



PAIDEIA

The European Institute  
for Jewish Studies in Sweden



# Paideia Project-Incubator

Project Catalogue 2009

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## ***Environmental Campaign***

### **Poppy Berelowitz, UK**

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and our world today. The UK Jewish community is now in a position to make their voice heard on green and environmental issues through faith-based campaigning and action in British society.

The campaign will be based on Jewish sources, which teach us to cultivate the natural world and enhance its capacity to support life for a sustainable future. The Jewish Environment campaign in the UK will bring together communal organisations to raise awareness, take action and advocate for environmental sustainability, reaching out to a wide audience.

The campaign will be led by members of The Jewish Social Action Forum (a group of Jewish organisations and the 4 major synagogue movements in the UK) who are in a unique position to work cross-communally and build on the success of previous joint campaigns on various social issues such as Darfur and Fairtrade.

### ***“Mishpasha”\****

#### **Irina Chernobryvets, Ukraine**

Young Jewish families with children comprise an essential part of the Jewish population in Ukraine, and will shape the future of the Jewish community. Most of them, poorly engaged in community life, have eclectic and superficial knowledge about traditional Jewish family values. There is also a growing gap between the life style of the children in Jewish kindergartens, at Sunday school and in their homes.

The «Mishpakha» project aims to include young families in the Jewish community through the creation of a family club, which will be the center of leisure and informal education for all members of the family. This club will enable the families to improve the relations among the family members, based on traditional Jewish family values.

Through a unique holistic approach, the club will provide different services such as a hot line, 101 consultation and workshops.

\*"Family" in Hebrew

## ***Union of Russian-speaking Jewish Youth***

### **Anna Demidova, Belarus and Mariya Ilieva, Bulgaria**

During the last two decades, a generation of new leaders has emerged among Russian-speaking Jewish youth. They have knowledge, experience and skills. However, this group lacks the information channels and the framework that would enable them to take an active role in the shaping of their own future. The goal of the project is to provide opportunities for these highly qualified Jewish youth activists to become a part of the decision-making process.

The project will map already existing organizations in the Jewish world, spread information about educational, professional, and interest-based opportunities through social network groups, lobby existing organizations to open more opportunities for representation of Russia-speaking Jewish youth, and provide specialized training in international affairs, diplomacy and intercultural issues.

The project derives its strength from the characteristics of the group - both the executive and the constituency. We are young, flexible, active and involved Jewish youth.

## ***Journey to Our Roots***

### **Turkey**

Jewish life in Turkey, tracing its roots more than 2400 years back in history, contains a unique heritage that runs the risk of vanishing in just a few years if nothing is done.

The *Journey to our Roots* project organizes Jewish cultural tours in Turkey to revitalize Jewish life in Turkey, to preserve Jewish-Turkish heritage and increase Jewish tourism to Turkey. The tours will be marketed through a website in English, attracting American, European and Israeli tourists and making them aware of the uniqueness of Turkish-Jewish history as a part of their Jewish identity and connection to their roots.

The project will not only raise awareness internationally, but also strengthen Jewish identity in Turkey and promote the important Jewish heritage towards Turkish society in general, by increasing knowledge and through bringing revenue from international tourists.

With a team of professional tourist guides and travel agents, the *Journey to our Roots* project aims to reach 30% of the 8,000 foreign tourists visiting the Jewish museum in Istanbul within the first year of the program.

## ***The Contemporary Jew***

### **Lea Golda Holterman, Israel**

Jewish culture today has become substituted by symbolic representations of religious and Zionist practice. To be Jewish has been compressed into relating to Jewish concepts in formally institutionalized ways.

This project is born out of a need to reflect on the different Jewish identities that have been formed as consequence of modern history. It will address contemporary Jewish dilemmas by asking the question: Who is a Jew? What is Jewish?

The project will be lead by the Arle's prize-winning photographer Lea Golda Holterman, who will draw a map portraying the modern-day Jew by using photography, writing and web-based tools. An on-line virtual Jewish community will be established, giving people around the world the possibility to challenge their own Jewish identity definition. People from the on-line community will be photographed, interviewed and presented in exhibitions around the world.

## ***Creating a Jewish Home***

### **Turkey**

Out of 19,000 Jews living in Istanbul, 4985 are married couples. Today, only 50% of those who were involved in community life as adolescents continue their involvement after they are married, due to the demanding responsibilities of everyday life. At the same time, many would like to be involved and instill Jewish values in their children, making Jewish culture a part of their family life if there was a project that suits their busy lifestyle.

The project aims at creating ten seminars per year that will expand social networks and bring together people interested in Jewish intellectual and spiritual growth. This framework will provide young families with alternatives that educate their children in a way that prevents assimilation and reinforces a positive Turkish Jewish identity.

Our vision is to create a community with young couples who reinvent Judaism for themselves and to inspire people to be proud of their Jewish heritage again.

### ***“Mifgash Dorot” (Meeting of generations)***

#### **Daria Gutkina, Belarus**

Although the Belarusian town of Mogilev has an active Reform community with many Jewish events, there is no unity between the generations; the Netzer youth and the older community members seldom communicate.

This project aims to encourage the different generations to work together by passing knowledge and traditions to each other, and thus strengthen the community as a whole. “Mifgash Dorot” (Meeting of generations) enables intergenerational activities by arranging Shabbat services twice a month, joint cultural and educational programs once a month, and by circulating a newsletter about Jewish community life in Mogilev every two months.

The project is important and innovative for Mogilev. The project leader knows and understands both generations and can help them find productive and meaningful ways of interaction and shared learning. The very active Mogilev community and youth group will provide a solid platform for enabling the success of this project.

### ***Jewish Stockholm***

#### **Marianne Jarrolf Prager, Sweden**

An increasing number of tourists are visiting Stockholm every year. We see an enormous increase in cruise ship visits but also tourists who stay for longer periods. A considerable number of them are Jewish visitors from around the world, many of whom are interested in their roots. Many want to combine their tour of Stockholm with local Jewish highlights and other Jewish information.

Although Jewish heritage tours are available in almost every country where Jews have lived, they are difficult to come by in Stockholm, and there are precious few Authorized Stockholm Guides with knowledge about Judaism.

Jewishstockholm.se will provide a one-stop shop for basic information and custom-made activities featuring the Stockholm Jewish experience. Marianne Jarrolf Prager, an Authorized Stockholm Guide with unique expertise in the Jewish community, brings her warmth and passion to every tour, promising all visitors an unforgettable welcome and an authentic relationship with Stockholm and the Jewish community.

### ***From Cordoba to Vilna***

#### **Anne Kalmering Josephson, Sweden**

There is a steadily growing interest in Jewish music today. However, while there are several artists performing Klezmer and Ladino music, very few quality attempts are made at providing a comprehensive picture.

FROM CORDOBA TO VILNA combines these musical traditions through a CD and a concert that will present a musical journey of Jewish song tradition, giving a sensitive and intimate experience of Jewish text and music to a wider audience. The CD will include a booklet for learning purposes and the concert will also be converted into educational programs.

Anne Kalmering, singer and actress, has performed Jewish songs for 15 years. With her deeply personal interpretation and fascinating voice she is one of the most popular performers of Jewish song in Sweden today. Anne cooperates with the most established and talented musicians in the field and has met enthusiastic audiences at festivals, TV shows, radio and schools in Scandinavia, North America and Europe.

## ***Jewish Text through English Studies***

### **Leonid Kantor, Ukraine**

Among nearly 1200 young people living in Vinnitsa, only 10-15% participates in community programs. Meanwhile, these young Jews are highly motivated to learn English, but the English taught in the public schools is on an unsatisfactory level and they do not have the means to acquire private language learning.

In fact, a large number of members of the Jewish community instead turn to the Protestant churches for English classes, based on the New Testament. This project will combine Jewish and English studies, using English language texts that narrate the history and culture of Jewish life and Israel. We anticipate attracting 80-120 young Jewish people within the first year.

The sessions will be conducted by a professional English teacher together with a teacher of Jewish tradition who will prepare workbooks with special texts, discussion questions, and intellectual games. The Jewish topics will help the young people to better understand the values of Judaism and the Jewish way of life.

## ***Şores – Post Bar and Bat Mitzvah Club***

### **Turkey**

Every year nearly 120 teenagers have a bar/bat mitzvah in Istanbul. Unfortunately, very few of them continue in Jewish studies afterwards. Many of these teenagers - who are our future - eventually leave the community and lose their Jewish identity.

Our aim is to keep teenagers involved long-term. We will attract youngsters at the ages of 14 and 15 who are significant for our community and offer them a combination of Jewish education and leadership skills. Twice a week during one year, they will have the opportunity to be in a social environment where they will get an in-depth experience in Jewish texts, culture and current issues, combined with social activities and entertainment.

As a follow-up program, a select number of the participants will continue, in order to become Madrichim, thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of the program.

## ***Family Days***

### **Daniel Katz, Alexander Smolianitski and Tanya Smolianitski, Germany**

Since the fall of the USSR, Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union has increased the number of Jews in Germany by 500%. Today Russian speakers constitute 80% of all Jews in Germany. After 70 years of Communist repression, they are far removed from Judaism. Many do not understand that Judaism is worth learning about or investing any time in at all. In addition, the potential for misunderstanding between German and Russian Jews is high.

*Family Days* invites individuals of all ages and both cultures to fun-filled programs of Jewish content with age-appropriate activities.

Starting in 2003, *Family Days* has had over 1000 participants in 40 events in six synagogues. We wish to increase the number of themes, sessions, communities, and beneficiaries; cultivate key community contacts; and introduce two-day programs.

Unique features of *Family Days*:

- includes all ages
- multicultural and bilingual programming (Russian, German)
- team diversity (rabbis, educators, community leaders, youth leaders, translators)

### ***MaSHaL: Imagine > Show > Learn***

#### **Boaz Kedar, Israel**

MaSHaL is educational toy, designed together with early childhood education experts and aimed at interactive dramatic play in Jewish kindergartens and schools.

It is a didactic platform for children aged 3 to 6, enabling both teachers and parents to animate stories around any Jewish content – Hassidic, biblical or holiday related - in a fresh, fun and engaging way.

MaSHaL consists of a set of wooden interchangeable characters, a set of backdrops and a story booklet. Using these, the teacher or parent produces a richer experience for the child, or group of children, as the child takes an active part in the telling of the story (rather than merely listening to a story told orally or viewing pictures in a book).

Children enjoy interacting with MaSHaL, using their imagination and playing in a non-structured way.

MaSHaL's uniqueness also lies in that it can be easily adapted to any country, school system or religious stream of Judaism.

### ***Israeli Cultural Institute***

#### **Marcell Kenesei, Hungary**

In order to balance the prevailing stereotypical and simplistic image of Israel in Europe, and especially in Hungary, there is a need to offer Hungarian Jews and non-Jews a wider range of opportunities to understand the complexity and diversity of Israel.

The Israeli Cultural Institute is an independent non-governmental cultural center in Budapest initiated by Hungarian and Israeli individuals and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Our mission is to provide programs and services that educate, inspire and entertain - fostering engagement with Israeli life and culture to create an atmosphere where Hungarians and Israelis can work, study, celebrate and relax together regardless of age, societal, religious, or cultural backgrounds. The Israeli Cultural Institute aims to be a focal point of Hungarian cultural life by building bridges between Israel and the Jews living in the Diaspora, supporting creative local initiatives, providing quality services and developing communities.

### ***The Amateur Community Theater Studio***

#### **Maria Kopelyan, Russia**

Following the revival of Jewish life in Russia that began in the early 1990s, a whole generation of young people appeared and became involved in “new Jewish life” in Russia. Leisure activities with a Jewish component are central for these young adults in their 30s-40s, but they remain frustrated by the lack of Jewish programs aimed at their age group. Even in a city the size of Moscow, most programs are geared towards children, teenagers and the elderly.

The Amateur Community Theater Studio creates Jewish-themed plays and uses professionals to teach acting, singing, dancing and theatre production to young adults in Moscow.

Our organization’s successful pilot theatre project shows that community theatre makes them more involved in Jewish community life, as well as fulfilling their creative ambitions on-stage through encountering Jewish texts and cultural heritage.

## ***Jazz Midrash – The Hebrew Songbook***

**Piotr Mirski, Poland**

There is a growing interest in Judaism and Jewish culture in Poland. But even though there are many Klezmer bands and music festivals, they do not meet all the needs, as they focus mostly on Yiddish culture, provide a one-sided view and do not give full understanding of Jewish tradition. On the other hand, the interest opens a space for intercultural dialogue, spreading knowledge and presenting different genres of Jewish music.

The aim of the project is to publish a songbook containing mainly traditional Hebrew songs together with two CD's recorded by the group Klezmaholics: one containing songs from the songbook (in modern arrangements) and one containing newly written, Polish language songs based on Jewish Legends. The publication will be followed by small club-street festivals of Jewish music in several Polish towns - former centres of Jewish life.

The publications and dynamic performances will be based on contemporary and forward-looking content, completing the one-sided picture and diversifying Jewish life in Poland.

## ***Russian-British Exchange Program***

**Irina Pastuhova, Russia**

In the Soviet Union, Judaism was prohibited and the Jewish community was almost nonexistent. After the fall of communism, Jewish life in the FSU began to grow and develop. However, the communities were never independent, as most resources have come from foreign sponsors. As the next generation of Russian-Jewish activists is forming, they need to learn how to lead and develop the community.

To address this challenge, Hillel Russia will organize an exchange study program between St. Petersburg and London. Young Russian leaders will do ten-day internships in London, learning about effective ways of Jewish community organizing, project development and fundraising. Students from London will then visit St. Petersburg to learn about the city and the Jewish community.

The project will allow young Russian leaders to learn best practices in an established European Jewish community and offer UK youth insights into the rich history and literature of Eastern European Jewish life.



## ***[dʒu:'kreɪn]: The Jewish Genealogy and Travel Guide Center***

**Darina Privalko, Ukraine**

The treasures of the Ukrainian Jewish heritage often remain unknown and neglected, as Ukraine is perceived as a country lacking qualified Jewish guides and an efficient infrastructure to make Ukrainian Jewish journeys not only remarkable, but also safe and comfortable.

- JUkraine's mission is to raise awareness and create excitement about Ukrainian Jewish heritage, as well as contemporary local Jewish life by making Jewish Ukraine accessible to visitors from around the world.
- JUkraine develops Jewish travel routes, trains professional guides, conducts genealogical research and connects families to their relatives living in Ukraine.
- JUkraine creates study tools and offers Jewish education and career opportunities to Ukrainian Jews, with or without prior Jewish knowledge or involvement.
- JUkraine contributes to the preservation of historical landmarks and sustainability of Ukrainian Jewish communities.
- JUkraine serves individuals and families, organized tour groups, youth study trips, congregational missions, as well as businesspeople and Jewish community professionals seeking Ukrainian connections

### ***DrashHour***

#### **Martin Schubert, Germany**

The German-speaking Jewish population is trying to connect to the global Jewish community and to their Jewish identity. New media offers them this possibility in an easily accessible way, but that so far no one has taken advantage of the opportunity.

We will establish a weekly 15-minute web show for the 150,000 German-speaking Jews, including English subtitles. Each episode will be divided into three topics – the weekly Torah Portion, current Jewish and Israeli issues and an interview with a prominent guest regarding his or her approach to Judaism.

My experience and connections as a journalist writing about Jewish topics for the German-language media will contribute greatly to recruiting prominent Israeli and Jewish artists and activists for appearances and interviews - making the show a substantive and tangible contribution to a positive Jewish identity building process, in a completely unique and entertaining way.

### ***Shabbat Angels***

#### **Misha Sharf, Russia**

“Shabbat Angels” promotes Jewish values and heritage by organizing youth leaders to present Shabbat hospitality for the elderly in St. Petersburg.

In Russia today, there is a serious social problem with many elderly people suffering from loneliness and being nearly abandoned by the state and by their relatives. Furthermore, Russian Jews are still distant from Jewish tradition and do nothing Jewish outside institutional life. Many young people are also searching for leadership and facilitating opportunities.

“Shabbat Angels” takes hold of all three challenges at the same time. Young people come to Jewish elderly people’s homes each Friday, organizing Shabbat celebrations, arranging dinner and interacting with the elderly, giving the experience of homemade Shabbat. Special trainings are organized for the students, teaching them how to lead the Shabbat ceremony, making it interesting both for the elderly and youth.

A limited version of the project is already working in Hillel St. Petersburg, and we will expand by building on its great success.

### ***Four Worlds Theatre Company***

#### **Joel Stanley, UK**

Today's world is facing an urgent environmental crisis. Meanwhile, many Jews in the UK are involved in Jewish life but do not associate Judaism with such important social and ethical issues. In addition, there are many unaffiliated Jews in the UK who think of Judaism as outdated and uncreative.

My project will raise Jewish communal awareness of ecological issues through the staging of a new one-hour play, educating Jewish adults and sixth formers on the relationship between Judaism and environmental issues. The play will be shown at UK synagogues, theatres and schools, and in Jewish communities around the world. The project will be part of a wider environmental campaign throughout the UK conducted by the Jewish Social Action Forum (JSAF).

My Masters in Applied Drama, yeshiva background, experience of creating Jewish theatre projects in London and Jewish community contacts put me in a unique position to realise this project.

### ***One-week Seminar in Jewish Studies***

#### **Arusyak Tarloyan, Armenia**

At Yerevan State University, almost 50 students each year sign up for Hebrew Studies. They finish their education without a notion of Jewish history and culture, which is crucial to understanding the Hebrew language. They are voicing their interest in receiving background knowledge to communicate better in a cross-cultural environment, enhancing their language studies and professional prospects.

The “One-week seminar in Jewish Studies” for the Hebrew students will give them an overview of Jewish culture and history, will reveal the similarities between the Jewish and the Armenian experience and create connections between Armenian and Israeli academicians. The courses will be taught by scholars in Jewish thought and in cooperation with Israeli Universities.

With a large network of connections in the world of Jewish Studies and an intimate knowledge of the department as a PhD candidate, I will institute the program during the upcoming academic year under the supervision of the university.

### ***Voz en Off***

#### **Alba Toscano, Spain**

La Javura [lajavura.org](http://lajavura.org) is a Spanish-speaking egalitarian community in Spain founded in 1997. We are the only Spanish-speaking community which has experimented with bringing Kabbalat Shabbat, and volunteer Spanish-speaking educators via Skype directly into the community center, the homes of our members and geographically isolated, Spanish-speaking Jews.

During a 4-year pilot project started in 2005, the incorporation of Skype, internet and speaker telephones produced a 5-fold participation increase for Kabbalat Shabbat services, Introduction to Judaism, Torah cantillation and Hebrew language classes. From these efforts, 6 persons passed the Liberal Beit din in Paris and two satellite groups formed in Seville and La Coruña.

The next level is to up-grade the quality and sophistication of our virtual capacity with electronic equipment that creates a more comfortable working interface for all participants. Funding is also needed to pay professional educators for a period of two years for on-line out-reach and educational courses.

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for Jewish Education  
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