



The JEIC "Lifnai V'Lifnim" Educators Program Introduction to *Lifnai V'lifnim*: Online Module Winter-Spring 2021 Pilot for English Speakers

Program Goals:

The *Lifnai V'lifnim* is a program of *Yeshivat Makor Chaim* that seeks to develop educators' abilities to build classrooms where students feel connected to the Torah they learn, to each other and, ultimately, to their own religious identity. These abilities go hand in hand with educators' personal engagement in processes of reflection and growth. The program emphasizes authentic dialogue on many levels, enhancing connections between students and teachers, between students and the text being studied and between the individual, the group and G-d. Participants will develop skills and tools to use with students while also engaging in a process of personal and collective learning themselves, recognizing that in order to effect change in others one must first experience it on their own.

Course Goals and Details

The pilot course- **Introduction to *Lifnai V'lifnim*** / **מבוא ל"לפni ולפniim"** is **fully funded with limited spots available** - thanks to a special grant from the JEIC. JEIC challenges schools to optimize student internalization of Jewish wisdom, identity, and decision making.

We are offering three modules aimed at giving participants a taste of the approach through experiential workshops and exercises for participants to apply the learning in their own settings. Each module will consist of three live virtual workshops and a series of exercises for participants to apply their learning during the following week.

Module 1- Lifnai V'lifnim Fundamentals: Knowing Myself and My Role in the Classroom

Virtual live meetings: Sunday January 31, February 7, February 14

Module 2- Torat Chayim- Personal Connection and Meaning Making in *Limmudei Kodesh*

Virtual live meetings: Sunday February 28, March 7, March 14

Module 3- From Faculty and Class to *Chaburah*: The Power of Groups in Building a Culture of Religious Growth in Schools.

Virtual live meetings: April 11, 18 and 25

- Live virtual sessions will tentatively take place on Sundays at a TBD time appropriate for participants enrolling from different time zones.
- Anyone working with students (of any age) in an educational setting is eligible to apply for this fully funded pilot program.
- Because the learning is intended to be experiential and applied in each participants' setting, applications from groups of 2-3 educators from one school will be given preference. Ideal groups will include at least one teacher and one Judaic Leader/Department Chair.
- While the learning in each module stands on its own, each experience builds off the previous one and participants are strongly encouraged Participants may apply to participate in the full program or choose to join Modules 1 or 2 alone. Only those who participate in Modules 1 or 2 may choose to also join Module 3. Those who participate in the full program will receive up to 3 individual coaching/consultation sessions with the facilitators and a special certificate of completion.

- Group sessions with Rav Dov or Yishai Singer will be conducted in Hebrew with simultaneous translation provided. Sessions with Rabbi Chanales will be conducted in English.

Detailed Course Outline:

Module 1- Lifnai V'lifnim Fundamentals: P'nimiyut and Avodah Ruchanit in the Classroom

January 31, February 7, February 14

1- *Heim-are-I and Partzuf HaKitah*: A Holistic Look at Classroom Culture

2- *Chameishet HaShearim*: What's Really Happening in My Class?

3- *Chalomot V'Sippurim*: How Our Aspirations and Stories Impact Who We Are as Educators

Module 2- Torat Chayim- Personal Connection and Meaning Making in Limmudei Kodeh

February 28, March 7, March 14

1- Learning as Dialogue: Listening to the Call of the Torah

- “Kriat HaTorah” and the 5 Questions

2- *Targilei Hafnamah*: Questions and Learning Activities that Inspire Internalization

3- Relevance, Meaning and Authenticity: What Makes Torah Learning *Torat Chayim*?

Module 3- From Faculty and Class to *Chaburah*: The Power of Groups in Building a Culture of Religious Growth in Schools

April 11, 18 and 25 (with the possibility of additional meetings in May)

Participants will participate in personal introspection and shared learning by experiencing the Lifnai V'lifnim Chaburah. By actively experiencing its structure, they will gain an appreciation for the way consistent rituals and reflective practice can build common language, strengthen trust and encourage authentic dialogue.

Facilitators:

Rav Dov Singer



Rav Yishai Singer



Rabbi Yehuda Chanales



Rav Dov Singer, a leader of the modern Israeli revival of Hassidut, heads the innovative Makor Chaim Yeshiva, founded by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. In addition to Rabbi Steinsaltz, he counts Rabbis Shagar (Shimon Gershon Rosenberg) and Menachem Fruman as his primary mentors and teachers. Influenced by the Zohar, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, and other Hassidic thinkers, Rabbi Singer's unique educational approach is predicated on the development of religious and emotional intelligence. He leads workshops on prayer throughout Israel and the United States, and has also established the Beit Midrash L'Hitchadshut Study Center for Renewal, an adult spiritual outreach program, and Lifnai V'Lifnim, an educators' training program. He is the author of "Tikon Tefillati" - "Prepare My Prayer", a popular guide to developing personal prayer skills. Rabbi Singer lives in Tekoa with his wife and ten children.

Rav Yishai Singer has been the director of Makor Chaim's "Lifnai V'Lifnim" Educator's Training Program since 2013. In addition, he has been involved in a wide range of on-hands educational instruction in various fields including emotional therapy, drama therapy, group facilitation, playback theater and more. He has taught high school as well as at-risk teenagers. He was awarded the 2017 President's Outstanding Teacher Award for Special Education. He holds a B. ED. from Herzog College and an "Experienced Therapist" Masters from Tel Chai College. Yishai Singer lives in Tekoa with his wife Rachel and 6 children.

Rav Yehuda Chanales is Director of Educational Advancement at the Fuchs Mizrachi School in Beachwood Ohio where he has led the school's partnership with Yeshivat Makor Chaim over the past two years. During that time the school has implemented *Lifnai V'lifnim* programs with staff and students in its Junior High and Stark High School.

If you are interested, please fill out the application form [here](#):

Questions? Please email Rabbi Chanales at: <mailto:ychanales@fuchsmizrachi.org>