

Creating a Jewish Home: Helpful Resources

An authentic Conservative Jewish lifestyle -- while fostered and enriched through the synagogue -- ultimately begins in the family home. The United Synagogue has created a number of publications and programs to help families create sacred space where Jewish living is natural and joyous and Jewish memories will be created. Below, we highlight a few of these resources. They're yours for the asking!

For the People of the Book

Perek Yomi and Mishnah Yomit. Over the past several years, thousands of Conservative Jews have had an opportunity to participate in programs of daily study under the auspices of the United Synagogue. Whether through Perek Yomi, which invites you to read a chapter of Tanakh each day, or Mishnah Yomit, a more recent USCJ project devoted to daily learning of Rabbinic texts, participants have taken advantage of this exciting opportunity to "grow" their Jewish knowledge. For more information on both of these programs, contact Dr. Morton K. Siegel, 212-533-7800, ext. 2234, or e-mail siegel@uscj.org. Study guides are available. Visit our website (www.uscj.org) and learn more about these two programs, which are listed under "Education/Lifelong Learning."



Luah for the Conservative Movement: Order of Prayers, Blessings and Torah Readings for Synagogue and Home Table. Updated yearly, this English-language publication -- a joint project of the United Synagogue and the Rabbinical Assembly -- is spiral bound and user friendly, including Hebrew and civil calendar dates and giving detailed instructions for rituals as well as suggested *tzedakah* projects. Available from the United Synagogue Book Service.

Art/Engagement Calendar. Produced yearly, this wonderful calendar contains essays on important Jewish topics as well as photos of exquisite Judaica from our affiliated congregations. Also included are listings of Jewish holidays, *Shabbat* candlelighting times, Torah and *haftarah* readings, a 16-month calendar, and more. Contact cheerman@uscj.org

Holidays

Leaflets for home use. The following leaflets are available from the USCJ Department of Public Affairs: *Selihot -- Some Reflections*; *Making the New Year Sweet*; *Tashlikh -- Casting Our Sins Away*; *Welcoming Guests -- Ancient*

Custom/Modern Lesson; *Hanukkah -- Rekindling the Internal Light*; *Hanukkah -- The Gift of Giving*; *Tu B'Shevat -- Celebrating Nature's Bounty*; *Eat Drink and Be Holy -- The Holiday of Purim*; *Keeping the Story Alive -- Questions and Reflections for the Seder Table*; *Yom Ha-Shoah*; and *Counting the Omer and Making Each Day Count*. Also available are *Welcome Back*; *Courtesy & Civility*; *A Blessing on Your Head*; and *Living Together Jewishly*. Contact info@uscj.org



Sukkot Building and the Mitzvah of the Sukkah.

Plans for building a *sukkah* and encouraging others to do so. Contact the Department of Congregational Programming, edelman@uscj.org

Kashrut

Kosher: Sanctifying the Ordinary. This vibrant, interactive CD explaining Jewish dietary laws, a joint project of the United Synagogue and the Rabbinical Assembly, is designed for both Jewish professionals and laypeople of all ages and levels of religious knowledge. Jews seeking to keep kosher will find specific step-by-step guidance to simplify and organize what may at first seem a daunting task, while rabbis and laypeople will find scholarly material on the content, traditional sources and rationales for *kashrut*, as well as the responsa on *kashrut* by the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. A special interactive section for children provides age-appropriate information. Also offered are family activities that probe the experience of keeping kosher. The CD is both IBM and Macintosh compatible. Available from the United Synagogue Book Service.

"Mazel Tov! Your Child's Bar and Bat Mitzvah"

"Mazel Tov! Your Wedding"

Brochures designed to explain, in friendly language, the importance of *kashrut* at the meal celebrating these important life-cycle events. Contact the Education Department, education@uscj.org.

Shabbat

B'kol Echad. This best-selling songster is found in homes throughout the world. Includes *Shabbat* and holiday blessings, *z'mirot*, Hebrew songs, Grace after Meals, songs of Israel, wedding blessings. Also, *Shirei B'kol Echad*, a double cassette album used as a companion to the songster. Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz sings *Shabbat z'mirot*, traditional Hebrew songs, and blessings (including the full *Birkat HaMazon*). Available from the United Synagogue Book Service.

“Torah Sparks” A discussion guide for weekly Torah readings. Contains an outline and several themes developed for direct participation of congregants in Sabbath morning services or in study groups. Contact the Department of Services to Affiliated Congregations, blumenfeld@uscj.org



Contact the United Synagogue Book Service on-line for a variety of wonderful books on *Shabbat*, such as

* *A Treasury of Shabbat Inspiration* -- An anthology, edited by Rabbi Sidney Greenberg, of sources rich in wisdom, representing a broad spectrum of Jewish thought, expressing the joy and meaningfulness of *Shabbat*.

* *Oneg Shabbat: Prayers and Blessings for the Shabbat Home Table* - Edited by Joseph F. Mendelsohn, this booklet provides detailed guidance on how to perform the *Shabbat* table rituals and includes explanations about their meaning. Each Hebrew blessing is accompanied by a translation and transliteration.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

“Tefillin: And You Shall Bind Them” Written by Rabbi Martin I. Sandberg, this book for pre-*bar* and *bat mitzvah* age children provides a rationale and how-to information on *tefillin*. Contact the United Synagogue Book Service.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel. Let our Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center help you arrange your *bar/bat mitzvah* in Israel. Contact Israel@uscj.org

- Be sure to contact the Program Department (edelman@uscj.org) for pamphlets in the **Jewish Living Now** series. Among other topics, the collection embraces essays on *Shabbat*, *kashrut*, *tefillah*, and *tzedakah*. Also helpful is “Create Your Own Jewish ‘Survival Kit’ for the Jewish Home.”
- Visit www.uscj.org/compact and sign up for the **Compact of Conservative Jewish Commitment**. Receive monthly e-mails to help you improve the world; live the Jewish calendar; eat as a Jew; learn as a Jew; perpetuate Jewish life; and build a bridge to Israel.
- To contact the United Synagogue Book Service, call 212-533-7800, ext. 2003. To order publications, call 1-800-594-5617, e-mail booksvc@uscj.org, or visit uscj.org/booksvc

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism promotes the role of the synagogue in Jewish life in order to motivate Conservative Jews to perform mitzvot encompassing ethical behavior, spirituality, Judaic learning, and ritual observance.



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