



Community Curriculum Conference Call Notes
April 12, 2010

Agenda

1. Welcome and Brief Update
2. Overview of Global Day Curriculum
3. Themes and Classes
4. Questions for Communities to Consider
5. Questions about the Curriculum
6. Wrap-Up

Welcome and Brief Update (Rachel Weiss-Berger)

We have at least 40 registered communities in North America and we are beginning our international push this week. We are working closely with JDC and already have over 60 communities throughout Russia committed to holding Global Day events.

Additionally, we have had multiple new partners sign on including:

- Florence Melton Mini School (they will also be putting together an introductory class on Jewish classical text)
- eJewish Philanthropy
- JESNA
- Orthodox Union
- Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Overview of the Global Day Curriculum (Rabbi Avi Weinstein and Rabbi Meir Klein, curriculum developers):

The completion of the Talmud is very important and it is gratifying to be offering this program to the broad Jewish Community. We are working to make the curriculum accessible to educators with or without a strong background in Talmud. We are trying to satisfy many different needs. Because the day is meant to celebrate the Talmud, it is important for communities to celebrate the Talmud in their study. The core curriculum, therefore, should be about the Talmud.

We are designing the curriculum for people to be able to add their own questions or change the curriculum if they feel it necessary.

Themes and Classes:

The Talmud is a difficult text and we have worked hard to make it accessible to all. The reason we chose the volume of Ta'anit is because it has been translated into many languages (Hebrew, English, Spanish, French and Russian). Additionally, it is also thematically very rich, has many narratives, and contains valuable information and stories which are very helpful in introducing the Talmud. Additionally, by studying the same volume, we bring unity to the day.

We also want the Global Day to be a launch for Talmud learning and the curriculum is meant to have a shelf life beyond November 7th.

The tzedakah and God curricula are in the works. The tzedakah curriculum was created as a non-traditional method of teaching Talmud. We are designing many lessons to look like a page of the Talmud in order that participants can learn about the nature of studying the Talmud.

Please see attached powerpoint with the themes and names of classes.

Questions to Consider:

How can Avi and Meir be helpful in planning your Global Day event?

Questions:

Q. Are the class names (from the powerpoint) an updated list from the Community Resource Guidebook?

A. No, it is the same list.

Q. Will there be more facilitator guidance?

A. Yes, there will be more in the final curriculum book.

Q. When will the curriculum be completed?

A. In mid to late June. All registered communities will receive the curriculum and it will also be available within the community login section of www.1people1day.org.

Q. What English translation did you use and will there be a modernized version?

A. Avi used the JPS web translation and is in the process of cleaning up the language.

Q. Is there a key to the colors in the curriculum?

A. When several words are in red, they are referring to an explanation. We will be sure to add a reference key to the final version of the curriculum.

Q. Will you also be providing the original text, because people will be interested in using that text as well.

A. We will provide the Hebrew in the final version of the curriculum.

Rabbi Meir Klein:

Explained that he and Avi are working on the curriculum together and he is focused on the Hebrew. He assured everyone that the Hebrew will match the English.

Q. What follow-up will we provide?

A. The curriculum is for communities to keep. We are still working on what will happen after November 7th, and when we know, we will tell everyone. Avi added that the Global Day is meant to be a launch and not a completion (similar to the idea of a Siyyum).

Margy-Ruth Davis, Executive Director of the Aleph Society, Inc. (spearheading organization of the Global Day):

Margy is delighted to hear the question of what comes after November 7th. She has been blown away by the enthusiasm which says that people are really interested. Margy would like to hear from everyone on how we could best serve communities and invited everyone to email us with any ideas.

Q. Is there a way to adapt the curriculum to a younger audience?

A. Avi believes that the curriculum can be adapted for middle school students and up. After the adult curriculum is complete, he can start to look into adapting some of the lessons to a younger audience.

Q. Is there a full list of those who signed on?

A. Yes, we will send out another one by the end of the week.

Q. Is there a blanket statement about the program being available to all denominations?

A. Avi explained there is unanimous agreement of the centrality of the Torah, even if everyone disagrees on where it comes from. Rachel added that the different denominations have signed up as supporting partners for the Global Day.

Q. What is the approximate amount of time a class should last?

A. 50 minutes to one hour. If there is chevrotah learning, there might be more enthusiasm and possibly take a little longer.

Q. What will the partnership look like with PJ Library?

A. PJ Library is creating a family based curriculum which will focus on eight book lessons (one lesson for each theme). Our next spotlight conference call in May will feature PJ Library.

PJ Library will focus their lessons on ages 0-5. Many PJ Library communities are involved in the Global Day and will have a conference call this week. RAVSAK is also a partner and is working on a middle school and high school curriculum. When we know more, we will keep everyone posted.

Q. Can communities participate in the conference call?

A. If you have a PJ Library professional, you can encourage them to reach out to PJ Library or to Rachel to be a part of the call.

Q. Our community has been thinking of offering non-traditional, out-of-the-classroom classes. Is that okay?

A. Avi said that yes, but just make sure that the class still focuses on Talmud. If non-traditional classes enable participants to internalize the learning better, they will remember it better, and it would be great.

Q. Will there be a call to discuss Global Day format?

A. Yes, if people would like that, we can have that call.

Q. What is happening with the General Assembly?

A. Andrea from the Jewish Federations of North America: They are working with Rachel and Margy. There will be an opportunity in the opening plenary and they will also use the three days of the GA to promote the Global Day. They are not sure what it will look like, but they are very dedicated to making sure there is Global Day programming at the GA.

Q. How is Rabbi Steinsaltz involved in the Global Day?

A. He is involved through overlooking everything that has been going on. He is not building the curriculum, but he is being updated on the project and is involved.

Q. Will the marketing material come from one central location, or will each community be responsible for creating this material?

A. By the end of May, most if the collateral material will be on the community login section of the website. We are also working on the text for emails and press releases.

Q. What kind of hookup will there be for the Siyyum?

A. We don't know yet, but we will give out that information when we have more.

Wrap Up:

- If you would like to speak with Avi or Meir, they would be more than happy to speak with you. If you would like to speak to them, email Rachel and she will coordinate a time to speak.
- Please email Gabriel at Gabriela@1people1day.org if you have not received username and password for the community login section of the website.
- You will be receiving a bi-weekly newsletter with very important information. Please make sure that this does not go into your spam. For the first couple of newsletters, Rachel will send it through constant contact and to your email addresses directly. If you would like us to highlight what you are doing, please email Rachel and we can include that in the newsletter.

Final Thoughts –

- The curriculum will be completed in June
- PJ Library Conference call will happen in mid-May
- Look for the next Global Day Community Newsletter which will be coming soon!