



Tools for the Road
**Jewbilee Faculty Track for
Independent School Educators**

January 14-16, 2011
Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel

Dear Faculty Participant,

Thank you for boldly giving up a weekend at home to join TCI staff and student participants at this year's Jewbilee retreat for Jewish students, friends, and allies!

TCI is the only organization working specifically with Jewish students and their friends at independent high schools across the country. TCI is unique in the private educational landscape for both our method of engagement and our strategic inclusivity of all students. TCI empowers Jewish students in the spaces that they inhabit every day and works with teachers and administrators to enhance the greater cultural awareness of the entire school community. By recognizing the value of balancing a particular identity within a broader community, TCI creates and provides compelling content with a Jewish lens for student clubs, all-school programs, classrooms, and inter-school retreats. Each TCI program is designed to engage a variety of interests while also being inclusive and accessible to all. Through our direct partnerships with schools we create valuable opportunities for leadership training, exploration of identity, and service learning.

Over the past year TCI has invested significant time and resources into cultivating and training student leaders. We believe that empowering students to create and facilitate their own programs builds their investment and skills as leaders. Thus, the theme of this year's Jewbilee, *Tools for the Road*, reflects this approach. Students will participate in workshops and discussions on developing their leadership toolboxes. The faculty track will address the issue of our roles as teachers/mentors to student leaders.

In the spirit of the National Association of Independent Schools' POCC and SDLC conferences, we encourage you to view this weekend as an opportunity for faculty to commune together, but also as a rare opportunity to see a different side of your students through the experience of living in a broader retreat community.

Welcome to Jewbilee 2011! We look forward to an exciting weekend of learning, fun, and community.

Warmly,

Adam Gaynor
TCI Executive Director

Jewbilee Faculty Track Sessions

During Jewbilee 2011, Faculty will join students in all activities with the exception of these special, faculty-only sessions:

Friday 5-6pm

Faculty Welcome and Roundtable

This is your chance to introduce yourself and your role at your school to the faculty cohort. Each faculty member will briefly share how, if at all, their school addresses student leadership as the school's demographics and curriculum diversifies. This short introductory session is designed to give faculty insight into each other's schools, and roles within schools, to facilitate in-depth conversations throughout the weekend.

Saturday 8-8:45am

Understanding Shabbat: Making Shabbat a Practice in Balance at Independent Schools

Breakfast with Rabbi Or Rose

The concepts of rest and the separation between sanctified and secular space are something that we all navigate in order to function in a fast-paced world. In this informal discussion with Rabbi Or Rose, we will use Shabbat as a conceptual framework for maintaining a balanced life, and consider how to encourage students saddled with high expectations and rigorous schedules, to find their own balance.

Or Rose is Associate Dean and Director of Informal Education at the Hebrew College Rabbinical School in Boston. Author and Jewish social activist, Rabbi Rose is a co-editor of Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice (Jewish Lights, 2008) and organizer of the Righteous Indignation Project, author of Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action (JPSA, 2003), and a regular contributor to Tikkun Magazine. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he directs interfaith and social justice programs at Hebrew College.

Saturday 9-10am

Tools for the Road: Education and Mentoring as Sacred Practice

Dr. Bernie Steinberg

Few of us go into education for the financial reward; rather, we are drawn to education for the intellectual engagement, thrill of seeing students grow, and a host of other reasons. This session will challenge participants, through a close and critical study of Jewish texts, to consider whether teaching and the mentoring of young people is also a sacred act, and whether this requires particular attention to the ethics of the relationship between teacher and learner. We shall address these and related questions through Hevruta (dialogical learning) as a primary pedagogic method.

Bernard Steinberg is the President and Director of Harvard Hillel, and is the former President of the Harvard Chaplains. He lived in Israel for 13 years, during which time he directed the Wesleyan University Israel Program, taught at the Hebrew University, and was a founding Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute. Steinberg is a bridge builder whose life-work is devoted to the interaction between diverse groups of people on campus, and between the academy and the community at large. One of the foci of his work is the exploration of classical sources to personal growth and contemporary leadership. To that end, he co-teaches a course at the Harvard Kennedy School on "Moral Leadership: Self, Other, and Action."

Saturday 1:00-2:00

Courageous Conversations at Independent Schools: The Example of the Manhattan Islamic Community Center

Yavilah McCoy and Adam Gaynor

According to Sonia Nieto, "The simple slogan 'Celebrating Diversity' that is part of many multicultural education initiatives, although it may be well-meaning, glosses over structural inequalities that are replicated in schools every day." As educators, we have a role to play in either evading difficult issues or leaning into our own discomfort and addressing them, providing critical modeling for our students. In this session, we will look at how to have difficult conversations through the particular example of the debate over the proposed Islamic Community Center in lower Manhattan.

Yavilah McCoy is TCI's New England Regional Director. She has taught Judaic Studies, Hebrew Language and English Literature on elementary and secondary levels. Yavilah is a trained facilitator for the Anti Defamation League's "A World of Difference" Program, The National Conference for Community and Justice's Dismantling Racism Institute, and the National Coalition Building Institute of Washington, DC. She is the founding director of AYECHA, a national not-for-profit that provided educational resources for Jewish Diversity and advocacy for Jews of Color in the United States.

Adam Gaynor is TCI's Executive Director. He has worked as Assistant Director of the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU; as a social work consultant at The Educational Alliance for public school-based, post-9/11 programs; as a project co-coordinator at The Jewish Agency's Department of Education in Israel; and as Director of Multicultural Affairs at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. He has an undergraduate degree in Women's Studies, Masters Degrees in Jewish Studies and School Social Work, and is currently pursuing doctoral work in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU.

Saturday 2:00-3:00

Affinity Group Successes and Challenges at Independent Schools

Yavilah McCoy and Adam Gaynor

In this case study and discussion, participants will examine strategies toward nurturing successful, student-driven identity affinity groups/clubs, and wrestle with the challenges of the faculty advisor role.

Saturday 7:30-

Saturday Night Faculty Outing

On Saturday evening, we will take students to ice skate nearby. Faculty participants are free to explore and enjoy Cambridge and Boston on their own. We will provide a listing of suggested restaurants, music venues, movie theatres and other places to visit. Participants should feel free to join the students for dinner, or take off early for a night on the town.

Sunday 10:30-11:30

Faculty Track Evaluation and Focus Group

This final session will give participants an opportunity to reflect on the weekend individually and as a group, and provide feedback to TCI for future programs.