

**Joan B. Cohen-Mitchell**  
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## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

- 2005**      **Ed.D., School of Education, University of Massachusetts.**  
Dissertation: Literacy and Numeracy Practices of Market Women in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- 1995**      **M. Ed. School of Education, University of Massachusetts.**  
Thesis: Disabled Women in El Salvador Reframing Themselves: A Case Study of the Women's Program of ACOGIPRI.
- 1986**      **B.S. Early Childhood Education, University of Vermont.**

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

- 1993-1994**      Inter-American Foundation Masters Research Fellow.
- 1986**      Outstanding Senior, Department of Human Development and Early Childhood Education, University of Vermont.

## **RECENT CONSULTING & TRAINING EXPERIENCE**

- 2008-present**      **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Hampden County**  
Design and conduct comprehensive qualitative and quantitative evaluation for three-year US DOE Mentoring Program.
- 2006-present**      **Technical Advisor, Caribbean Child Support Initiative/Bernard Van Leer Foundation**  
Conducted a feasibility study in four Eastern Caribbean countries to assess readiness for family literacy pilot programs. Developed funding proposals for four-country pilot family literacy programs. Provide ongoing technical expertise for pilot family literacy programmes.  
Coordinate regional family literacy policy development in the Eastern Caribbean.
- 2006-2008**      **Program Evaluator and Program Design Consultant, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, Massachusetts**  
Designed and implemented qualitative and quantitative evaluation of school-based family literacy initiatives, including training school staff to collect necessary data.
- 2006-2008**      **Evaluator, Greenfield Family Literacy Program, Greenfield, MA**  
Designed and implemented qualitative and quantitative evaluation of community-based family literacy initiative.

- 1996-2008**     **Evaluator, Massachusetts Department of Education Even Start Family Literacy Grants.**  
Local evaluator for five community based family literacy programs. Tasks include designing qualitative and quantitative evaluation tools, training staff in evaluative practices and assessing adult education, early childhood education, parenting and family learning components of program for low-income families.
- 2006-2007**     **Evaluator, Orange Public Schools, Orange, Massachusetts.**  
Conducted program evaluation of the *Second Step* violence prevention program conducted for families in the elementary school.
- 2005-2006**     **Planning Consultant, Enlace de Familias, Holyoke, Massachusetts.**  
Developed and conducted an organizational assessment process and strategic plan with staff and board of community based agency.  
Developed funding blueprint for agency.
- 2003-2006**     **Evaluator, Department of Resource Economics, University of Massachusetts.**  
Designed and implemented qualitative program evaluation for US State Department funded three-year collaboration with Javeriana University in Bogota, Columbia.
- 2005**           **Even Start Family Literacy Program, Springfield, Massachusetts.**  
Provided technical assistance to community collaboration of an urban public school district, adult basic education provider, and early childhood center in the provision of federally-funded, comprehensive family literacy services to low-income families.
- 2004-2005**     **Evaluator, Quabbin Mediation, Orange, Massachusetts.**  
Designed and implemented qualitative and quantitative tools for multi-site peer mediation and conflict resolution program in three middle schools and two high schools in the No.Quabbin region of MA.
- 2004-2005**     **Trainer, Massachusetts Department of Education.**  
Developed and implemented staff training and technical assistance to new Even Start family literacy programs throughout Massachusetts.
- 2001**           **Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls, MA.**  
Developed funding proposals for a *Leadership Development Institute* for low-income women in Montague, MA. Developed Community Development Block Grant applications for both agencies.

## **STAFF POSITIONS**

- 2008-present**   **Legacy Program Manger, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, W. Springfield, MA.**  
  
Developed and manage Western Massachusetts *Create a Jewish Legacy Program* with thirteen agencies. Help programs develop endowment and bequest giving programs for their agency. Provide training and technical assistance to program partners.

Design marketing for the program.

- 2001-2003**     **Executive Director, The Brick House Community Resource Center, Montague, MA.**  
Responsible for all staff supervision, fiscal, fundraising and programmatic activities of a small community based agency. Developed funding proposals for foundations, fostered relationships with local businesses, initiated strategic planning and raised funds for creation of five new programs to serve the residents of Montague.
- 2000-2004**     **Program Director and Instructor, The Montague Institute for New Directions. Montague, MA.**  
Designed and implement 60-hour employability and empowerment-training program for low-income women. Conducted fundraising activities and grant writing to sustain the program.
- 1998-2000**     **Research and Training Coordinator, University of Massachusetts/Center for International Education.**  
Facilitated research and training activities for bilingual literacy program for Mayan women and youth in rural Guatemala. Designed and delivered training programs for project staff, staff of 10 partner organizations and staff of government literacy programs. Developed training materials and literacy curriculum with local staff. Co-wrote \$ 9.25 million technical proposal with Save the Children.
- 1996-1998**     **Staff Associate, Western Massachusetts System for Adult Basic Education Support (SABES), Holyoke Community College.**  
Provided staff development and technical assistance for all DOE adult basic education programs in Western Massachusetts. Developed collaborative activities for adult education programs in the areas of family literacy, economic literacy, practitioner inquiry, ESOL, and native language literacy.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2005-2008**     **Adjunct Faculty**, Undergraduate course, “Introduction to International Education”, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
- 2005**           **Adjunct Faculty**, Graduate Seminar, “Training Design for Experiential Learning”, School for International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont.

## PUBLICATIONS

Rogers, A., Cohen-Mitchell, J, and U. Manandhar (2000). *Widening Literacy: A Training Manual for Managers of Adult Literacy Learning Programs*, Save the Children, 2000.

Cohen, J. (2000). “Disabled Women in El Salvador Reframing Themselves: An Economic Development Program”, in Research and Inequality, Taylor and Francis.

Cohen-Mitchell, J. (1997). *Making Cents: An Economic Literacy Sourcebook*. SABES Western Massachusetts Regional Support Center.

Cohen, J. (1996). Comparative Education Review, “*Knowledge Culture and Power: International Perspectives on Literacy and Policy and Practice*”, vol. 40, no.4, November.

CIRCLE (1996). *Group Process*: Module 1 in series, Leaders as Enablers. CIRCLE, University of Massachusetts.

Cohen, J. and S. Acharya (1996). *Gender perspectives in literacy*, Action Learning Manual. Center for International Education.

Dixon, J, and J. Cohen (1996). *Literacy & learning in families and communities*, Action Learning Manual. Center for International Education.

Cohen, J. (1996). “*Literacy for Development in Haiti: Implications for Families and Communities*” Journal of Haitian Studies, Vol. 1(1), 1996.

Cohen, J. (1995). “*L'enseignement prescolaire*”: Chapter Four of: Diagnostic Technique du Systeme Educatif Haitien. Haitian Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports.

## LANGUAGES

**Spanish:** fluent reading and speaking, good writing

**Haitian Creole:** fluent reading and speaking, good writing

**French:** fair reading and good comprehension

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

President, Temple Israel, Greenfield, MA

Co-President, Hadassah, Greenfield, MA Chapter

PR Volunteer – The Village School, Royalston, MA

CARD (Community Against Racism and Discrimination) N. Quabbin region

Friends of the Orange Libraries ( Co-President 2006-2008)