

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – Written By Linda S Trapasso

Handcrafted Judaica

I've always enjoyed doing things myself, like baking from scratch, decorating my home, and all kinds of crafts – sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, floral arrangements, and so on. Whether or not you handcraft, there are plenty of resources on the Internet available to those who are looking to do it themselves or those who are looking for that special handcrafted item.

Many of you probably know about [Etsy](#), a Web site where a small business can set up an online store and sell their products. There are many beautiful items here. Search on Judaica or Jewish to get pages and pages of wonderful and unique items, as well as many ideas if you want to do it yourself (DIY).

[Chadis Crafts](#) was just starting when I discovered it on the Web. I bought some beautiful, well-crafted hand-crocheted kippot. Eileen Chadis taught crafts at Jewish summer camps for many years. Everyone wanted her to send them craft directions, so she started her Web site. You can find ready-made items, like kippot, plenty of ideas for crafts, and lists of craft resources.



The [Pomegranate Guild](#) is an organization dedicated to needlecrafts for Jewish ritual and cultural use and passing on that knowledge to the next generations. There is a list of members' descriptions you can select on the left of the home page plus favorite links for various needlecraft resources. In addition, there is a list of chapters, including Greater Boston.

[Sew Jewish](#) is a blog by Maria Bywater. She has interesting blogs – one about [shatnez](#) (a mixture of wool and linen that is prohibited for Jews) and a [recent blog](#) on what makes a sewing craft Jewish. Both articles gave me something to think about. The articles on sewing and finishing your own tallit are detailed and thorough, including information on the size of a tallit. (I think I'll be making the Baby Buddy doll for my newest great-niece. You never know where inspiration will come from.)

At [Joyful Jewish](#), you'll find wonderful family crafts. A woman in Perth, Australia, who wants her children to have positive connections to Judaism, runs the site. I love the family challah cover that is decorated with outlines of family members' hands. Many projects are simple, which is great for families who want to do things together.

[Creative Jewish Mom](#) is another family craft blog with a variety of items. There are crafts just for kids, crafts using recycled materials (the recycled plastic bottle flowers are great and look wonderful in a sukkah), and Jewish crafts. Explore the site to find more craft items and to learn about Sara Rivka, who lives in northern Israel.



Here are places where you can find handcraft resources with a Jewish theme:

The [Crafty Needle](#), formerly California Stitchery, has a broad selection of mostly needlecraft items.

[Judaiquilt.com](#) is run by Cathy Perlmutter and offers her own designs plus a very extensive [resource list](#) (though some items are out of date).

[1-800-dreidel](#) has many supplies for crafts, plus party and baking supplies, most with a Jewish theme.

Chadis Crafts, listed earlier in this article.

So whether or not you are a DIYer or looking for a special item with a Jewish theme, you can be inspired by the Internet. And more than likely, you'll find exactly what you're looking for.