



A SELECTION OF FILMS IN HEBREW

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Of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
2030 S. Taylor Rd. Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 www.jecc.org
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Alefbet Parade Video. Ktav Publishing, Inc. 1993, 15 minutes. color. Ages 4 and up.
Alefbet Parade is an animated musical tour of the alphabet. The tape can be viewed in segments and repeated to reinforce learning.

Barni: Bou Nedamyen Im Barni. 30 minutes, color. Ages 3 and up.
Also available are: ***Barni: Yom Haledet Sameach*** and ***Barni: Mispacha Zot Ahava***
Each is similar in format to the American version of Barney. Fun, fun, fun.

Bigdei Hamelech Hachadashim. 1994, 45 minutes, color. Ages 10 and up.
Consists of the title story plus five others told in dramatically animated fashion. It includes songs and many word repetitions that are useful in teaching vocabulary. Assumes a Hebrew vocabulary of approximately 1000 words, but could probably be worked into day school context with word vocabulary preparation. It could also be used by Ulpan teachers.

Bli Sodot #5 and #6. Israeli Educational Television, 1992, 53 minutes each, color.
Ages 10 and up.
Learning Hebrew becomes a delightful experience with an animated host, Alphie, and his four human friends. The video includes short comic sketches, film clips, and animations. The video can be used to strengthen listening comprehension, vocabulary and reading skills.

Bou Nesache: Let's Play, Vol 1 and Vol. 2. Ad. Salkin-Vardit Pub. 1993,
120 minutes each, color. Ages 8 and up.
A series of music and movement vignettes in Hebrew designed to teach vocabulary and motor skills as well as entertain. The Hebrew words from the songs are subtitled in Hebrew and in

English transliteration. Teachers may need to explain occasional vocabulary words, although many of the unfamiliar words can be deciphered through the body movements of the actors. Very well executed production.

Caps for Sale. Weston Woods/NY, BJE, 5 minutes, color. Ages 7 and up.

This tape contains a Hebrew version of this classic children's tale followed by an English version. The language of the Hebrew version has been simplified slightly. Could be used to integrate Hebrew with General Studies in a Day School. Teacher's guide available.

David and Goliath. Hanna Barbera Prod.1987, 55 minutes, color. Ages 10 and up.

Hebrew version of the cartoon adventure which retells the David and Goliath story from the perspective of youngsters who fall into a time warp that returns them to the Biblical time period. Day school teachers will want to prepare students with vocabulary in advance of presentation.

Etzleinu Bapsanter. Yam Hafkot, 1994, 55 minutes, color. Ages 7 and up.

A young music teacher is visited by a group of engaging youngsters who become enamoured with a self-playing piano that strikes the responsive "chords" of their life experiences, including school orientation and family separation issues. The kids literally go inside the piano in playful song, dance and colorful costume. Made for an Israeli audience, but clearly usable for day schools here, since vocabulary targets much everyday kids patter and at a slow pace, at least at times. Teachers should preview and prepare vocabulary words in advance. Teachers can also segment program.

Ganenu: Alef and Ganenu Bet. Educational Video Systems, 1990, 20 minutes, color. Ages 3 and up.

Helpful in teaching entry level Judaic words and concepts related to the letter, utilizing music, stories, puppets, and animation. Aleph explores concepts, people and places, including *emunah*, *echad*, or *ahavah*, Abraham and Ashkelon, a city in Israel. Bet uses vocabulary words beginning with the letter bet. The video features a catchy alphabet song, segments filmed in Israel, and a cast of puppets including Mr. Foofnik, Jabber Giraffe, and Thelonus Punk. An excellent adjunct to introductory teaching of Hebrew letters for preschool and primary grade students.

Guardians of The Forest. Jewish National Fund, 1990, 15 minutes, color. Ages 7-10.

A good video for Tu Bi'Shevat. It recounts the adventures of a young Israeli brother and sister who observe a group of teenagers accidentally starting a fire in the woods. Both the Hebrew and English versions are available as well as a teacher's guide.

Ha Ra'Ashan. BJE.NY, 1977, 10 minutes, color animation. Ages 7 and up.

An appealingly festive Purim film for children that may be used to advance Hebrew language comprehension as well. ***Ha Ra' Ashan*** portrays, in simple Hebrew, the story of a young boy who finds a noisemaker which only sounds when the name of *Haman* is spoken. The secret of the *gragger* is revealed in a catchy melody that children can sing along with. Teacher's guide available.

HaSevivon. BJE. NY, 1977, 10 minutes, color animation. Ages 7 and up.

Here is an animated film in Hebrew which can be used effectively to reinforce listening comprehension as it affirms the wonder of Hanukkah for children. Teacher guide and vocabulary list available.

Havainu Shalom Aleichem. Israel, Dept. of Education, 1994, 3 videos and 8 booklets. This three video set presents an innovative approach to teaching Hebrew. Each lesson, set at varied settings like the airport, post office, restaurant or on a bus, contains three different conversations. After each lesson, the new words are highlighted and then supplemented by exercises in grammar. The series covers almost 2,000 Hebrew words. At the end of each chapter, there is a special segment featuring fascinating information about Israel, its history, Zionism and Jewish history. Prior knowledge of reading and writing Hebrew is necessary.

In The Footsteps of The Menorah. WZO, 28 minutes, color. Ages 12 and up. Dani, an Israeli youngster, is instructed to find the symbol of the *menorah* on a wide variety of items, such as a soccer team logo or a passport, in this video adventure. The Hebrew vocabulary is fairly easy and most of it can be taught ahead of time to facilitate student viewers.

Keshet Ve Anan: Chanukah. Israel Educational Television, Sisu, 1992, 46 minutes, color. Ages 14 and up. Two episodes of this popular Israel TV series for middle grades featuring Hanukkah. In this video, an advertising agency during Maccabean times struggles with how to publicize the events that have recently occurred. Suitable only for upper Day School grades and only if instructor prepares students with difficult vocabulary words in advance.

Keshet Ve Anan: New Years and Sukkot. Israel Educational Television, Sisu, 1992, 46 minutes, color. Ages 14 and up. The same format as Hanukkah but suitable for Rosh Ha-Shanah and Sukkot.

Late Summer Blues. Ergo Media, 1987, 101 minutes, color. Ages 14 and up. The film takes place during the War of Attrition in the late 1960's and follows a group of graduating high school seniors during their last summer as "kids" before going into the army. Narrated as the reminiscences of Margo, a diabetic who did not join the army, the film depicts the struggles of his friends as they come to terms individually and collectively with the impending loss of their freedom and possibly their lives in the army.

Nadia. Argo Films, 1987, 90 minutes, color. Ages 14 and up. This is the story of a sixteen year old Arab girl from an Arab village within Israel. Her family is involved in village life; her father is a farmer with progressive ideas. In order to have a better chance of being accepted to medical school, and with her parents' encouragement, Nadia decides to enroll in a Jewish high school. This is a most extraordinary step, particularly for a girl, considering local norms. At the Jewish boarding school, she is confronted by apprehension, resistance and prejudice from both her Arab friends and her new Jewish classmates.

Parpar Nechmad: Chanukah. Sisu, 1983, 30 minutes, color. Ages 7 and up. Songs, puppets, games and stories help explain the traditions of Hanukkah. The format is geared to primary age children however, the vocabulary is somewhat difficult and better suited to day school students with greater fluency and vocabulary. English version available.

Parpar Nechmad: Tishrei Months. Sisu, 1983, 30 minutes, color. Ages 7 and up. Songs, puppets, games and stories help explain the traditions of Rosh Ha-Shanah and Sukkot. The format is geared to primary age children however, the vocabulary is somewhat difficult and better suited to day school students with greater fluency and vocabulary.

Parpar Nechmad: Passover. Sisu, 1983, 30 minutes, color. Ages 7 and up.

Songs, puppets, games and stories help explain the traditions of Passover. The format is geared to primary age children however, the vocabulary is somewhat difficult and better suited to day school students with greater fluency and vocabulary.

Sallah. Israeli Video Center, 1964, 110 minutes, B&W. Ages 14 and up.

Topol plays Sallah, a new immigrant to Israel, who arrives with his large family from the Orient. He lands in a ramshackle transit camp that arouses his disgust and decides to take on the bureaucracy. This heartwarming story is filled with humor, romance and satire.

Sing Along with Israel. Wouk/Ware Prod., 1988, 60 minutes, color. All ages.

Scenery of Israel, folk dancing, and documentary footage illustrate this Israeli song collection. The words appear on the screen in Hebrew and phonetic English transliteration so everyone can enjoy. This video is delightful to the ear, pleasing to the eye, but most of all fun to sing along! Good for adult groups as well as youth groups. Includes songbook with Hebrew songs and their English translations.

Shirim K'tanim. Scopus Films, 1990, 40 minutes, color. All ages.

The video features Hebrew songs geared towards young children. For many of the songs, the chorus is displayed in Hebrew or transliteration for the viewers. On occasion the video also offers translations of the more complicated songs.

Shirim Rishonim: Perek Aleph and Perek Bet. Klasikaletet, 1993, 45 minutes, color. Ages 9 and up.

Each video contains approximately 35 children's songs in Hebrew that promise to delight and entertain. The music is fast-paced and moves to various set locations. Best used in segments.

Song of the Siren. Ergo, 1997, 91 minutes, color. Ages 15 and up.

Based on Irit Linur's bestselling novel, this film focuses on the life of 32 year old Talila Katz. Talila, preoccupied with her turbulent love life, couldn't care less about the wailing sirens which pierce the Tel Aviv skies nightly during the Gulf War. When her love life takes a turn for the worse, reality comes rushing in. Suddenly, she is faced with two dangers, Saddam Hussein's nightly missiles and marriage to an unsuitable suitor.

The Summer of Aviya. Ergo, 1989, 96 minutes, color. Ages 15 and up.

The story of one summer in the life of a ten year old girl, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, in the early 1950's. It is a personal story, based on the life of Gila Almagor, star of the film. Aviya's mother walked the thin line between sanity and madness. Aviya lived in orphanages most of her life. This was the summer she would return home.

The Tribe in Hebrew. Israel Cable TV, 1993, 3 hours, color. Ages 9 and up.

Here's a great motivational tool for Hebrew vocabulary comprehension. In this tape, games three and five of the 1995 World Series between the Cleveland Indians and the Atlanta Braves, is overlaid with running explanation and color commentary in Hebrew. The games were digested to include only innings where scoring occurred, and were aired on an Israel cable sports channel. The explanation and commentary do not completely obscure the original English description, but this may actually clue students to connect the Hebrew terms with what is happening. A skilled teacher needs to preview the tape to select Hebrew vocabulary and present these to the class prior to viewing. Best used with students who have had at least four years of comprehensive Hebrew language learning.

Under The Domim Tree. Fox Lorber Assoc., 1996, 102 minutes, color. Ages 15 and up.
A powerful coming-of-age story based on the children's book by Gila Almagor. It tells the poignant and sometimes harrowing story about a group of teenagers living in a youth village for orphans who survived the Nazi concentration camps and other troubled Israeli youths in the 1950s. During the day the students seem like any other normal teens, but when night falls, painful memories of the horrors of the Holocaust return. When life becomes unbearable, the teens find refuge under the beautiful domim tree – the only place where they feel at peace.

Walk with Song Through Israel. Technical Writing and Engineering, Ltd., 1988,
60 minutes, color. All ages.

This video is filled with favorite Israeli folk songs led by the well-known Israeli singer Gabi Berlin. Hebrew words (without vowels) projected on screen with beautiful scenery of Israel in the background. Songs tend to be a bit obscure to many American audiences since most are early *halutz* melodies. This is a well-executed program, probably more appreciated by those more conversant with Hebrew singing.

FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Z'man Likro. ARE, 1989, 30 minutes, color. Adult

Video teacher's guide for the *Z'man Likro* program which teaches children how to mechanically read Hebrew with vowels. Provides valuable instruction for any teacher of beginning Hebrew. Text and teacher guide are available in the RMC.