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## **Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at the Mandel Education Conference: Nurturing Leadership in Education is a Critical Step in Upgrading the Education System**

### **Mandel Education Conference "60 Years of Education in Israel: Past, Present, Future"**

Throughout the years, Israel has faced significant challenges in the realms of security, economics, welfare and education. As a country poor in natural resources, social capital is the main resource upon which Israel can rely to position itself as a leader in various fields. Thus, education is a necessary tool to develop and build a better future.

This past year marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. This occasion presented an opportunity to examine the educational practices of the last sixty years, the current educational reality as it is reflected in the field today, and the educational challenges of the future. These topics were explored at the Mandel Education Conference "60 Years of Education in Israel: Past, Present, Future", which was held on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at Kfar Ha'Maccabia in Ramat Gan.

Among the honorable guests were Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Minister of Education Prof. Yuli Tamir and the Director General of the Ministry of Education Shlomit Amichai.

The Conference was covered by the media including television, radio, newspapers and internet.

## **Excerpts from the Prime Minister's speech at the Conference's opening session**

Distinguished Guests,

The Mandel Leadership Institute – with whose work I have long been familiar – is greatly occupied with strengthening and empowering educational leadership among those working in education in Israel and around the world.

I wish to congratulate the Graduate Unit of the Mandel Foundation for organizing this important Conference marking 60 years of education in Israel. I welcome the fact that the Conference will deal less with the history of Israeli education and more with what it could be if we continue providing the necessary tools...



When I speak of values, I mean those which will remind us who the real heroes of a civilized society are, and, ladies and gentlemen, you will not find them on the reality television shows broadcast on our screens every night during primetime. These shows – their content and the tremendous popularity they attain – arouse penetrating social questions, and at the same time gloomy regret.

I wholeheartedly believe in the mission Mort Mandel adopted – with the assistance of my beloved friend who has passed on, the late Professor Seymour Fox – and which is now under the leadership of Annette Hochstein. The bottom line is that there is no substitute for leadership based on personal example.

To read the Prime Minister's speech (full text) [click here](#) (Source: Prime Minister's Office)

## **From Guatemala to Bangladesh: A World of Learning Opportunities at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences**

### **In focus: Modern Israel and Women's Health Issues in a Multicultural Society**

From Guatemala to Bangladesh, El Salvador to China, the Netherlands and Israel, the International Education Programs of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) are venturing out into the world at large with a new series of study/travel international courses looking into issues ranging from micro-finances to women's health issues and practice.



Participants learn about and encounter ISHA: Israel Health Advancement for Women

"Our international programs provide experiential and multi-sensory learning opportunities for global learning and understanding how culture, values and history influence the way in which societies address social issues", says Dr. Deborah Jacobson, Director of the International Education Programs. "Each course provides a chance to meet with leading scholars, policy makers, health-care providers, practitioners, clients and students from another country."

Students are able to compare policies and services as a way to understand their own system better and to learn alternative approaches to address social issues. They are also able to experience a culture different from their own as a way to promote personal growth, enhance cultural sensitivity, and expand their world views.

One of the fascinating opportunities offered as part of this series takes place in Israel and focuses on Women's Health Issues in a Multicultural Society. Israel, which has often been referred to as a melting pot of different cultures, ethnicities and religions, is populated by an assorted mix of people including Jews, Arabs, Druze, Circassian, and Bedouin. Even within Israel's Jewish population there are very diverse cultural and regional heritage differences as Jews originate from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Balkans and the

Mediterranean, even China and India. Each of these cultures brings different women's issues and different medical concerns to the country.

This is why MSASS, Case Western Reserve University, the Israel Health Advancement for Women (ISHA) a program of The Jewish Community Federation (JCF) of Cleveland, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and Hebrew University have collaborated to provide a unique opportunity to view central issues of Women's Health through the prism of Israel's multi-cultural and diverse population.

"Israel is a multicultural country, and each social group has different concerns about women's health in the country", explains Lacey Roth, Assistant Director, International Operations, JCF of Cleveland. "This class is an opportunity to view Women's Health, through the lens of Israel's multi-cultural and diverse population."

The travel/study course will include guided tours of health care facilities, clinics, field-action project sites, social and educational institutions, government establishments and neighborhoods. There will be lectures by health care professionals, government officials, policy advocates, field workers, and eminent Israeli scholars and researchers.

Participants will also learn about and encounter ISHA: Israel Health Advancement for Women, an initiative launched in 2001 by the JCF of Cleveland and the Jewish Agency, as a dynamic model for change. It is a multi-organizational, international program which brings together and trains health care professionals, lay leaders and lay women volunteers, women health advocates, academics and researchers in partnership with major organizations to significantly advance women's health in all sectors of society in Israel.

For more information about ISHA:

<http://www.jewishcleveland.org/page.aspx?id=142238>

For more information about MSASS International Study/travel courses:

<http://msass.case.edu/international/>

## **Scholion Research Group Examines Connections Between Religion and Art in Jewish Culture**

The Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish studies at the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies of the Hebrew University has recently welcomed its seventh research group that will work in Scholion over the next three years. Renowned scholars Ruth HaCohen



Pinczower, Professor of Musicology; Galit Hazan-Rokem, Professor of Hebrew Literature and Jewish and Comparative Folklore; Richard Cohen, Professor of Jewish History; and Ilana Pardes, Professor of Comparative Literature, along with five doctoral students will examine the subject: **The Exegetic Imagination: Connections between Religion and Art in Jewish Culture in its Contexts.**

The research project focuses on an integrated examination of the religious and the artistic, and their aesthetic, experiential and interpretive aspects. Religion and art are two areas existing in culture, which are perceived by research both as interconnected and separate fields. The research group aims to examine the system of connections between them, and all its various aspects. They will pose questions both from an historic perspective and a phenomenological aspect, which will join forces in an attempt to understand the ways in which artistic traditions and genres contribute to religious (or, alternatively, secularized) consciousness and experience, and the manner in which these generate new artistic approaches.

In historical terms, their areas of interest include the latter part of ancient times, as well as the beginning of the modern era, focusing jointly on the 19th and early 20th centuries.

“We believe that Scholion’s shared framework offers a rare opportunity for us to join forces in promoting general research into the connections between art and religion, in the wider Jewish context and beyond, and to thus mutually reinforce our individual research work,” wrote the group in their research proposal.

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Scholion is an interdisciplinary research center in Jewish Studies located in the Hebrew University's Rabin Building on Mt. Scopus. Established by the President of the Hebrew University, Prof. Menachem Magidor, with the aid of a contribution from the Mandel Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio, Scholion conducts a range of multiyear research activities on an interdisciplinary basis.

**To read more about Scholion: <http://www.scholion.huji.ac.il/>**

## Helping Teachers Grow at Each Stage of Their Careers

### Through a combination of ongoing support and professional development, teachers continue to learn from the Mandel Center at Brandeis University

When Jocelyn Segal received her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Brandeis University in 2005, she still had a lot of learning to do. That's not a reflection of her preparation in the DeLeT (Day School Leadership Through Teaching) program, but the need that all teachers have for continued, on-the-job development. Fortunately for Segal, the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education provided her with the tools and opportunities she needed to grow – from connecting her with a network of beginning day school teachers during her first two years of teaching, to giving her a teaching intern to mentor, and inviting her to participate in a monthly mentor teacher study group.

“Mentoring a DeLeT/MAT intern was constant professional development,” Segal said. “Every day I was forced to think about why I do everything, because I had to break it down for my intern. I feel that the resources that come from having an intern are not just beneficial for me, but also for my school. It keeps teachers on the cutting edge because we’re still connected to the university.”



Jocelyn Segal (right) and Cohen Hillel Academy's third grade record a song together

This is the kind of professional growth that the Mandel Center has been working to foster not only with its own graduates, but also in the wider world of Jewish day schools. The center's focus, says Vivian Troen, director of the Mandel Center's Induction Partnership, is on making schools a setting for teacher learning.

“We found that well prepared day school teachers were still not finding success in their very first job,” Troen said. “Often that's because their schools did not have a comprehensive support system; there was no detailed

curriculum and no explicit framework for supporting and assessing teachers' progress.”

To help address the problem, the Mandel Center has spent the past three years piloting and studying support and development programs for beginning teachers in five area day schools, including Cohen Hillel Academy in Marblehead, Mass., where Jocelyn teaches. The ultimate goal is to transform lessons learned from these pilot programs into an induction “tool kit” that can help any Jewish day school create the conditions to retain and develop beginning teachers.

Ken Shulman, Head of Cohen Hillel Academy, says he has already seen changes in his school because of the pilot induction program. “The Mandel Center’s ongoing support to our teachers and administrators has enhanced and positively influenced the entire school,” Shulman said. “We’re hoping to maintain this connection for as long as possible.”

Reaching out to distant day schools is at the core of another Mandel Center initiative. The center is working with the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), to create a Community of Practice (CoP) for new teacher induction. The program brings teachers and educational leaders together for a monthly study group conducted via conference call and the Internet. This means participants can join the conversation from anywhere, even if they’re in isolated Jewish communities.

“All of this is about helping teachers continue to develop their practice,” says Mandel Center Director Sharon Feiman-Nemser. “A teacher preparation program like ours can lay a strong foundation, but there are many things you can’t learn until you start teaching. You can’t know what your students are like. You can’t know the school’s curriculum or what parents expect. We want to help new teachers learn these things in a timely and thoughtful way so they can get the year off to a good start and not make mistakes in the beginning which are hard to recover from. Then, as teachers gain confidence, we want to help them strengthen and develop their practice, and grow into teacher-leaders.”



Jocelyn Segal says that's just what the Mandel Center has done for her career. "Their guidance has helped me strengthen my teaching skills, broaden the scope of resources I use, and feel a part of a growing professional learning community. I'm so grateful that as I transitioned from new teacher in the field to a mentor teacher, the Mandel Center faculty was there with open and supporting arms."

For more information on the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education:  
**<http://www.brandeis.edu/mandel/>**

## **Collaboration Helps Police Address Job Stress**

### **New program challenges stigma and honors officers who help each other and themselves**



Mangled bodies, gunfire, high-speed chases and injured children are just a few events witnessed by police officers and soldiers serving in dangerous hot spots around the world.

In an attempt to reduce on-the-job stress among police officers, the city of Cleveland's Division of Police has partnered with the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University, the Partnership for a Safer Cleveland and the U.S. Department of Defense to form an innovative program which trains police supervisors to identify and assist with operational stress.

Stress can take a high toll on police officers and soldiers, who can be reluctant to share their experiences in an effort to spare others from their ordeals, according to a current *Police Quarterly* article on the subject, written by U.S. Army Lt. Col. (retired) Mark Chapin, Professor Mark Singer of MSASS and Partnership for a Safer Cleveland Executive Director Michael Walker.

"Police officers face job stress in the line of duty 24 hours a day. Even the toughest officer can eventually feel it. We want to change the operational climate of silence about problems and the stigma toward seeking help," said Chapin, who is one of the program trainers. A graduate of the MSASS, Chapin currently serves as a clinical social worker at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"Police work is highly stressful and one of the few occupations where an individual continually faces the inherent danger of physical violence and the potential of sudden death," said Mark Singer, professor of social work at the

Mandel School, who has been involved in training Cleveland police officers for the past 15 years and helped design the program.

"The early identification of operational stress increases the likelihood of positive outcomes in police-citizen interactions," said Michael Walker, who also helped design and implement the training program. In past years, Walker and Singer have teamed up to provide on-the-job training for local police in a variety of areas.

The latest initiative, begun in 2005, evolved from their work with youth and law enforcement officials. They hope this and future programs will promote health and support among police officers as they carry out their service to Cleveland communities.

Source:

<http://blog.case.edu/case-news/2008/09/16/policepartnership>

## **Opportunity Housing Launched!**

### **News From Neighborhood Progress**

In the face of a transitioning economy, Cleveland's neighborhoods compete for residents, business and investment. Neighborhood Progress Inc. (NPI), along with its community partners, is in the forefront of efforts to respond to this challenge.

NPI, founded in 1988 by the Mandel Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Ford Foundation, and other local private, public and philanthropic interests, works with Cleveland's Community Development Corporations (CDCs) to create holistic plans and implement innovative programs that strengthen and revitalize Cleveland's neighborhoods.

### **Quality of life stolen by the sub-prime market**

With the slogan, 'Hope Starts Here', Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson was joined in Slavic Village recently by Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli and representatives from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), Neighborhood Progress Inc. (NPI), Cleveland Housing Network



(CHN), KeyBank, Living Cities and Enterprise Community Partners and others to launch Opportunity Homes, a comprehensive one-of-a-kind market recovery strategy designed to counter the effects of foreclosure through home rehabs, demolition and foreclosure interventions in the following six Cleveland neighborhoods: Slavic Village, Buckeye/Shaker, Fairfax, Glenville, Tremont, and Detroit - Shoreway.

“This public-private partnership will work together to help restore the quality of life stolen by the sub-prime market,” said Mayor Jackson. “Opportunity Homes is an investment in the City of Cleveland's most important assets, our people and our neighborhoods.”

“We are thrilled to be part of this effort”, said Doug Garver, executive director of the OHFA. Opportunity Homes is spearheaded by organizations with experience and successful track records, and is a targeted, well thought out approach that effectively leverages public dollars to begin attacking the foreclosure crisis at its core.

This program was initiated by Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and builds upon a network of strong community development organizations; the 27-year track record of the CHN; the financial and development capacity of NPI; the expertise of Enterprise Community Partners and the commitment of the City of Cleveland and Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Project funders include the following: City of Cleveland, Ohio Housing Finance Agency; Living Cities; NPI's Village Capital Corp.; Enterprise Community Partners; KeyBank; Ohio Community Development Finance Fund; Dollar Bank; FirstMerit Bank; Huntington Bank; Housing Partnership Network and Citi Foundation; and Fannie Mae.

Neighborhood partners include community development organizations in the six Cleveland neighborhoods comprising NPI's Strategic Investment Initiative. Those organizations are: Buckeye Area Development Corp., Detroit - Shoreway Community Development Org., Fairfax Renaissance Development Corp., Famicos Foundation, Shaker Square Area Development Corp., Slavic Village Development and Tremont West Development Corp.

Case Western Reserve University and Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) are also providing support for Opportunity Homes.

To learn more about Neighborhood Progress Inc.  
<http://www.neighborhoodprogress.org/>