



PARDeS

*Shanah Tovah
2010 Edition*



Tishrei 5770

PARDeS is an international organization committed to fostering Jewish identity, literacy and continuity by strengthening and increasing day school education for Reform Jewish children. To accomplish this PARDeS members:

- Advocate for day school education in the Reform Movement
- Increase the number of Reform Day Schools
- Provide educational and networking opportunities for professional and lay leaders
- Support the member schools
- Champion excellence in general and Jewish education
- Cooperate and collaborate with other Jewish organizations both within and outside the Reform Movement

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PARDeS

PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
OF REFORM DAY SCHOOLS

INFORMING OUR COMMUNITY.
ADVOCATING OUR COMMON PURPOSE.
INSPIRING OUR BRIGHT FUTURE.

NEWS



The Reform Day School: A Potent Minority

By Rabbi Jan Katzew, PhD

Even now, more than 40 years after the founding of the first day school associated with a Reform congregation, there are Reform Jews that relate to Reform Jewish Day Schools as oxymoronic, or at least anomalous. It remains a challenge for many if not most Reform Jews to relate to Reform Day Schools as full members of the Reform Jewish community. There is still need for an advocacy campaign, for ongoing outreach and for education about the contributions of Reform Day Schools to the North American Jewish community. One conversation with a veteran faculty member of the Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto left me with a lasting impression. She attended the URJ Biennial Convention and when she came back to Leo Baeck she said that, finally, after decades of teaching in a Reform Day School, she understood what it meant to be part of the Reform Movement. One by one we need to nurture transformational, "conversionary" moments that bring Day Schools and Reform Judaism closer together.

continued on page two >>>

Jacobson Sinai Academy Welcomes 2010 Reform Day School Rabbinic Externs

PARDeS member schools are opening their doors to a new constituency of learners — student rabbis and their teachers.

Funded this year by the **Jim Joseph Foundation**, and last year by the **Avi Chai Foundation**, the PARDeS/HUC-JIR Reform Day School Rabbinic Externship brings student rabbis for an intensive week of learning in a PARDeS member school in the spring semester. They return to their HUC-JIR campuses in the fall to facilitate a campus-wide program about the potential of day schools to foster Jewish learning and living in the Reform movement for fellow students, faculty and staff. This year, the cohort of six externs, two from each HUC-JIR Campus, were specially selected from a growing pool of applicants by HUC-JIR education professors **Jo Kay**, **Rabbi Sam Joseph** and **Dr. Michael Zeldin**, with support from the PARDeS Executive Director.

continued on page three >>>

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Update from Our Chair

Jan Epstein
 PARDeS Chair
 Honorary URJ Board Member
 [bubbej@bellsouth.net]

Friends,

It is with pleasure that we welcome **Chaim Lieberman** as Editor, *PARDeS News*. We look forward to providing you with the news and views that our day schools provide to and for our readers and members.

As Chair, PARDeS, I am involved with URJ South District, in establishing a network process for our schools located in our District. A mission statement has been written and will be distributed to our schools, partners, friends and PARDeS members. This model is already being modified to fit the profile of the Central District. Each District may establish its own networks, thus, the remaining locales may consider doing so, as well.

Nov. 19-21, 2010, Atlanta, GA, a South District Forum will take place at which there will be five tracts available to the registrants. We are working with the planning committee and the Davis Academy, to provide an "early bird" tour of the school and to engage the students in Shabbat morning services. The big change from past such gatherings, is that the attendance is not limited to the District, rather, if the subject matter is of interest to any URJ member congregant, one may register and attend.

We have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the planning of the next URJ National Forum, near Washington, DC, in Dec. 2011. The theme of this gathering will be "Life Long Jewish Learning," which is an amazing accomplishment. I will serve on the Executive Committee and **Dr. Jane West Walsh** will serve on the planning committee for this event.

Reform Judaism Magazine will construct a feature article on our Reform Jewish Day Schools. The timing for this article is yet to be determined; however, Jane, David and I have some work to do before *RJ Magazine* launches the issue.

On behalf of PARDeS, I have agreed to put together a team to engage in a discussion as to ways in which our schools reach out to students who learn differently, and who may have disabilities that affect their learning opportunities, and how these programs are created and managed by the schools. The subject of inclusion will be the main focus of these discussions. This will be a collaborative effort between PARDeS, and the URJ Task Force on Disabilities, and Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, an expert on disabilities, who is a staff member at the Religious Action Center, Washington, DC. In the overall, we will seek ways to provide excellent, inclusive arenas for learning in our Reform congregations, camps, day schools and communities.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues, Rabbi Jan Katzew, URJ, David Prashker, President, PARDeS and Jane West Walsh, Director, PARDeS, and our Board members, for their dedication and work on behalf of PARDeS as well as to our members and schools for your support and participation.

Wishing you a sweet year of good health, happiness and peace in our world.

Katzew, continued from page one >>>

There are approximately 130,000 students in Reform congregational schools and approximately 5% of that number in Reform Day Schools. Since we are now (May and June 2010/Sivan and Tammuz 5770) reading the *Book of Numbers*, we can appreciate that the results of a census matter to the children of Israel. It is realistic to assume that the Reform Day School student and parent population will continue to represent a minority of Reform Jews. However, the same is true of the population in Reform Movement camps or youth groups or Israel experiences. Nevertheless, these other constituencies appear

to be more normative and less "other" than day schools. Undoubtedly, there is a non-rational element to this subjective observation, but I do not think that makes this assessment any less meaningful or cogent.

Reform Day Schools may find natural coalition partners within the Reform Movement to enlarge their footprint and leave a lasting, positive imprint on Reform Judaism. URJ camps, Israel experiences, Junior Youth Groups, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism could become natural allies in maximizing Jewish learning and living. Reform Day

Schools represent commitment to Jewishly educated Jews. They make a statement of Jewish particularism. After having achieved success as educated Americans, Reform Jews now need to prove that we can be both educated Americans and committed Jews. Day schools may not be mainstream in the Reform Movement, but they can and should be sources of professional and volunteer leadership, islands of Jewish educational excellence, communities that model lifelong Jewish learning that include parents and faculty as well as children, and arguably above all, Reform Jews that live what they learn.



Update from Our President

David Prashker
 PARDeS President
 Director of Education
 Temple Sinai of North Dade,
 Jacobson Sinai Academy
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Since the last newsletter, PARDeS has moved forward in so many different ways. In place of our usual annual conference, we teamed up with RAVSAK, Solomon Shechter and Yeshiva University to create a joint conference in January which brought together more senior leaders, lay and professional, from more schools, than on any occasion in Jewish American history; and we are already planning to repeat the event next year — Los Angeles in February, mark your calendars.

Our new Executive Director, **Dr. Jane West Walsh**, completed her first year, opening new partnerships for us with CCAR and HUC, taking the lead on so many projects — we are fortunate to have such a dynamic professional at our helm. We also said

thank you, but by no means farewell, to **Nancy Pryzant Picus**, our president for the last four years; another amazing and dynamic leader, Nancy will be leading our Strategic Planning process in the months ahead, supported by the URJ's specialist consultant **Dale Glasser**, to whom we are extremely grateful. Nancy will also be continuing her work to produce a template for a model PARDeS graduate. Nancy, on behalf of all of us in the Reform movement, "thank you and kol ha kavod."

This year is the 18th anniversary of PARDeS. If you haven't done so already, please assist us in our North American Jewish Day School Project, gathering in archives of important documents that record our history and our many successes — contact Dr. Jane West Walsh for further information. As part of the celebrations, four key players in the founding of PARDeS — **Lenore Kipper, Roberta Krolick, Sue Klau** and **Dr. Michael Zeldin** — met in May, at Jacobson Sinai Academy, to record a conversation which will be available in video very soon. Make sure you get your copy; as moderator of the conversation I can promise you it was fascinating.

I wish all our PARDeS members, friends, colleagues and supporters a sweet and happy and successful New Year.

Jacobson Sinai, continued from page one >>>

The 2010 Reform Day School Externs are:

- **David Gerber** and **Laila Haas**, HUC-JIR Cincinnati
- **Carla Fenves** and **Sara Newman**, HUC-JIR New York
- **Aron Klein** and **Suzy Stone**, HUC-JIR Los Angeles

Reform Jews who are day school alumni are only now entering the rabbinate and becoming parents and Jewish communal leaders themselves. With estimates of 10,000 children from Reform affiliated families enrolled in day schools across North America, this pool of knowledgeable Reform Jews who will lead our movement in the 21st century is predicted to grow exponentially in the next decade. In the meantime, these externs are learning the potential of the day school experience for Reform Jews from the inside out. They get rich learning experiences in PARDeS

schools and the congregations with whom they are affiliated, and a network of colleagues, and a new perspective on the Jewish community as they launch their rabbinic careers. **David Prashker**, Director of Education and Head of School at Jacobson Sinai Academy reports that six pairs of keen, astute eyes, and bright inquisitive minds visiting the school is also a benefit to the school. **Rabbi Micah Lapidus** reports that this was also the case when **The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy** hosted the 2009 Rabbinic Externship last year.

A donor gift of \$20,000 will bring a new cohort of day school externs to **The Shlenker School** in Houston. Please contact Dr. Jane West Walsh, PARDeS Executive Director, for more information.

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NOTES, NEWS & REFLECTIONS:

Mazal Tov to...

- PARDeS members **Rabbi Andrew Busch**, Head of School **Gerri Chizeck**, and board members **Aimee Adashek** and **Allan T. Hirsh, III** as **The Day School at Baltimore Hebrew** celebrates its 18th anniversary with an alumni reception, arts festival and auction on Sunday, May 16, 2010. On June 13, the celebration continues when international Jewish leader **Shoshana Cardin** speaks at the 18th anniversary dinner honoring day school leaders and founders on June 13.
- **Jane West Walsh**, EdD, on receiving a Doctorate in Jewish Religious Education, *honoris causa*, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in recognition of 25 years of service as a Jewish educational leader.
- **Chaim Lieberman**, RJE Judaic Studies Director at Temple Beth Am Day and Religious Schools at Temple Beth Am in Miami, on being awarded the coveted Reform movement sponsored title *Reform Jewish Educator* (RJE) at the National Association of Temple Educators (NATE) Conference in March in Alexandria, VA.
- **Nancy Pryzant Picus** and her husband Mark on son Daniel's graduation from Macalester College with honors for his work in classical languages. His honors thesis concerned female prophets including Miriam, Deborah, and Hulda in addition to Greek prophetesses. Daniel will be studying at Oxford next year earning a Master of Studies degree.
- **Wendy Grinberg**, URJ Adult Learning Specialist, her husband Michael and their son Simon on the birth of daughter and sister Naomi Fay Grinberg on Friday, May 28, 2010.
- **Allan T. Hirsh III**, wife **Lisa**, and **Jessica and Scott Normington** on the birth of grandson/son **Charles Edward Normington** on August 2, 2010.
- **Dale Glasser** on being awarded a Doctorate in Jewish Communal Service, *honoris causa*, from HUC-JIR in Los Angeles on May 17, 2010. Dale is Lead Specialist of the URJ's Congregational Consulting Group and will be guiding the PARDeS strategic planning process.
- **Jan Epstein** on being honored recently by the American Jewish Committee in Atlanta, GA, for her dedication and leadership.

Bruchim Haba'im to...

- **Mollie Aczel**, PEJE coach, Reform day school advocate and founding Head of School at the **Alfred and Adele Davis Academy** in Atlanta, who has accepted an appointment as Interim

Head of School at Temple **Beth Am Day School** for the 2010–2011 academic year while the search for a permanent Head appointee continues.

- **Yvette Burke** in her new position as Principal of the North Campus at Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto.
- **Donna Raskin** who recently became the new Head of School at Temple Emanu-El Academy at Temple Emanu-El of Beverly Hills.
- **Rabbi Michael Weinstein** who recently joined the Rashi School faculty as a Middle School Jewish Studies teacher and Social Justice coordinator at the new campus in Dedham, MA.

Todah Rabbah to...

- We send our warmest good wishes and say *L'hitraot* to former PARDeS VP and URJ Day School Committee representative **Dr. Mindy Pincus** as she steps down from her position as Head of School at **Temple Beth Am Day School** to relocate with her family to Boston.
- **Sandra z'l and Stephen Breslauer** at the **Soref-Breslauer Texas Foundation** for their generous gift of \$30,000 in three annual installments of \$10,000 to offset costs of operating expenses, programs and initiatives in 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- Everyone who made the 2010 Reform Day School Externship possible: **Jerry Somers**, **Dr. Michael Zeldin**, **Rabbi Sam Joseph**, **Professor Jo Kay**, **David Prashker**, **Rabbi Alan Litwak**, **Dr. Margo Brilliant**, **Barbara Silverman**, **Nataly and Gavriel Sarfaty**, **Sue Shapiro Klau**, **HUC-JIR**, the **URJ**, and the **Jim Joseph Foundation**.

Passings...

May their memories be a blessing.

- **Sandra Jacobs Breslauer** dedicated communal leader, educator, business woman, service clown and philanthropist, died on July 9, 2010, in Houston. Sandra and husband Stephen Breslauer were responsible for PARDeS receiving a major gift from the Soref-Breslauer Texas Foundation this year.
- **Rabbi Morris Kipper**, devoted husband of Dr. Lenore Kipper, PARDeS founder, Reform day school advocate and Beth Am Day School Director of Jewish Studies Emeritus, died on August 7, 2010, in Miami. Rabbi Kipper will be remembered for his dedicated service to the Jewish people and as Founding Director of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel.

PARDeS Founders Stories to Enrich PARDeS Collection at the American Jewish Archives

As part of the PARDeS 18th anniversary archives project, significant early developments in PARDeS and Reform day school history were captured in a 90-minute videotaped panel discussion on May 13, 2010 at **Jacobson Sinai Academy** in North Miami, FL.

Highlighting the efforts of Reform movement leaders to support day school education as a viable option for Reform Jewish families in the last half of the 20th century, PARDeS President and Jacobson Sinai Academy Director of Education **David Prashker** facilitated a conversation with (left to right): **Roberta Krolick**, PARDeS leader and founder of the Rosenwald School; **Dr. Michael Zeldin**, Professor of Jewish Education and Director of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-JIR; **Lenore Kipper**, Jewish Studies Director Emeritus of **Temple Beth Am Day School** and founding PARDeS President; and **Sue Shapiro Klau**, Jacobson Sinai Academy leader and former PARDeS Chair. **Dr. Jane West Walsh**, Executive Director of PARDeS, coordinated the event as part of the week long visit of six HUC-JIR rabbinic externs visiting the campus.



Editor's note: Please see BACK PAGE for more on how your school can participate in documenting Reform day school history for research scholars and Jewish educational leaders of today and tomorrow by submitting copies of 18 or more significant documents to the PARDeS collection at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. Who in your school can help to select 18 or more significant documents or artifacts that can be photographed for this 2010 project? For more information contact Dr. Jane West Walsh.

2010-2011 PARDeS BOARD

PARDeS is guided by a lay and professional leadership team working together to guide the organization, with the support of board members, school leaders, members at large, the URJ day school specialist and the PARDeS Executive Director. The President is a sitting head of school or senior educator in a PARDeS member school; the Chair is a Reform movement leader committed to the advancement of high quality day school education for Reform Jews.

David Prashker, <i>President</i>	Martin Jannol, <i>Treasurer</i>	Allan T. Hirsh, III, <i>Immed. Past Chair</i>	Rabbi Micah Lapidus Fanny Levy	Rabbi Jan Katzew, <i>URJ Ex Officio</i>
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The Leo Baeck Day School –
The Dan Family/Atkinson Campus
The Leo Baeck Day School –
The Holy Blossom Campus
Leo Baeck Education Center
The Day School at Baltimore Hebrew
Beth Hillel Day School
Bet Breira School

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Temple Sinai of North Dade
Pardes Jewish Day School
The Rashi School

Rodeph Sholom Day School
The Saul Mirowitz Day School
Reform Jewish Academy
The Shlenker School Congregation
Beth Israel
Temple Beth Am Day School
Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School
Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El Day School

2009/2010 PARDeS School Highlights

The Rashi School, Dedham, MA rashi.org

Rashi's energy this year was focused on its new building — our first permanent home. The 82,000 square foot building is located on a multigenerational campus shared with a Hebrew SeniorLife facility. We have begun our multigenerational programming, sharing Chanukah and Shavuot activities with the seniors. We moved on June 15.



Educational highlights this year include the adoption of the "6+1" writing program to strengthen writing across grades and subject areas, and participation in the first Jewish Day School Regional Science Exposition.

Jacobson Sinai Academy, North Miami Beach, FL tsnd.org

Renewal of our Project Day School Excellence grant, for a 3rd year, has allowed us to continue building our Coaches Academy and to develop collaborative planning as the central platform of our professional development strategy. Next year, every teacher's weekly schedule will include at least one block of time dedicated to coaching, and every teacher is expected both to have a Coach from amongst their colleagues, and to be a Coach to one of their colleagues. Our monthly Faculty meetings, and weekly team meetings, are now primarily focused on collaborative planning, which has enabled cross-grade as well as within-grade planning to become

more cohesive, and to integrate Judaic Studies more effectively into our General Studies program.

At last, after 25 years of dreaming, hoping, and planning, our bridge to the JCC has been built. Our campus is now linked umbilically to the JCC, opening possibilities for growth of school and Temple that were simply inconceivable before. We are now located in the very heart of Jewish life in north Miami. Check out the webpage for photos, and the video of the bridge being installed.

This year we have introduced Spanish into the curriculum for Grades K, 1 and 6; over the next four years that will grow until every grade studies Spanish — an essential in today's Florida where some 70% of our children speak Spanish as their first language, but need to learn how to read and write it properly; and for non-Spanish Americans, a third language they can really use.

The Day School at Baltimore Hebrew, Baltimore, MD bhcds.org

The Day School at Baltimore Hebrew is celebrating our 18th anniversary year with festive celebrations including all stakeholders for two major events.

Our annual Fine Arts Festival in May featured performances by students and alumni, a visual arts showcase and silent auction. On June 14, the celebration continued with an annual meeting and dinner honoring founders, supporters, faculty and board members with international Jewish leader and philanthropist **Shoshana Cardin** as our featured speaker.



We are completing a 10-year renewal of our school's accreditation from AIMS, the Association of Independent Maryland Schools. We have already received accolades from the accreditation team for our unique and effective Judaics integration and Judaic program, our personalized academics, high quality arts instruction, emphasis on service to others and for our exemplary early childhood program.

Over the summer we are updating our strategic plan as we gear up for another strong year.

The Shlenker School, Houston, TX theshlenkerschool.org

The Shlenker School enjoyed an exceptional year this year. Despite the difficult economic times, our enrollment held steady throughout the year, while registration for 2010-2011 has increased. Some highlights of 2009-2010 include:

1. The Hebrew department received an AVI CHAI technology grant designed to facilitate authentic assessment of oral Hebrew language. The grant provided funds for three new portable tablet computers for classroom teachers, as well as MP3 players and recorders for student and teacher use. The teachers designed lessons and assessment tools using this new classroom equipment that enabled them to capture student achievement easily and authentically.
2. Through generous gifts of our PTO, local foundations, and funds remaining from our AVI CHAI grant, we were able to install interactive Promethean boards and BrightLinks interactive projectors in ten classrooms. The rest of the classrooms (both general and Hebrew classrooms) will be similarly equipped during the summer of 2010. Teachers were provided with intense and on-going training to facilitate the integration of the new technology into the classroom instruction.
3. Facilitated by URJ congregational consultants and **Dr. Jane West Walsh**, The Shlenker School inaugurated a new parent education series in January. Initially planned as a Jewish book club, the parents in the group asked to study parashat hashavua after completing the book. Thus, Torah Together!, a weekly parent study group, was born. Although parents requested the class continue throughout the summer, the group will resume in September and be on-going during the coming academic year.

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School, Beverly Hills, CA teads.org

Temple Emanuel Academy Day School (TEADS) had a busy, creative and meaningful year. A central focus has been strengthening connections to Israel by participating in programs that celebrate the Jewish state. An exciting highlight was the students' performance at the dedication of Temple Emanuel's new address "Herzl Way," in honor of the great Zionist visionary. TEADS students reached out to the community through a partnership with a local public school. The school celebrated writing at Student Author's Night, and the student council

led a campaign to benefit the relief effort in Haiti. The entire staff worked together to enhance the school's curricular goals by creating new authentic assessments.

Temple Beth Am Day School, Pinecrest, FL tbam.org

This spring we received our AISE/SACS Final Committee Evaluation Report. TBADS received full re-accreditation for five years. Some of the positive areas noted in the report included: Many of the teachers are also school parents; Shared



campus facilities with members of the community ranging from Toddler Time babies through the local bridge group; Students and teachers appeared happy and busily engaged everywhere; The upgraded facility; Classrooms are well decorated and welcoming; An excellent fire drill; Opportunities for hands-on and active learning, especially in Early Childhood and Kindergarten; Language arts curriculum — the progression from a basal reader program to use of novels; Extensive staff development programs including Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design; Security; Faculty learning community; School spirit and Financial records. Further, our Project Day School Excellence grant has allowed us to continue to develop Differentiated Instruction in the classroom. "Everyday Math" was implemented in our first grade. Our revised Hebrew curriculum featured "Chalav U'Dvash" in the gan and "Pirke Tefillah" prayer study materials. "Passover Prep" days included family programming for all upper primary levels instead of Model Seders for all. We combined our participation in "International Walk/Bike to School Day" into the intermediate days of Sukkot where all had refreshments waiting. "Celebration (half) Days" were marked on both the last day of Passover and Shavuot. Students engaged in the Holy Days through informal learning and communal celebration. RenWeb became the main communication, progress report and lesson plan/"home learning" retrieval modality. Due to our proximity to Haiti, earthquake relief took many forms — emergency funds channeled through the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; specific medical materials and an impressive stuffed animal drive led by our kindergarten.



The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives: North American Jewish Day School Project PARDeS Anniversary Collection

In celebration of the 18th anniversary of PARDeS: Progressive Association of Reform Day Schools, member schools are invited to send a folio of 18 significant documents, letters, or photos to the American Jewish Archives for the PARDeS Collection. Please contact Mr. Kevin Profitt, Chief Archivist, to consult on all aspects of the process and before sending your collection.

We recommend choosing documents that reflect:

1. the founding, development, and impact of the school;
2. the board leaders, teachers and educators who have guided the school; and/or
3. the students and alumni who have contributed to the Jewish community as a result of their having attended the school.

Dr. Michael Zeldin, dedicated Reform day school advocate, inaugurated the leaders and founders section at our anniversary dinner at The Leo Baeck Day School during the recent November 2009 Biennial Assembly of the Union for Reform Judaism. He submitted an original copy of his paper "The Status of a Quiet Revolution," originally circulated at the 1985 U.A.H.C. Biennial to support the resolution on full-time education for Reform Jewish families.*

**A PDF of this paper is available in the library section of the PARDeS website at www.pardesdayschools.org. The 1985 U.A.H.C resolution, which passed marking a significant moment in Reform movement history, can be found in the governance section of the Union for Reform Judaism website at www.urj.org.*

For information on choosing and submitting documents, or starting an archive at your school and congregation to complement the North American collection, contact:

Mr. Kevin Profitt
Senior Archivist for
Research and Collections
Ph (513) 221-1875
kprofitt@huc.edu

PARDeS Member Gift Form

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 - \$500** Etz Chaim (Tree of Life — Professional development for faculty to enhance Reform Jewish learning)
 - \$1,000** Bonim (Builders — Provides named or anonymous financial assistance to a Reform Jewish Day School)
- You may honor or memorialize a friend or family member.**



PARDeS will publish a printed edition of this newsletter at Rosh Hashanah each year, with occasional supplements. E-news will be distributed electronically and archived on our website at www.pardesdayschools.org. Readers are invited to submit relevant essays, school and member news, photographs, and creative writing that illuminate the impact of PARDeS member day schools on students, their families, alumni, board members, faculty and staff, and the URJ member Reform congregations and communities that provide the umbrella under which we advance our mission. While we cannot promise to publish every submission, we will read and consider them all. Please send materials electronically to Chaim Lieberman, PARDeS News Editor at clieberman@tbam.org or Dr. Jane West Walsh, PARDeS Executive Director and URJ Day School Specialist at jwalsh@urj.org.