

# PRESS RELEASE

## GRAY ACADEMY EDUCATORS AWARDED AVI CHAI EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT

June 12, 2009 – Gray Academy of Jewish Education is pleased to announce that Ms. Judy Doctoroff and Ms. Anat Ekhoiz have been awarded a grant from The AVI CHAI Foundation for their work, entitled “**Ipods for Hebrew**” and described as follows: ***Using ipods for students' recordings to enhance their speaking skills (Oral Literacy)***.

The AVI CHAI Foundation, a New York-based private foundation dedicated to supporting and encouraging the Jewish day school and camp movements, developed the ***Educational Technology Experiment*** grant program two years ago in an effort to identify key ways to apply technological advances to the work of day schools. Intended as a means to learn from the field, AVI CHAI announced a competitive grant opportunity, providing allocations of \$2,000 to \$10,000 for those educators who can identify and develop innovative approaches to using technology in their teaching. Over 200 teachers submitted their ideas for using technology to solve a pedagogic classroom problem. Ms. Judy Doctoroff and Ms. Anat Ekhoiz were one of 20 applicants selected.

As part of the program, grant recipients are expected to post regularly on the blog <http://edtechexp.blogspot.com> so that other educators can learn from this experience. Past blog conversations have included topics such as integrating Smart Boards into Judaic curricula, using video to advance Hebrew instruction, and creative applications of podcasting.

Yossi Prager, AVI CHAI's Executive Director in North America explains, “Some of the most creative innovations in Jewish education are quietly happening in day school classrooms across the country. We are happy to support these inventive teachers, but most excited to be sharing their ideas and providing learning opportunities to a broader audience through the ed tech blog.”

“We are delighted and proud that Ms. Doctoroff and Ms. Ekhoiz have been selected for the AVI CHAI Educational Technology grant. Through this grant, both teachers will be able to enrich their classroom and provide students with skills they will need as they grow as learners into the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Mr. Paul, Head of School & CEO.

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