

## Jewish Educational Leadership Award

ARJE is thrilled to announce the presentation of the Jewish Educational Leadership Award to Rabbi Jan Katzew, Ph.D., RJE. Jan has demonstrated a profound commitment to Jewish education throughout his career, serving as a model of excellence for ARJE and the broader field. Jan began his career serving as Rabbi-Educator at The Community Synagogue in Port Washington, NY, where he was warmly embraced by the Long Island Temple Educators group. After earning a doctorate in Jewish Thought and Education at the Hebrew University, he became the Director of Adolescent Learning at the BJE in Chicago. In that post, Jan worked in partnership with Dr. Alan Levin and the educators in the Chicago Area Temple Educators community training teachers and developing curricular resources for teens.

Jan radically transformed the Reform Movement's approach to Jewish education in his 15-year tenure as the Director of Lifelong Learning at the UAHC/URJ. In Jan's words, we "co-created an educational vision with the best team of colleagues, several of whom became leaders of ARJE, "Torah at the Center" was not only a slogan or a publication; it was our *raison d'être*. Throughout his tenure at the URJ, Jan worked hand in hand with NATE/ARJE leadership and Stan Schickler, RJE. He created a network of regional educators, designed CHAI and Mitkadem curricula, Chaverim B'lvrit day school curricula, co-founded the ECE-RJ, and developed the "Ten Minutes of Torah" series. Jan was a regular teacher, guide, and source of inspiration to our organization while at the same time providing our members with curriculum, resources, consultation, advocacy, and a platform throughout the movement.

More recently, Jan has served at HUC-JIR as Associate Professor of Education and Jewish Thought, Director of Service Learning, and Senior Educator in the Executive MA faculty for dozens of ARJE members. In retirement, Jan has maintained his connection to the iCenter, mentoring aspiring Israel educators from universities, seminaries, and educational institutions worldwide.

Jan is a visionary leader who has changed the face of Jewish education and the hearts and minds of Jewish educators for decades. He asks big, bold questions, inspiring us all to embrace innovative ideas and pursue lofty visions. His leadership style is characterized by empathy and a commitment to professional growth, as he actively seeks to empower educators to find their voice, to develop their skills, and to contribute meaningfully to the field. Jan tries to lead by example, demonstrating a steadfast dedication to lifelong learning with a mix of *chutzpah* and humility.

The award will be presented to Jan at ARJE's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

All funds raised in Jan's honor will support ARJE's Mentorship Program.

[Register for ARJE@70 Celebration](#)

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