

Qushiyot

Israel Education Fellowship

Transforming Israel Education in New York

The Jewish Education Project in partnership with Makom, is excited to invite applicants for the third cohort of the Israel Education fellowship for Jewish educators from Westchester, NYC and Long Island. The 12-month network program is centered around an 8-day training in Israel, several New York based workshops together with a full mentoring process and practical tools to apply a comprehensive, practical approach to Israel education that empowers educators to develop meaningful and relevant Israel educational experiences for their site. We are currently recruiting educators for the 2018-2019 cycle, beginning June 2018.

WHAT?

The initiative will:

- Induct educators into a new, practical framework for structuring Israel education
- Empower educators to develop Israel curricular modules for their own American students that are contemporary and easy to update in real time
- Give space and time for educators to address the complexity of Israel and their own relationship to Israel
- Provide key lay and professional leadership with a conceptual understanding of this approach to ensure their support and partnership
- Provide educators with an individual coach to guide and support their work throughout the year

WHO?

Jewish educators who:

- Must be supported by a senior professional and lay person who will attend the full day June workshop.
- Are working in Jewish educational settings, congregations and JCC's
- Have current or future responsibility for teaching Israel at their institution
- Work regularly and directly with students grades 5 – 12
- Have spent significant time in Israel (more than 10 days)
- Have a desire to upgrade the Israel education at their institution
- Feel inspired by the challenge of Israel education

WHEN?

(All dates tentative until confirmed)

- 1-day training in Manhattan with Makom on June 6th, 2018 (for participant, senior professional & lay leader)
- 8-day Israel educational training experience, July 9th – July 16th, 2018
- Full day workshops in Manhattan, October 2018 & March 2019 (TBA)
- Up to five 1-hour coaching consultation sessions throughout the academic year

WHY?

Partner with Makom:

- Makom educates leaders and creates content to embrace the vibrant complexity of Israel. Makom empowers educators, rabbi, activists, arts and community leaders across the spectrum to ask tough questions, articulate compelling visions and provides the content and tools to craft honest programming.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS?

- \$500 contribution, which covers three NYC based workshops, coaching sessions, 8-day training in Israel including full program, double occupancy accommodations and meals. Qushiyot will cover 50% of roundtrip flights (up to max \$850) pending funding.
- Creation of at least two education modules which will be facilitated during the '18- '19 academic year.

Background and Rationale

We believe that teaching about Israel in contemporary Jewish education is one of the most challenging jobs there is.

Research shows us that enhanced relationship with Israel strengthens our students' overall Jewish identity. Yet Israel is often seen as too complex, too political, too personal, too fluid, and too poorly defined, to be taught successfully.

Even when attempts are made to improve Israel educational practice, they can often lose out through lack of institutional buy-in, or by ideological inflexibility, or by throwing great new materials at teachers who are ill-equipped to teach them.

This year-long course in transforming Israel Education offers a comprehensive yet open approach to Israel education that empowers educators, with the support of their supervisors, to develop meaningful and relevant Israel educational experiences for Jewish youth today.

This program will inculcate Jewish educators in the New York Region with Makom's "Four Hatikvah Questions (4HQ)" approach to Israel education (description included in this packet). The 4HQ approach has already been tested and modified in other communities around the world including South Africa and even Israel itself. This will be the second cohort in the first broad scale attempt to integrate this approach into North American schools.

The Unique Approach

Yes, there have been many attempts over many years to equip educators with tools to educate about Israel. Some of them have been very effective. We believe that this approach is unique because:

- It will place the educator at the center, not only working on creating new educational material, but also on re-energizing the educators.
- It will not avoid the complexity of the situation in Israel, in particular dealing with many of the issues that are raised by several of the ongoing conflicts in Israel and the region. On the contrary, it will give space and time for the educators to address their "elephants in the room," in order to align their personal outlook and their professional development.
- It will help participants to develop curricular modules that are contemporary and easy to update in real time, through a specially-designed multi-media lesson-creating portal – 4HQ.education.
- This technology will allow for curricular modules to be developed by American educators for American students, enhanced by a philosophical approach developed by Israeli educators with extensive knowledge of American Jewry.

Main Goals

1. To provide Jewish educators with a new easy-to-use conceptual framework for understanding Israel education.
2. To empower educators to develop and adapt Israel curricular modules based upon this new conceptual framework.
3. To provide key lay and professional leadership in educational settings with a conceptual understanding of this approach to Israel education so that they can support and partner with the Jewish educators in their educational settings.
4. To develop a network of educators, leaders, and institutions that have adopted this deeper understanding of Israel education so a tipping point for a new conversation and pedagogy emerges.

About Makom

Makom creates content and educates trains leaders to embrace the vibrant complexity of Israel: The People, the Place, and the Promise. Our expert team works across the spectrum in Israel and the Jewish world to empower educators and activists to ask tough questions, articulate enthralling visions, and to craft honest, engaging programs. Makom has developed 1000 educational units, and delivered seminars for 15,000 educators and leaders. Makom is the Education Lab of The Jewish Agency.

Testimonials:

This was an incredible opportunity and one of the best professional development programs in which I've participated. I feel so much more engaged in all areas of Israel as a result of this program; people, politics, critical issues facing Israel and more!

-Rabbi Melissa Buyer, Director of Lifelong Learning, Temple Israel of the City of New York

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to study under such exceptional facilitators and specialists at Makom who brought their depths of knowledge to us. Their expertise and knowledge enhanced our learning and pushed us to view Israel's through its different lenses. The inspiration and excitement generated by this experience will enhance and evolve our school's focus on Israel education. Thank you for the opportunity to learn with them.

-Sharon Solomon, Religious School Director, Temple Beth Shalom, Roslyn

I think the greatest benefit from the 4HQ training is a new and more nuanced way to talk and teach about Israel. This is partly because the 4HQ model is a deceptively simple approach that in fact creates a framework for understanding Israel in a much more sophisticated way. It is also because of the invaluable opportunity to hear Israelis speak about Israel, from a multitude of perspectives (as opposed to hearing one tour guide or a bunch of Americans), which has made me personally feel more familiar with contemporary Israel.

-Amy Rosenbaum, PhD, Community Educator, Temple Israel Center, White Plains

I learned a variety of perspectives of life in Israel, which will help me work with my educators to develop curriculum on Israel and integrate Israel more into all areas of our curriculum. The 4HQ framework is an effective and meaningful lens through which to develop and assess Israel curriculum.

-Abby Reiken, Education Director, Bet Am Shalom, White Plains

For me being in Israel made a significant impact right off the bat, because I had not been in a while, so this unique trip gave me the chance to reconnect which really does make me passionate and excited to come back and teach. I feel I have a different outlook and awareness which is guiding my approach as I think about how we teach Israel.

-Lisa Stein, Principal, Religious School, Midway Jewish Center, Syosset)