

Gems from Kaplan's Chapter on Education in Judaism as a Civilization

Three different groups of educators re-engaged with Kaplan's chapter on Jewish education between 2017-2019 as we developed our 21st Century Kaplanian Vision of Jewish Education. Certain gems jumped out of the "dusty" and "old" volume as being full of brilliant light and relevance today.

This is Option B – Kaplan in his own words with some broad, overarching questions and techniques to support your study. This might be a particularly good level at which to bring education committees, teachers and parents into our conversation about Jewish education today.

First Step: Take some time to read through the gems and share with one another which one or two speaks to the individuals in your group.

Second Step: Make Kaplan proud of his own roots in the educational philosophy of John Dewey. When we evaluate we "praise" and "prize" as well as measure against the highest possible standards. Create a "*Halleluyah*" chorus of idea, programs, and activities that are part of your program that have responded to the Kaplanian challenge creatively.

Final Step: Name a challenge area from these gems that would be worthy of further planning and effort in the coming several years in your community. Frame the issue more "locally" and "specifically" as it exists in your community and begin brainstorming a set of possible responses.