**Foundations of Jewish Education – Assignment 9**

1. *Write a brief letter to an educational theorist explaining why you consider that theorist to have had such a positive or negative influence on Jewish education in the 21st century.*

Dear Mr. Addams,

I appreciate your contribution to the field of educational theory in the 21st century. You proposed that education can, and should, be an opportunity for immigrants to assimilate into their new communities, and that education should encourage diversity and multi-cultural ideas. I believe that your theory had a positive impact on Jewish education in the 21st century, as your theory encourages people from many different societies and communities to be tolerant and respectful of each other. In the 21st century, the composition of many Jewish Day School classrooms is of children from many different cultures. While each child has a Jewish background, there is a wide-array of cultures including *sephardim, ashkenazim*, *geirim,* and others, that can be found within one classroom. Your theory encourages us as teachers to learn about and appreciate their *minhagim*, as well as their historical background and significance. It stresses the important role that we have as educators, to encourage and support conversations about diversity and differences so as to promote respect amongst the many different types of students within our classroom.

Best,

Penina B

1. *Is Se`adyah’s “behaviorism” closer to Rogers or to Skinner?*

I believe that Se’adyah’s behaviorism is closer to Skinner’s theory. Skinner believed that that positive/negative reinforcement could greatly impact and change a person’s behavior. Rogers believed in the power of intrinsic motivation, and the role that one’s own self-concept can have in effecting positive behavior change. Se’adyah’s behaviorism seems to be closer to that of Skinner, as he discusses the role that viewing positive/negative consequences can have on influencing people’s behaviors and beliefs. The idea of that reinforcement can greatly affect change is primary to both their systems and unites their beliefs.