realities. Many programs lead to professional relationships between teachers, a joint curriculum, and reciprocal school visits and results show increased Jewish identity and a stronger sense of Jewish Peoplehood on both sides.

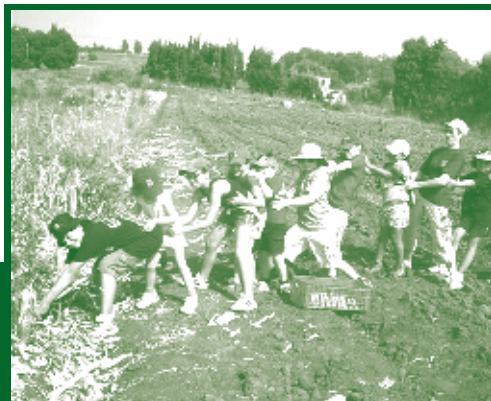
Boston-Haifa – with CJP and the Boston-Haifa Connection, we coordinate their educational Partnership and provide curriculum, teacher training, and strategic processes in schools.

San Francisco-Israel – with the Bureau of Jewish Education and Jewish Federation we twin schools, and supervise the Israeli schools. We also create a learning community of educators.

Canada-Etzba Hagalil – with the UIA of Canada, we connect educators from Canada with their colleagues in Northern Galilee high schools and lead mifgashim for them and their students.

E-PALS - North America and Israel

E-PALS uses digital technology to bridge between elementary school children in Israel with peers in North American supplementary and congregational schools. The program chooses a class in two schools, and guides two teachers in discussions before the process begins. Teachers and pupils then connect with their overseas peers, to learn more about them and their communities.



Community 2 Community

Community to Community initiatives pair several organizations or institutions in Israel with cohorts in different parts of the world. The program helps foster dialogue, mutual learning, and ongoing contacts between Jews in diverse and remote communities. It promotes closer ties between twinned communities and significantly strengthens Israel-Diaspora relations.

Ki Va Moed

This unique model links seven synagogues and schools in Jerusalem with four synagogues and Hebrew schools in Suffolk County, New York. The initiative is designed and nurtured by leadership teams from both sides, and involves hundreds of participants, from preschoolers to adults, who implement organically and jointly designed projects.

Women's Dialogue – "Siach Nashim"

Women's Dialogue helps connect between Jewish women who have different lifestyles. It promotes understanding through study and discussion. Two women's groups meet in two remote locations. The women convene on their own, then share thoughts and ideas when the groups dialogue with one another in a video-conference session. Themes are: Being a Jewish Woman; A Room of One's Own -Women's Writing; or Culture and Gender, or other topics.

International Book Club – Creative Thinking

This new initiative links Jewish authors with Jewish readers from Israel, North America and Europe, who read and reflect on their own original writings and other literary works. Participants engage in discussions on questions of Jewish identity, practice and modern life.



Programs for Russian Speakers

The **Unit for Russian-Speaking Jewry** helps empower Russian-speaking Jews in various parts of the world. It has designed and implemented Jewish programming for former FSU citizens in Israel, North America, Russia and more recently, in Germany. It creates programs that meet the intellectual, cultural and language needs of olim in Israel, and of Russian speaking Jews globally.

"Moadon Midrash"- a Beit Midrash Study Club

The *Moadon Midrash* is a program that brings together 15-20 young adults, aged 20-35, interested in exploring pluralistic Judaism. Participants learn about Judaism through the study of traditional and modern Jewish texts. They develop social networks, creating their own community for expressing Jewish life. The program is in Russian, and participants may speak Russian, Hebrew or English.

"Since I made aliyah from the Ukraine in 1991, I always wanted to find a framework where I could learn in a way that was right for me. Moadon Midrash was exactly what I was looking for. The sessions had interesting subjects from daily life and Jewish thought. Together we explored our own thoughts and approaches." (V.S., participant in Haifa Moadon Midrash)

Family 2 Family

This project matches young Russian-speaking families living in two remote communities, and creates a model for a multi-generational Jewish Peoplehood. Families engage in parallel activities and Jewish learning in their home communities, and meet through e-mail and video conferences. After they dialogue for a year, families meet in a mifgash. Together they tour, study, and celebrate Shabbat, as they become more aware of diverse forms of Jewish life and holiday celebrations.

Jewish Peoplehood and New Leaders in Germany

This project addresses some challenges facing the Jewish community in Germany - one of the fastest growing Jewish populations today. Educational seminars and workshops are held in Israel and in Germany for university students who are potential leaders. The connections made between German Jews with their peers in Israel and globally, helps build awareness of Jewish pluralism and Jewish Peoplehood.

