

## THE AUERBACH CENTRAL AGENCY FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

### JEWISH TEEN SEXUALITY: I. WEBOGRAPHY II. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### I. WEBOGRAPHY

#### **The 411: Teens and Sex (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6839072> )**

Information on an NBC News and People Magazine study that surveyed teenagers on their sexual attitudes and practices. Includes statistical information important for parents and educators.

#### **The Adolescent Brain: A Work in Progress (<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/BRAIN.pdf> )**

Study released by The National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy, in which the authors explore adolescent neurological development, and recommend incorporating their research into discussions on adolescent sexual behavior.

#### **Advocates For Youth (<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>)**

Organization dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Site includes information for educators, including lesson plans on a variety of sexually-related topics.

#### **Cool Nurse (<http://www.coolnurse.com> )**

This website was created to help today's teens and young adults understand health, fitness and well-being issues by providing teens with the latest news about health and about their bodies. Includes comprehensive information on sexuality and sexual health, so teens may make healthy choices. Staffed by volunteer nurses.

#### **Families Are Talking (<http://www.familiesaretalking.org> )**

The Family Project, which includes the Families Are Talking Web site and newsletter, is a project of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). Its purpose is to empower parents and caregivers to communicate with their children about sexuality-related issues, to provide tools to help families communicate about these issues, and to encourage parents, caregivers, and young people to become advocates on the local, state, and national levels for sexuality-related issues.

**OutProud** (<http://www.outproud.org> )

Sponsored through the National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth, the website offers resources for educators and youth on a wide range of issues related to sexual orientation. Includes information on how to make schools a more welcoming and safe environment for queer youth.

**Parents' Religion and Talking to Teens about Sex** (<http://www.youthandreligion.org/news/2005-1207.html>)

Article from the National Study of Youth and Religion that examines the effects of parental religiosity on the frequency of parent-child discussions about sex, sexual morality, and birth control.

**Sacred Choices: Adolescent Relationships and Sexual Ethics curriculum** (<http://urj.org/youth/sacredchoices>)

This Union for Reform Judaism site includes age-appropriate lesson plans for middle and high school students pertaining to adolescent sexual development, such as peer pressure, communication and assertiveness skills, and healthy relationships.

**Sex, Etc.** (<http://www.sexetc.org> )

Information on sex by teens for teens. Includes personal stories, a question and answer section and a message board. Sponsored by The Network for Family Life Education of the Rutgers University School of Social Work.

**URJ Biennial Sermon on Teen Sexuality** (<http://urj.org/yoffie/biennialsermon05/index.cfm>)

Transcript of the 2005 URJ Biennial Shabbat Sermon by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union of Reform Judaism, which includes the Reform Movement's current position on the issue of teen sexuality.



## II. BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Coming of Age in an Age of Confusion - Judaism and Sex Education.** Edited by Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. New York, NY: CAJE, 1998.

A compilation of five units on sexuality, stressing traditional values and using traditional Jewish sources. Includes a bibliography of Jewish books on sex education.

Dorff, Elliot N. *This is My Beloved, This is My Friend: A Rabbinic Letter on Intimate Relations.*

New York, NY: The Rabbinical Assembly Commission on Human Sexuality, 1996.

A letter presented to the Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative Movement that discusses intimate relations according to Jewish values, presented from a Conservative perspective.

Friedman, Manis. **Doesn't Anyone Blush Anymore?** San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1990.

Book for teens, dealing with a person's sexuality, intimacy, modesty, etc. Follows a traditional Jewish ethic without being didactic. Can appeal to all religious backgrounds.

Gilbert, Beth M. **"Gays and Lesbians under the Chupah."** *Reform Judaism*, Summer 1996.

This article shares some opinions in the Reform movement about sanctifying same sex marriages. Legal consequences of relationships that are not legally recognized are also explored.

Gittelsohn, Roland B. *How Do I Decide? A Contemporary Jewish Approach to What's Right and What's Wrong*. West Orange, NJ: Behrman House, 1989.

Draws on the Jewish tradition to advise adolescents on making ethical decisions about death, family, sex, and other areas of life.

-----. *Love in Your Life: A Jewish View of Teenage Sexuality*. New York, NY: UAHC Press, 1991.

Provides young adults with a Jewish perspective on love, premarital sex, AIDS, abortion, dating, intermarriage, sexual abuse, as well as the spiritual aspects of sex.

Gold, Michael. *Does God Belong in the Bedroom?* Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 1992.

A discussion of many issues related to sex and sexuality, abortion, homosexuality, premarital sex, etc. presented from a modern *halakhic* point of view.

Gordon, Sol. *When Living Hurts: A Lively What to Do Book . . . for Teenagers and Young Adults*. New York, NY: URJ Press, rev. 2004.

A book for teens in distress - helps young people recognize their feelings and cope. Includes a chapter on sex and love.



Hacker, Sylvia S. *What Every Teenager Wants to Know About Sex*. New York, NY: Carroll and Graf Publishers, 1993.

In question and answer format, this book acknowledges teenage sexuality and sexual activity, and presents straightforward answers from a secular perspective.

*Homosexuality and Judaism: The Reconstructionist Position: The Report of the Reconstructionist Commission on Homosexuality*. Wyncote, PA: Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot, 1992.

This report presents a contemporary approach to the issue of homosexuality, recommends policy concerning gay and lesbian Jews, and provides materials to educate the lay and rabbinic community. Biblical and rabbinic sources are presented with a contemporary scientific interpretation.

Isaacs, Ronald. *Derech Eretz: The Path to an Ethical Life*. New York, NY: United Synagogue Department of Youth Activities, 1995.

A sourcebook for use as a teaching text on ethics based on Biblical and rabbinic sources.

McGinnis, James, Editor. *Helping Teens Care*. New York, NY: Crossroad, 1991.

Articles from diverse religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds suggest ways to help teens become compassionate and courageous, broad-minded and cooperative, self-directing and capable of making a difference.

Polish, Daniel F. *Drugs, Sex, and Integrity: What Does Judaism Say?* New York, NY: UAHC Press, 1991.

Deals with current issues of importance to today's youth. Uses a case study format to explain Jewish law as expressed in the Bible, Talmud, traditional and contemporary sources.

Shelton, Michael. **Secret Encounters: Addressing Sexual Behaviors in Group Settings**.  
Martinsville, IN: American Camp Association, 2004  
Offers an approach to dealing with childhood and young adult sexuality in group settings. Discusses a variety of possible situations, how to define parameters and developing an action plan.

Stolper, Pinchas. **Jewish Alternatives in Love, Dating and Marriage**. New York, NY: National Conference of Synagogue Youth, 1984.  
A presentation of Jewish sexual ethics, from an Orthodox point of view.

Straus, Susan and, Pamela Espeland. **Sexual Harassment and Teens**.  
Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing Co., 1992.  
For schools and communities, a pro-active harassment preventative program to bring people together to explore and understand causes, consequences, and relevant laws.



Tucker, Gordon and, Barry Freundel. "Homosexuality and Halachic Judaism."  
**Moment Magazine**, June 1993.  
Two schools of thought on homosexuality - one Orthodox and the other, Conservative.

Yedwab, Paul. **Sex in the Texts**. New York, NY: UAHC Press, 2001.  
Using original primary texts in Hebrew and English, this reference book covers sexuality, love, dating, marriage, adultery, abortion, rape, and relationships from a Reform Jewish perspective. A teacher's guide is available.

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