



## SEATTLE JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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### **Seattle Jewish Community announces Shoshana Krongold Bilavsky as next Head of School – the third in its 19-year history.**

Shoshi Bilavsky will become SJCS Head of School, effective July 1, 2010. After a thorough search that considered applicants from the United States and abroad, and culminated in bringing three finalists for extensive campus visits last month, the Head Search Committee and the Board of Trustees are delighted that Shoshi will carry the mission of SJCS forward. Today's announcement brings to a successful conclusion a ten month-long recruiting and candidate evaluation process – and it marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the SJCS story.

Shoshi has been a leader in Jewish education since 1993 – teaching, directing Judaic Studies programs, and serving as head of school – at day schools in Memphis, TN, Cleveland, OH and Boulder, CO. She holds an MA in Judaic studies with an emphasis on Bible and Jewish Education from the Siegal College of Judaic Studies. Shoshi is very excited to be joining the SJCS community. Her goals are to continue to serve Jewish families through the magic vehicle of Jewish day schools and to provide students and their parents tools to make the world a better place through Jewish values.

In no small, part Shoshi's arrival has been enabled by current Head of School Debbie Butler and her tenure of distinction. Debbie's devotion and near infinite contributions began 19 years ago when she was the founding Principal. Debbie once again took the reins of leadership in 2006 as Head of School. Since that time she has guided enrollment growth, streamlined and professionalized staffing, and played a central role in securing a permanent campus for the school. Debbie's tireless support for students and staff are woven into the SJCS fabric and will provide a strong foundation for the future.

Head Search Co-Chairs Howie Klein and Seth Rosenbloom "are very gratified to see the search process result in such a remarkable outcome. The many hours of staff, Board and volunteer time were truly well spent. We are fortunate to have in Shoshi a great new Head who can guide the school on a continued path of growth."

SJCS President Yonah Karp is "energized by Shoshi's appointment and the possibilities she brings to our school's future." Yonah has begun building the Board-Head relationship and transition planning that will create a smooth on-ramp for Shoshi's assumption of day-to-day and long-term responsibilities.

"Leading in this landscape is not merely about being in a position of authority and responsibility", Shoshi comments, "but is also about creating a milieu where shared vision and dynamic, innovative learning makes SJCS the place to be in the Pacific Northwest!"

***Seattle Jewish Community School provides an excellent, egalitarian, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade General and Judaic Studies education that promotes Jewish identity and practice, respect for diversity, responsibility for our world, and lifelong learning.***

***Challenging Each Mind, Inspiring Each Heart***

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