SIX-PART UNIT ON SOCIAL LEARNING AND THE INTERNET
By Robyn Faintich, JewishGPS

UNIT AT A GLANCE
In this six-part lesson, students will learn about the concept of social justice, the Jewish values it expresses, and how to use the internet to implement social justice work.

OBJECTIVES
- Students will be able to explain why social justice is a Jewish concept.
- Students will learn how to use the internet, under adult supervision, to engage in social justice work.
- Students will learn techniques to engage others in social justice using online tools.

INTRODUCTION
Service Learning is a type of experiential education which takes social justice beyond just doing a hands-on one-shot social action project to an in-depth educational experience. Service Learning can be broken down into four steps:
- Preparation,
- Action,
- Reflection, and
- Evaluation.

The Action step can be broken down into 5 sub-actions (acronym SPACE):
- Service Project,
- Philanthropy,
- Advocacy,
- Community Organizing, and
- Education.

The internet is an extremely helpful tool in implementing all five of these steps.

This lesson is sub-divided into these categories with appropriate websites indicated.

- Part 1: Social Justice
- Part 2: Service
- Part 3: Philanthropy and Fundraising
- Part 4: Advocacy
- Part 5: Community Organizing
- Part 6: Education
Ideally, this lesson would be divided over six class sessions or be implemented as a special program in an extended session.

We encourage you to log on to each of the websites in the lesson and walk through how to use them before introducing them to your students. In some cases, if applicable, set up a sample for your class.

You will need at least one computer with internet connection for each pair of students. Also, make sure to have handy copies of your institution’s internet safety policies and parent signatures, if applicable. If a policy does not currently exist, consider drafting a safety brit (covenant) with your class prior to the first lesson.

HELPFUL SITES AND LINKS USED IN THE UNIT

- JustAction: www.justaction.org
- Social justice Jewish texts online: www.on1foot.org
- www.areyvut.org
- www.babaganewz.com/activities/mitzyah-machine/
- www.lotsahelpinghands.com/
- www.volunteerspot.com/
- www.kiva.org
- www.firstgiving.com
- www.wordle.net
- http://poll daddy.com/
- www.gopetition.com
- http://www.senate.gov/index.htm
- www.wordpress.com
- www.blogger.com
- http://bubbl.us/
- www.evite.com
- www.constantcontact.com
- www.mailchimp.com
- http://wikispaces.com
- http://troovi.com/
- http://photobucket.com/
- http://jaycut.com/
- http://animoto.com/

NEXT: Part 1: SOCIAL JUSTICE