

CURRICULUM

Whether for b'nai mitzvah classes, confirmation classes, or adult education, *A Dream of Zion* will help your community to establish a deeper connection to Israel.

A comprehensive Teachers' Guide is available from Jewish Lights, which will guide educators through appropriate programs for lower grades (4-6), upper grades (9-12), and adult education. This Teachers' Guide will help Jewish educators take some of the ideas presented in *A Dream of Zion* and use them in classroom and learning settings.

As anyone who has been involved in Jewish education knows, the entire subject of how to teach about Israel in American Jewish educational settings is a matter of great controversy. Part of the problem rests in the timeliness of curricula—lesson plans that deal with current events or even current geo-political conditions get stale very rapidly. Also difficult is the entire issue of how to present the reality of Israel to Diaspora students—lack of motivation, follow up, and compelling materials contribute to the problems. While it is true that nothing in contemporary Jewish education succeeds better than Israel experiences (e.g. *taglit* birthright and various youth programs in Israel), the paradox is that teaching about Israel (rather than using the experience of Israel itself as the curriculum) is notoriously problematic.

We hope the *A Dream of Zion* Teachers' Guide will make some small contribution to the important and difficult task of teaching about Israel, especially as the Jewish State prepares to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary.

A DREAM OF ZION: American Jews Reflect on Why Israel Matters to Them

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Jewish Lights (Woodstock, VT); www.jewishlights.com; 800-962-4544

ISBN: 978-1-58023-340-8 / Hardcover / \$24.99 / 304 pages