

וַיֵּשׁ בְּלִיַּחַדְוֹת תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ

THERE IS SOMETHING NEW BENEATH THE SUN!

JEWISH EDUCATORS ASSEMBLY

72ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ROSWELL, GEORGIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024



Honoring our Educators

JEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DR. LAWRENCE KATZ, CJE



RECIPIENTS OF THE TITLE

CONSERVATIVE JEWISH EDUCATOR

DAVID COHEN, CJE & AVIVA TILLES, CJE

Thank you for joining us for the 72nd JEA Conference to learn what's new under the sun in our professional world. Thank you to those who supported us and worked with us to make this happen. We hope you enjoy the conference and walk away with new ideas and new connections.

Debbie Deutsch and Aviva Tilles, Conference Chairs

Our Mission

To promote excellence among educators committed to Conservative Jewish education by advancing professionalism, encouraging leadership, pursuing lifelong learning and building community.

Our Vision

To be the leading advocate for the welfare of the Jewish educator and for best practices in Jewish education.

Our Values

Spirited and honest exploration of sacred texts • Joyful participation in Jewish holidays and rituals • A deep commitment to Israel and the Jewish people • Egalitarian practice • Innovation and collaboration

Journeying

towards our future

Educating

for our communities

Advocating

for our educators





Rabbi Robin Foonberg,

Executive Director

5106 E. El Cedral

Long Beach CA 90815

949-933-1111

robin@jewisheducators.org

www.jewisheducators.org

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Dear JEA Members and Friends,

Welcome to our 72nd Annual Jewish Educators Assembly Conference in Atlanta!

- For 72 years, we have been advocating for Jewish educators.
- For 72 years, we have been promoting excellence in Jewish education.
- For 72 years, we have supported Conservative movement synagogues and their education programs.

And, the work will continue for the next 72 years, because as we read in *Pirke Avot*: It is not our duty to finish the work, but neither are we at liberty to neglect it.

I am proud to be part of the new generation of JEA members who are taking our organization forward. Much has changed in 72 years, and we have already risen to the challenge. With new technology, new learning modalities, new understandings of neurodivergent learners, new and ever-changing demographics, the need for meaningful and engaging Jewish education remains.

At this conference, appropriately themed, *There is Something New Under the Sun*, we are discovering more ways to continue our mission with new ideas, new programs, new methods, and new energy. We are already succeeding in many communities and we look to help more schools make their vision a reality.

Last year, we created a Strategic Plan that included our renewed partnership with the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ). With their support we have been able to increase our outreach to meet more educators and lay leaders within our movement. We are making sure that everyone knows our name and we will increase this effort in the coming year.

Kol Hakavod to our dedicated conference chairs, Debbie Deutsch and Aviva Tilles, and to their hard-working committee, Melissa Ser, Cathy Berkowitz, Rebecca Gordon, and Babette Cohn. I am grateful to Executive Board, Larry, Cathy, Jason, Melissa, Debbie, Rebecca, and Aviva, and our General Board for their tremendous support as I navigated my first year as Executive Director.

And finally, *Mazal tov* to our Lifetime Achievement Honoree, Dr. Larry Katz, who set the bar high with his leadership and continued service to the JEA. We stand on his shoulders. *Chazak chazak v'nitchazek*. May we all go from strength to strength.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Robin Foonberg

JEA Executive Director

Hello JEA Members and Friends,

It feels like yesterday that I took on the role as President of the JEA. This has been a rewarding year of change and enhancements for our organization, and I am happy to be a part of a great team.

This is a new and exciting time for JEA! Our partnership with USCJ has been wonderful. Having the support and trust from United Synagogue has been a positive and renewed opportunity. Together we are strengthening our movement and engaging with colleagues all over North America and the world.

We have had the opportunity to engage and partner with our colleagues in Israel and open new discussions with other organizations to help us in our new vision. While all of this is going on we continue to focus our efforts and attention on our membership and the needs of our colleagues so that everyone has a place they can go to for help, teamwork, comradery, and so much more.

I want to thank our Executive Director, Rabbi Robin Foonberg for all her hard work and dedication. I want to thank the Executive Board and the General Board for their direction and continued dedication to making JEA all it can be and beyond.

I want to wish our honoree, Larry Katz, a Mazal Tov on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. Larry is not only a past president for JEA, but he has also been an active member and has devoted his life to the betterment of Jewish education worldwide. I also want to wish congratulations to all the new CJE honorees on this milestone. This is a well-deserved award and enhances your professionalism and your credentials.

Finally, to all our members who support this organization, your membership, time, and commitment to Jewish education is unsurpassed.

May we call go from strength to ever greater strength, supporting one another, and counting on each other, day after day, week after week, and year after year.

Rabbi/Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel
JEA President



Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of both USCJ and the Rabbinical Assembly, I wish you every success as you experience the 72nd annual JEA conference. While Kohelet may say, "Ein hadash tahat hashamesh -- there is nothing new under the sun," in fact the siddur also speaks of the idea of God's daily renewal of creation, "Hamehadash b'tuvo b'khol yom tamid." In fact, something is always new in our work as educators, and in our world! I am so pleased that this conference will focus on new needs and new approaches in the field of Jewish education. I hope it inspires a sense of renewed creativity and optimism in a challenging time in the professional life of our educators and the Jewish people.

I am also pleased that this conference is the first during Rabbi Robin Foonberg's tenure as Executive Director of JEA, and in her role as Education Specialist for USCJ. This JEA-USCJ partnership is crucial as we seek to strengthen Jewish education within the Conservative/Masorti Movement, as we seek to engage and strengthen all of our movement's education professionals.

In fact, our movement's approach to Jewish life -- a balance of tradition and modernity -- is needed in the world now more than ever. I know that every day you inspire students and families to become their best selves, belong to a strong Jewish community, and believe and find meaning through our balanced approach to Torah and tradition. Some days it is exhausting, and other days incredibly rewarding, and on other days it's both at the same time. Along with all of my colleagues at the RA and USCJ, I thank you for your tireless efforts.

I wish you continued success in your work, and much inspiration in your time together at the JEA conference.

Warm regards,

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacob Blumenthal'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CEO



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President)*

**Deceased z"l*



NEW CJE RECIPIENTS

David Cohen & Aviva Tilles

*Mazel tov on your accomplishments
as you join this talented group of CJE educators.*

Sandy Andron	Alicia Gejman	Scott Littky	Tamara Ruben
Elly Bauman	Estee Gold	Keri Loventhal	Cindy Saper
Cathy Berkowitz	Leslie Goldress	Sherri Morris	Michael Schatz
Sandra Borowsky	Rebecca Gordon	Hedda Morton	Julie Schwarzwald
Larry Brandspiegel	Nancy Gorod	Jeffrey Myers	Maxine Segal Handelman
Jason Cathcart	Barry Gruber	Louis Nagel	Melissa Ser
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David Cohen	Robin Foonberg	Fred Nathan	Charles Sherman
Janice Colmar	Tobi Innerfield	Jennifer Newfeld	Janette Silverman
Beth Cohn Copelovitch	Selilah Kalev	Matthew Nover	Sara Simon
Tirza Covell	Lawrence Katz	Sol Novick	Elizabeth Singer
Stacey David	Steve Kerbel	Adrienne Pasternak	Samara Sofian
Debra Deutsch	Sherrie Klein	Lonna Picker	Robert Spitz
Aliza Drumm	Danny Kochavi	Lisa Pressman	Paul Steinberg
Peter Eckstein	Michael Korman	Harvey Raben	Aviva Tilles
Eddie Edelstein	Eliyahu Krigel	Andrea Raizen	Janice Tytell
Dina Eliezer	Patti Kroll	Karen Raizen	Arlyne Ungar
Itzhak Emanuel	Marshall Kupchan	Lisa Richman	Saul Wachs
Jill Epstein	Judith Kuper Jaffe	Fran Richter	Sharon Wasserberg
Joshua Fineblum	Lauren Kurland	Jim Rogozen	Esther Weiss
Edwin Frankel	Ben Lewis	Liz Rolle	Bob Westle
Elisha Frumkin	Wendy Light	Howard Rosenbaum	Susan Wyner
Yaffa Fuchs			



JEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD





JEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

WE PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE JEA LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CONGRATULATE

DR. LAWRENCE KATZ

AND WELCOME HIM TO OUR NUMBER

שנמשיך לראות ברכה ממעשה ידיה

Dr. Sylvia Ettenberg z"l 1989

Dr. Alfred Weisel z"l 1990

Dr. Aaron Nussbaum 1991

Dr. Joseph Lukinsky z"l 1992

Dr. Miriam Klein Shapiro z"l 1993

Rabbi Marim D. Charry 1994

Dr. Saul P. Wachs 1995

Dr. Daniel Margolis 1996

Dr. Hyman Campeas z"l 1997

Dr. Diane King 1998

Dr. Burton Cohen 1999



JEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Paul Schneider 2000

Dr. Steven Brown 2001

Rabbi Robert Abramson z"l 2002

Rabbi Alvan H. Kaunfer 2003

Rabbi Sheldon A. Dorph 2004

Dr. Abe Gittelson z"l 2006

Dr. Solomon Goldman 2007

Rabbi Gerald Teller z"l 2008

Dr. Lonna S. Picker 2009

Dr. Eyal Bor 2010

Dr. Michael H. Halzel z"l 2011

Rabbi Paul Freedman 2012

Dr. Fred Nathan 2013

Dr. Louis Nagel 2015

Dr. Hedda Morton 2016

Dr. Cathy Berkowitz 2022

תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם

JEWISH EDUCATION IS EQUAL TO ALL THE OTHER MITZVOT

Dear Larry and Abba,

In Proverbs, it is written “through wisdom is a house built, and by understanding it is established. We are so proud to have built this home of Jewish learning and living with you.

We can only strive to fulfill as many mitzvot in service to our community and home as you have. Thank you for instilling so many important values that have helped shape us into the people we are today.

You have set the bar high.
We hope we can reach that level!

With all our love,

Marilyn, Jacob and Daniel



Dr. Lawrence Katz, CJE

אליעזר משה בן יעקב קופל הכהן ויהודית

Minyan Hadash Congratulates You
As You Receive the Lifetime Achievement Award
From the Jewish Educators Assembly

הוּי מִתְלַמִּידוֹ שֶׁל אַהֲרֹן - אוֹהֵב שְׁלוֹם
וְרוֹדֵף שְׁלוֹם, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַבְּרִיּוֹת
וּמְקַרְבֵּן לַתּוֹרָה

Be a disciple of Aaron - loving peace and
pursuing peace, loving your fellow creatures
and attracting them to the study of TORAH



Temple Emanu-El



מזל טוב

to

Dr. Lawrence Katz

On Receiving the JEA's
Lifetime Achievement Award

לְלַמֵּד וּלְלַמֵּד לְשֹׁמֵר וְלַעֲשׂוֹת

"Who learns, teaches, observes, and does."

We are proud of you, Larry, & grateful for all you do.

Your Colleagues and Friends in Rhode Island

Rabbi Alvan & Marcia Kaunfer

Andrea Katzman & Steve Jacobson

Minna & David Ellison

Ruth & Lawrence Page

Jana & Alan Brenman

Miriam Abrams Stark & Marvin Stark

David & Esta Yavner

Ezra & Varda Stieglitz

Wendy Joering

Mat & Deborah Shuster

Dianne & Martin Newman

Robert & Lesley Landau

Meyer Goldstein

Daniel Kripper

Alan Verskin

I am so proud to be part of this incredible organization - to call each of you my friends, my colleagues, and ultimately my family.

Mazal tov to Robin on your first year as our Executive Director.

Larry, kol hakavod on achieving the JEA's Lifetime Achievement Award

David & Aviva, your CJE title is well-deserved; I'm excited to see what comes next!

Aviva & Debbie, you have taken this conference to the highest level!

**With Love and Appreciation,
Melissa**



IN HONOR OF DEBBIE DEUTSCH

***OUR YOUNG SEEDLINGS HAVE GROWN INTO
TREES WITH DEEP ROOTS***

ALL BECAUSE OF YOU

***LOVE,
YOUR ETZ CHAIM FAMILY***



**Congregation
ETZ CHAIM**

creating meaningful Jewish experiences



Mazal Tov!

מזל טוב!

לכבוד אליעזר משה בן יעקוב קאפל הכהן ויהודית,

**Thank you for everything you've done for Temple
Emanu-El and the Jewish People.**

You are a treasure of the Providence Community.

We are so proud of you!

באהבה,

Your friends at Temple Emanu-El



**B'nai Torah Congregation is forever grateful
for the positive impact JEA has on
professionalizing the field of Jewish Education
and how its leadership shaped the field of
Jewish Education.**

**Thank you for connecting Cathy Berkowitz to
our congregation as she celebrates 20 years at
B'nai Torah Congregation.**

**Mazal Tov to Cathy on being the
Senior Vice President of the JEA**



B'NAI TORAH
CONGREGATION

Mazal Tov
to
our Friend and Colleague
Larry Katz
on this well-deserved honor

Congratulations to all the new CJE recipients

**A special thank you to the entire JEA Board
for all your hard work and commitment.**

**To all of you, your dedication to
Jewish education is unsurpassed and the lives
that you have changed will be affected for
generations to come.**

Yeeshar Kohakhem v'Hazak V'ematz.
**Continue to go from strength to ever greater
strength.**

**Rabbi Larry and Dr. Laura Brandspiegel
and Family**

**“It is not up to you to finish the work,
yet you are not free to avoid it.”**

Pirkei Avot 2:16

מזל טוב

to Dr. Lawrence Katz, CJE

**Recipient of the JEA Lifetime
Achievement Award honoring your
commitment, dedication, and
leadership to JEA and Jewish
education**

Dr. Yaffa Fuchs, CJE

Dr. Sherrie Rosenberg Klein, CJE

Rabbi Dr. Nogah Marshall

Dr. Hedda S. Morton, CJE

Dr. Lisa Richman, CJE

Dr. Michael Schatz, CJE

Hazzan Dr. Arlyne Unger, CJE

Congregation Beth Israel

Scotch Plains, New Jersey



Mazal Tov Aviva Tilles!

**We're so grateful for all you
bring to our *Kehilah*,
the CBI Family,
and to *K'lal Yisrael!***

To my JEA Friends and
Colleagues
I will miss being with you
at this Conference

To Robin Foonberg and the
Conference Team
You are doing great!

So proud of your
accomplishments!

To Larry Katz
You have always been a
pillar of the Jewish
Education community
and a dugma for educators
everywhere.
Mazel tov on this well
deserved honor!

Eddie

הבעש"ט היה אומר:

לפיך נתנו לו לאדם שתי עינים: שיראה בעין אחת
מומי עצמו וחסרונותיו ובעין השניה יראה
מעלותיו של כל אדם מישראל

Larry,

Your **eyes** see everyone's virtue. A stellar Educator
who knows how to listen, share, take action, & collaborate,
you are always engaged in living a life of Mitzvot.

Our **eyes** see YOU!

We appreciate all that you do for family, community & K'lal Yisrael

Warmest Mazel Tov

Lonna & Stan

A Heartfelt Mazal Tov to

**Larry Katz for receiving the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award
Cantor Larry Brandspiegel for a successful year as President of JEA
Rabbi Robin Foonberg for a successful beginning as JEA Executive Director
David Cohen and Aviva Tilles on achieving their CJE titles**

To all my friends and colleagues at JEA, thank you for a wonderful year filled with collaboration, growth, and community. Together, we continue to illuminate the path of Jewish education, embracing change while cherishing timeless values.

חֲזַק חֲזַק וְנִתְחַזַּק

Chazak Chazak v'nitchazek -

Be strong, Be strong, and Let us Strengthen one another.

Cathy Berkowitz



**Congratulations to Debbie Deutsch -
A talented and dedicated educator.**

**Helen, Lou, Marcy and Elliott
Rosengarten**

Mazel Tov

Aviva

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU FOR ALL OF
YOUR YEARS OF HARD WORK
& FOR RECEIVING YOUR CJE!

Love,

Abba, Sheryl, Ravid, Yaffa, Avishai, Micah, Yair
Jennifer, Josh, Jonathan, Leida, Matthew & Justin

One who honors the Torah will in turn be honored by humanity.
-Talmud Avot 4:6

כל הכבוד Kol ha'Kavod

To our friend and colleague

LARRY KATZ

Mazel tov on being honored as
JEA's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

With gratitude and appreciation for your commitment and dedication
to Rhode Island's Jewish community.



“L’fum tzara agra, according to the effort is the reward.”
– Ben Hei Hei, Ethics of the Fathers, 5:26.

Dr. Lawrence Katz

Mazal tov on your lifetime of achievement in Jewish Education.
Your decades of hard work has provided sustenance for the future.

Debbie Deutsch & Aviva Tilles

Kol Hakavod for your successful creation and leadership of our 72nd Conference.

JEA Executive Board and General Board

Todah Rabah for your dedication to JEA and to Jewish Education.
It is an honor to work with all of you.

With Gratitude,

Rabbi Robin Foonberg
JEA Executive Director

Thank You

to our Platinum Sponsors



USCJ

Seek meaning
together

exploring**judaism**

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בְּן דָּוִד הַלְוִי אוֹמֵר: לְפֹנִים מִצְוָה אֲגָרָא

I say: According to the
Mitzvah is the reward.

Larry: I preferred a more positive
outlook than in Pirkei Avot 5:23, so
this is my version in your honor.

Thank you for a life dedicated to
God, Torah, and the Jewish people.
May your reward be great.

Rav Hazzan Jeffrey Myers



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To Learn and To Teach | ללמוד וללמד

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Larry,

Thank you for your decades
of leadership.

Mazal Tov on receiving
JEA's Lifetime Achievement
Award.

With deep respect and
admiration,

Steve Kerbel



מזל טוב

on your award

Larry

Thank you for your many
contributions
to enhancing Jewish Education
in our community

Anne & Wayne Franklin



Mazel Tov on your remarkable career in Jewish Education! Congratulations on achieving this most well-deserved honor!

Love, Cousins Dale, Nancy, Matthew, Jamie, Alan, and Lucy



Congratulations to our dear friend, Larry Katz, on an extraordinary career!

Ray and Nancy Warren

Cousin Lawrence,

With your years of unwavering commitment to Jewish education, you have dedicated a lifetime to shaping minds and hearts. Beyond the classroom, you have fostered a love for Jewish heritage and values. Thank you for all you have done and for how you contribute to our world.

**With pride,
Your Katz Aunt and Cousins,
Cynthia, Richard, Iana, Nancy, Matthew, Eric and Aimee**

תפילה למורה

תפילה למורה ולתלמידי
העוסקים של ענף בית ישראל
ותנו להם אפץ לב ועזר ללב
וכח להצליח בצעויות מלאכת
שמים בצמחה שלא יפגט כח
הסכל ולא יהיה רפיון ידיים
והסר פהם לברגז וספרות
ותן להם תלמידים הגונים
ועליונים בתורהם ואל יבוא
מכשול לידם ואל יצא פהם
תלמיד שאינו הגון שמקדיח
תבשילו ברכים ועדיה ארבע
וצאצאן כולו יודעי ששך
ולתפי תורתך לשיפה

**Kol Hakavod Larry!
And our very best
to the JEA**



Your friends at



BEHRMAN HOUSE

CONFERENCE SILVER SPONSOR

Mazal tov to Larry Katz, mensch and model educator. A most fitting acknowledgement of a long and inspiring career.

Judy and Sam Greenblatt

Mazel Tov, Larry, on this well-deserved honor recognizing your many years of dedication to Jewish education!

Sharon Rosenberg Safra & Rabbi Michael Safra

thank you

To Debbie Deutsch for her continuing commitment,

leadership, and service to JEA.

Love, Gary, Craig, Virginia, Mira, Julius, Eric, and Lin

Larry - CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU! for your exemplary and inspired leadership in Jewish education throughout the years, and for the many kindnesses you have shown to others along the way.

You are the "teachers' teacher we all aspire to be! Wishing you continued success in new pursuits and good health to enjoy it all, along the way.

Best wishes from Gloria Feibish



JEA SWAG SHOP
CAFEPRESS.COM/JEWISHEDUCATORS

A BIG Mazal Tov to our JEA Conference Chairs, Debbie and Aviva, and the incredible JEA Exec Board - You All ROCK!
Love and Hugs, Rebecca Gordon



DR. MELISSA SER, CJE
EDUCATIONAL GRAPHIC
DESIGN CONSULTANT
MELISSA.SER@GMAIL.COM

**FIND THE JEA MEMBER
PORTAL AT
JEA.SHULCLOUD.COM**

**Mazel Tov Aviva! So proud!
Love, Julie and Michelle**

Mazel Tov Larry! -Aviva Tilles

Congratulations Larry - a well deserved honor! - Carissa Hill

Mazel Tov on this amazing honor! The Licht Family

**NewCAJE congratulates Larry Katz for this honor and the
important work he has accomplished!**

**We are so grateful for your wisdom and dedication to Jewish
education in Providence. -Alan and Sara Verskin**

**Congratulations on your lifetime achievement award!!!
Jonathan and Pam Nemeth**

**Mazal tov, Larry, on your lifetime dedication to Jewish
education. Bob and Margie Pelcovits**

**Larry: Mazel Tov on your brilliant career in Jewish Education
and Community Service!!**

Drs. Steven & Lisa Sack

Mazel tov, Larry! A well-deserved honor.

David Schwartz

To Larry : Well earned! Most deserving of this honor!

Kol HaKavod! Joan Hersch

Mazal Tov Larry on JEA's Lifetime Achievement Award,

Love and Hugs, Rebecca Gordon

Larry - Yasher Koach! Leah and Kenny Hersh

Larry - We Jews of Rhode Island Thank and Salute You!!

-Navah (& Ari)

Mazel Tov Larry! From your friends,

Eric Stillman and Rabbi Jessica Shimberg

In honor of Larry Katz - a dedicated educator and role model to us all. Mazel tov on this well deserved honor!

Debbie Deutsch

Mazel Tov to Larry Katz on all his contributions to the field of Jewish Education. It is an honor to be your colleague!

Babette Cohn

מזל טוב on being honored with this award! As proud friends, we say תודה רבה to you and Marilyn for your contributions to Jewish Education. - Bayla Friedman Treiger and Louis Treiger

Larry - Mazel tov on your well-deserved award! Thank you for your many years of dedication to Jewish Education.

Chazak, Chazak, V'Nitchazek - Joyce Juda

Mazel Tov Larry on your tremendous career accomplishments!

We wish you a wonderful retirement.

Thank you for all you have done for the community.

Love, Robin Sper and David Kadmon

I congratulate Larry on this well-deserved honor, which is one of many achievements as an outstanding Jewish educator.

Myrna Goldman

Mazel tov, Larry, on this prestigious honor!

We are so happy for you! Love, your friends at JCDSRI

Larry Katz epitomizes what the Greek word Philanthropy meant: "Love of Humankind"! He donated a LIFETIME to facilitate what needed to be done to improve our world.

Yasher Koach, Larry!

Shelley & Larry Parness, Rhode Island Jewish Museum

May her memory be a blessing and a comfort



Roslyn Joan Sudakow, z"l

MAY 31, 1941 – FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Beloved mother of Rabbi Robin Foonberg, CJE



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