

# Teaching Our Daughters

What Should We Expect From  
Their Orthodox Day School Education?

## LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Sunday November 5, 2006 • 8:30am-12:30pm

PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY:



B'NAI DAVID JUDEA CONGREGATION  
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**8:30 – 9:00**

**REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:00 – 9:20**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:**  
*Robin Bodner and Gail Katz*

**9:25 – 10:05**

**SESSION I:**  
*Beth Samuels*

This session will explore the need for girls to have an empowering, rich, and complete Torah education in our Jewish day schools. How do different curriculums reflect various attitudes towards women's learning and to a woman's general role in the Jewish community? There are many models for great Jewish women leaders. How can our schools inspire our girls to want to become such leaders?

**10:15 – 11:15**

**SESSION II:**  
*Chaya Gorsetman*

In this session we will discuss how to support school administrators, empower teachers and create classrooms and curricula that are gender sensitive in the context of traditional Torah study. What types of role models do young girls and boys have in Orthodox day school curricula and what sort of role models are they looking for? What kinds of questions do students have about gender in the context of the study of Torah and Halakha? How can we empower teachers to create a classroom that is gender sensitive, inspiring open conversation in the context of traditional Torah study?

**11:15 – 11:30**

**INTERLUDE TO COLLECT QUESTIONS**

**11:30 – 12:30**

**SESSION III:**  
*Q&A panel moderated by Julie Gruenbaum Fax*

Panelists: Rabbi Y. Boruch Sufrin, Rabbi Avi Greene, Beth Samuels

Audience participation required – ask local school representatives and alumnae about the curricular philosophies of their schools and continue to explore with these educators the issues raised in the two morning sessions.

# SPEAKER BIOS:

**Beth Samuels** is a native Angelino and a Hillel and YULA alum. She is a 1999 graduate of Drisha Institute's Scholar Circle in Talmud and Tanach, and she currently teaches Torah classes in the Palo Alto Jewish community. She received her doctorate in Mathematics from Yale University and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at UC Berkeley. She was the director of Drisha's Summer High School Program and was a Torat Miriam Fellow.

**Chaya R. Gorsetman**, Ed.D, is an instructor and supervisor of the Early Childhood Education Track at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University and she recently served as the director of the JOFA Gender and Orthodoxy Curriculum Project. She specializes in supervision of student teachers and curriculum studies. Additionally, she is an instructor in the Department of Pastoral Counseling at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. Dr. Gorsetman has presented workshops on curriculum development in both Judaic and general subjects, as well as the integration of these subjects. She has led numerous seminars in effective communication between teachers and children and has facilitated parent workshops. More recently, she has conducted extensive research in the field of mentoring novice teachers in Jewish day schools.

**Julie Gruenbaum Fax**, an alumna of Yavneh and YULA, is the Education Editor of the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, focusing on both formal and informal education across the Jewish spectrum of Los Angeles. For seven years prior to becoming education editor, Julie was Religion Editor at the Jewish Journal, where she wrote articles on synagogues, spirituality, rabbis and religious events and trends. She has won numerous local and national press awards for her work. Julie is an alumna of the Wexner Heritage Foundation leadership program, and a member of the executive board at B'nai David Judea. She graduated cum laude with a

bachelors in history from UCLA in 1992. Julie and Alex have two sons and a daughter who attend Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy.

**Rabbi Y. Boruch Sufrin**, a 20-year veteran in Jewish education, has been the Headmaster of Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy in Beverly Hills since 2002. He served as the Dean of the Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy of Greater Miami for ten years. In Florida and California, Rabbi Sufrin was instrumental in implementing a forward thinking child-centered educational curriculum in the areas of Judaic Studies and Hebrew Language immersion. According to Rabbi Sufrin, "Jewish Education has always emphasized the need to teach students of all ages according to their individual needs. Over time, as society progresses, the approaches to teaching and the content should evolve accordingly. It is our duty to ensure that the education we provide for our next generation of girls is as progressive and forward thinking as that of the boys. At Hillel the challenge and stimulation we imbue in our girls' program is as essential as it is in the boys' program. Hillel now offers a full Mishna and Talmud program for all students at the school, and special attention is being paid to helping the girls acclimate and integrate into this new program."

**Rabbi Avi Greene** received his BA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and his MA in Talmud at Brandeis University. After Attending Yeshivat Darchei Noam at the David Shapell College of Jewish Studies he taught and administrered at the Rabbi Jacob Pressman Hebrew Academy. Rabbi Greene returned to New York to receive Smicha and a Certificate in school administration and supervision from Yeshiva University. Before returning to Los Angeles, Rabbi Greene taught at the North Shore Hebrew Academy in Great Neck Long Island where he was a Dean and a member of the Judaic Studies Faculty. Currently, he serves as principle of Judaic Studies at Shalhevet High School.

*Teaching Our Daughters* is underwritten  
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