

Cambridge University Press

0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Visions of Jewish Education

This book is intended to stimulate the philosophical consideration of Jewish existence in our time as reflected in Jewish education, its alternative visions, its purposes and instrumentalities, the values it should serve, and the personal and social character it ought to foster.

Prevalent conceptions and practices of Jewish education are neither sufficiently reflective nor thoroughgoing enough to meet the multiple challenges that the world now poses to Jewish existence and continuity. New efforts are needed to develop an education of the future that will both honor the riches of the Jewish past and grasp the opportunities for fruitful interaction with the general culture of the present.

To promote such efforts, leading scholars formulate their variant visions of an ideal Jewish education for the contemporary world. This groundbreaking book also illustrates the translation of educational ideas into practice and reports on a sustained effort to articulate such ideas as embodied in a particular school's ongoing activities.

Intended to stimulate others to engage in a philosophical re-envisioning of Jewish life and learning, *Visions of Jewish Education* also should provide a new approach to reform efforts in general education as well as in the education systems of various religious and ethnic communities.

Seymour Fox, the author and editor of several books, including *Freud and Education* (1975), is the Director of Program of the Mandel Foundation worldwide. He is Professor of Education, Emeritus, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he directed the School of Education.

Israel Scheffler is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Director of the Philosophy of Education Research Center at Harvard University, and the author of *Symbolic Worlds* (1997) and several other titles.

Daniel Marom is a Senior Researcher at the Mandel Foundation, where he works on the development of educational vision in a range of settings. He is a faculty member of the Mandel School.

Cambridge University Press
0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education
Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by

SEYMOUR FOX

*Mandel Foundation and
Hebrew University*

ISRAEL SCHEFFLER

Harvard University

DANIEL MAROM

*Mandel Foundation and
Mandel School*



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education
 Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 2003

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2003

Printed in the United States of America

Typeface Bembo 10/12 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Visions of Jewish education / edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler, Daniel Marom.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-82147-9 – ISBN 0-521-52899-2 (pbk.)

1. Jews – Education – Philosophy. I. Fox, Seymour. II. Scheffler, Israel.

III. Marom, Daniel.

LC719 .V57 2003

371.82992'4–dc21 2002041244

ISBN 0 521 82147 9 hardback

ISBN 0 521 52899 2 paperback

Cambridge University Press
0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education
Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

איזהו חכם? הרואה את הנולד.

Who is wise?
He who envisions the future.
Babylonian Talmud, Tamid 32a

To Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel
Men of vision

Contents

<i>Preface and Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page ix</i>
<i>About the Mandel Foundation</i>	<i>xiii</i>
Introduction	1
Part I. The Visions Project	
1 Envisioning Jewish Education	5
2 The Project in Operation	13
3 Six Visions: An Overview	19
Part II. Visions in Detail	
Introduction	46
4 What Must a Jew Study – and Why?	47
ISADORE TWERSKY	
Supplement: Isadore Twersky	77
5 Jewish Studies in Israel from a Liberal-Secular Perspective	95
MENACHEM BRINKER	
Supplement: Menachem Brinker	106
6 We Were as Those Who Dream: An Agenda for an Ideal Jewish Education	122
MOSHE GREENBERG	
Supplement: Moshe Greenberg	133

Cambridge University Press
0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education
Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
7	Reflections on the Educated Jew from the Perspective of Reform Judaism MICHAEL A. MEYER Supplement: Michael A. Meyer	149 162
8	Educated Jews: Common Elements MICHAEL ROSENAK Supplement: Michael Rosenak	178 201
9	The Concept of the Educated Person: With Some Applications to Jewish Education ISRAEL SCHEFFLER Supplement: Israel Scheffler	219 233
	Part III. Visions in Context	
10	The Art of Translation SEYMOUR FOX	253
11	Before the Gates of the School: An Experiment in Developing Educational Vision from Practice DANIEL MAROM Conclusion: The Courage to Envision	296 332
	<i>The Visions Project: Participants and Forums</i>	334
	<i>Index</i>	341

Cambridge University Press

0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface and Acknowledgments

Jewish learning has profound roots and far-reaching implications. Yet Jewish education is often treated in local and prosaic terms, concerned with means rather than ends, with instrumentalities rather than ideas. This book represents an effort to deepen and broaden the enterprise of Jewish education by eliciting variant visions of its rationale and import, relating educational activities to their bases in the learning of the past and in reflective anticipation of the future. We hope the book will stimulate philosophical approaches to education by all, whether Jewish or not, who consider themselves stewards of a precious heritage responsible for its creative preservation and renewal.

Our book is a product of intensive and continuous collaboration over a period of many years. We are jointly and fully responsible for every chapter not signed by a particular author.

We thank the various scholars who wrote the signed chapters. Without their essential contributions, there would have been no volume at all. We are grateful to the group of Jewish educators who participated in our deliberations. We are happy to acknowledge the work of our outstanding editor, Nessa Rapoport, of the Mandel Foundation, who was an active partner in developing the plan and content of the volume as a whole; we could not have brought the book to successful completion without her acumen and dedication. We also thank these members of the staff of the Mandel Foundation: Dr. Erin Henriksen, our assistant editor, for her excellent work and unfaltering devotion; Rabbi Jeffrey Saks for his thoughtful and critical reading of the manuscript; and Chava Sagiv, for her dedicated research and technical support.

We are grateful to JoAnne Sorabella, of the Philosophy of Education Research Center at Harvard, for her superb assistance at every stage of our project from its inception.

Cambridge University Press

0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom

Frontmatter

[More information](#)x *Preface and Acknowledgments*

The Mandel Foundation has been a partner from the very beginning in the development of the idea, the project, and finally a volume, all of which required great vision, deep faith, and a willingness to venture on an approach that had not been given sufficient attention in the field of Jewish education.

Other colleagues at the Foundation, in particular Annette Hochstein, president of the Mandel Foundation, Israel, encouraged us strongly throughout the many stages of the work. Many others, including educators, academic colleagues, rabbis, community leaders, and editorial assistants helped in ways too numerous to mention. We are in debt to Cambridge University Press and to our editor, Andrew Beck, for their steadfast commitment. To all, we offer our sincere gratitude.

We acknowledge permission to use material from the following books and publications:

Chapter 1. *Judaism: A Portrait*, copyright © 1960 by Leon Roth. (Passages reprinted by permission of Faber and Faber.) “Jewish Education: Purposes, Problems and Possibilities,” from *Curriculum, Community, Commitment*, copyright © 1992 by Dr. Daniel J. Margolis and Rabbi Eliot Salo Schoenberg. (Passages reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 4. *Introduction to the Code of Maimonides*, copyright © 1980 by Yale University. (Passages reprinted with permission.) *Guide of the Perplexed*, copyright © 1963 by the University of Chicago. (Passages reprinted with permission.) *A Maimonides Reader*, copyright © 1972 by Isadore Twersky. (Passages reprinted with permission of Behrman House, Inc.) *Mishneh Torah* reprinted with permission of Feldheim Publishers.

Chapter 4 Supplement. “Religion and Law,” from *Religion in a Religious Age*, copyright © 1974 by the Association for Jewish Studies. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “The Rav,” from *Tradition*, copyright © 1996 by the Rabbinical Council of America. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “Survival, Normalcy, Modernity,” from *Zionism in Transition*, copyright © 1980 by Isadore Twersky. (Passages reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 5 Supplement. “*Hiḥlulim la-Ivri-Eiropi be-Sifrut ha-Ivrit be-Ma’avar ha-Meot*,” from *Migvan De’ot ve-Hashkafot be-Tarbut Yisrael*, copyright © 1992 by Menachem Brinker. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “Slavery in Freedom,” from *Selected Essays of Aḥad Ha-‘Am*, copyright © 1960 by the Jewish Publication Society. (Used by permission.) “The Law of the Heart,” “Wrecking and Building,” and “The Question of Culture,” from *The Zionist Idea*, copyright © 1997 by the Jewish Publication Society. (Used by permission.) “*Aḥad Ha-Am, Berdyczewski, u’Brenner: Shalosh Hityaḥasuyot Hiloniyot le-Tekstim Meḥayvim ba-Yahadut*,” from *Kivunim*, copyright © 1990 by the World Zionist Organization. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “The End of Zionism,” from

Cambridge University Press

0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Preface and Acknowledgments*

xi

Dissent, copyright © 1985 by the Foundation for the Study of Independent Social Ideas, Inc. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “*Al Gevulot ‘Milhemet ha-Tarbut’ be-Yisrael*,” from *Sekirah Hodshit: Yarhon le-Ktzinei Tzahal*, copyright © 1986 by the Ministry of Defense Publishing House. (Passages reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 6 Supplement. *Al ha-Mikra ve-al ha-Yahadut*, copyright © 1984 by Am Oved. (Passages reprinted with permission.) *Duties of the Heart*, copyright © 1970 by Feldheim Publishers. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “A Problematic Heritage,” reprinted from *Conservative Judaism*, vol. XLVIII, no. 2, Winter 1996, pp. 23–35, with permission. Copyright by the Rabbinical Assembly.

Chapter 7. “Reflections on the ‘Educated Jew’ from the Perspective of Reform Judaism,” from *CCAR Journal*, copyright © 1999 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. (Reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 7 Supplement. *Response to Modernity*, copyright © 1988 by Michael A. Meyer. (Passages reprinted with permission.) *Jewish Identity in the Modern World*, copyright © 1990 by University of Washington Press. (Passages reprinted with permission.) *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, copyright © 1967 by Wayne State University Press. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “Reform Judaism,” from *Movements and Issues in American Judaism*, copyright © 1978 by Bernard Martin. (Passages reprinted with permission of Greenwood Press.) “On the Slope Toward Syncretism and Sectarianism,” from *CCAR Journal*, copyright © 1993 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “Being Jewish and . . .” from *National Variations in Jewish Identity*, copyright © 1999 by State University of New York. (Passages reprinted with permission from the State University of New York Press.)

Chapter 8. “Before the *Kaddish*: At the Funeral of Those Who Were Killed in the Land of Israel,” in *The Jewish Expression*, copyright © Yale University Press, 1976. (Passages reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 8 Supplement. “Towards a Curriculum for the Modern Orthodox School,” from *Orthodoxy Confronts Modernity*, copyright © 1991 by Jonathan Sacks. (Passages reprinted with permission.) “Religious Education in an Open Society,” in “*Wie ein Einheimischer soll der Fremdling bei euch sein – und bringe ihm Liebe entgegen wie dir selbst . . .*,” copyright © 1997 by Dölling und Galitz Verlag. (Passages reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 9. “The Concept of the Educated Person,” from *Work, Education, and Leadership*, copyright © 1995 by Peter Lang Publishing. (Reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 9 Supplement. *Teachers of My Youth*, copyright © 1995, with kind permission from Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Chapter 10. *Man of Faith in the Modern World*, copyright © 1989 by Abraham R. Besdin and Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Published in the United States of America

Cambridge University Press

0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii *Preface and Acknowledgments*

by KTAV Publishing House, Inc., Hoboken, N.J. (Passages reprinted with permission.)

Chapter 11. "Remarks at Second Dialog in Israel," reprinted with permission from *Congress Monthly*, volume 30, no. 12. Copyright © 1963 American Jewish Congress.

Seymour Fox
Israel Scheffler
Daniel Marom

Cambridge University Press

0521821479 - Visions of Jewish Education

Edited by Seymour Fox, Israel Scheffler and Daniel Marom

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

About the Mandel Foundation

The Mandel Foundation was established in 1963 by Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel, of Cleveland, Ohio. The primary mission of the Foundation is to help provide outstanding leadership for the nonprofit world. The Foundation supports leadership education programs in its own institutions and at selected universities and organizations. It has these areas of priority: higher education; Jewish education and continuity; the leadership and management of nonprofit organizations; and urban neighborhood renewal.

The Mandel Foundation approach to philanthropy is characterized by a conviction that exceptional leaders, professional and volunteer, are the critical factor in contributing significantly to community and society. Such leaders are guided by a powerful vision of the future that is inspired by profound ideas, translated into clear purposes, and energized by imaginative resolutions to today's problems. The Foundation also believes in searching for long-term, systemic solutions to problems, involving thoughtful planning, careful implementation, and rigorous evaluation.

The Foundation is committed to leadership education programs that cultivate vision and link compelling ideas to sound policy and effective outcomes. The conception and curriculum of these programs draw on ideas from a range of disciplines, including philosophy, education, Jewish studies, social sciences, policy studies, and social work, among others.

The Foundation supports the Mandel School in Jerusalem, an independent institution of higher learning whose mission is the recruitment, preparation, and placement of senior professional leaders for education and public service in Israel, North America, and globally.