

## MaToK Orientation in Las Vegas

Following the Las Vegas SSDS conference there will be an orientation to MaToK, the Bible Curriculum for Solomon Schechter Day Schools. School heads, Jewish studies coordinators and teachers who have not yet had the opportunity to attend a MaToK workshop may find that the location and timing of the Las Vegas conference makes it possible. We are grateful to Rabbi Jon Mitzmacher, Head of SSDS of Las Vegas, for graciously inviting us to use his school's facilities for this professional development opportunity.

The MaToK conference will be from noon on Tuesday, January 15 through 4 PM on Thursday, January 17. The cost will be \$250 per participant. This will cover the cost of materials and breakfasts and lunches. For more information about MaToK, to view samples of the SIX beautiful, full-color student booklets, and to read Rabbi Larry Scheindlin's critical review of the program, please visit our website: [ssdsa.org](http://ssdsa.org), and then click on "MaToK."

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Featuring beautiful artwork, sophisticated learning opportunities and an approach to Torah that is both open and deep, two new MaToK student books have been published by MaToK. The two new booklets are for Parashat Vayetze and Parashat Vayishlah. This brings to six the total number of full-color student booklets, with two more to be printed by the end of the 2008 school year. Plans are already in place for the book of Shemot (Exodus). The MaToK curriculum is used in more than forty Schechter and community day schools in the US and Canada.

With MaToK, children study Torah in the original Hebrew from the beginning, making personal meaning from the questions that emerge from in-depth study, articulating their views in writing and in art, and rooting their understanding in the Torah's own language. Students bring to bear their growing moral, social and emotional intelligence in their confrontation with Biblical dilemmas. MaToK involves parents at key junctures in their children's explorations, including their theological growth.

MaToK is co-sponsored by the Education Department of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and by the Melton Research Center for Jewish Education, part of the Davidson School at JTS. MaToK's project director is Dr. Deborah Miller.

For further information about MaToK, contact Debby Miller at (212) 678-8031 and visit the MaToK website: <http://www.ssdsa.org/?page=matok>.