



Day School Teacher Seminar on Israel Education

March 20, 2022 11:30am to 5:00pm (ET)

Tentative Schedule

11:30am-11:40am – Welcome and Introduction

11:40am-12:30pm – Jewish Peoplehood, Zionism and State Building

Belief, rules, community, values and traditions sustained Jewish identity eventually folding into an idea and then a reality of Jewish territorial nationalism. How did Jewish diaspora existence prepare Zionists for state building in post Herzelian period? How did the Zionists succeed in state-making as they interacted with the British and Arab populations down to 1949?

12:30pm-1:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm-2:15pm – Israel's Environment, Climate and Geography: Historic and Current Challenges and Successes That Impact Our Lives

We will learn how Israel has coped with natural scarcity of water, oil, natural gas and minerals, its clandestine defense and energy history, its innovations for conservation and climate change, national security challenges, and how all these impact its relationships with its Arab neighbors and the world. Then, through Jewish texts, holidays and values, we will explore how to engage in such learning with students, work collaboratively by grade level to design activities and lessons, and view resources for the classroom. Participants will emerge with deeper understanding of the issues, pedagogical tools and approaches, and a wealth of materials to explore further.

2:15pm – 2:30pm – Break

2:30pm – 3:45pm Infusing Modern Israel into Passover Education

We will learn how to use historical and cultural artifacts to convey how the Zionist pioneers saw themselves as living the Exodus story, and then explore how the significance of Passover to modern state-keeping found its way into specially named operations in different decades. Finally, we will show how to engage students of all ages with sample activities and lessons. Participants will gain resources and suggestions for classroom and online instruction of modern Israel for the upcoming holiday.

3:45pm – 4:00 – Break

4:00pm – 4:45pm – Arab-Israeli Negotiations: Why did they work in the 1970s but cannot move forward in 2022?

Egyptian and Israeli leaders found common ground and made political compromises in negotiating and signing a treaty in 1979. What were the factors that made those negotiations successful and are most absent today? What would be needed for negotiations to be 'ripe' again for productive movement forward?

4:45 – 5:00 Conclusion