
How Do Our Organizations Go Beyond Inclusion?

Facilitator: Elsie R. Stern

What is a Network? Learn from each other

A network is a group of people and/or organizations working on the same issue or vision, together with structures that have been created to mobilize the energy of those individuals or organizations.

They are trying to accomplish something. Networks are focused on opportunities and leverage points that have the greatest chance of making a difference. (excerpted Network Weavers' Handbook, J. Holley)

Goals...of the network

- To explore what it means to go “beyond inclusion”
- To learn more about the experiences and “torah” of members of our communities, especially with regard to life cycle moments
- To explore how this experience and “torah” can enrich our community’s practice

Today's plan

- Introductions (5 min)
- What we mean by “beyond inclusion” (15)
- Sharing our experiences (20)
- Preparing to gather a story/stories (15)
- Next steps (5)

Beyond Inclusion 1: Avot v'imahot

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ, אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם, אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק,
וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב, אֱלֹהֵי שָׂרָה, אֱלֹהֵי רֵבֶקָה, אֱלֹהֵי רָחֵל וְאֱלֹהֵי לֵאָה. . . בְּרוּךְ
אַתָּה יי, מִגֵּן אַבְרָהָם וְעֶזְרַת שָׂרָה

Blessed are you, THE ANCIENT ONE, our God, God of our ancestors, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, God of Sarah, God of Rebeka, God of Rachel and God of Leah . . . Blessed are you, KIND ONE, the shield of Abraham and help of Sarah

Beyond Inclusion 2: Orange on the seder plate



Sharing our Stories



Gathering more . . .

Here are some of the Principles: The narrative unfolds from the individual whose life we are exploring. While it may be encouraged by questions, the individual determines how their story is told and what's important. **The exercise of telling our own story is empowering;** it enhances our ability to understand ourselves and increases our confidence that we can achieve our aspirations. Thus narrative can be an impetus for change and development. It is essential that as Jewish professionals we have the capacity to ask open and honest questions, which allow someone to feel validated and allows them to share parts of their story with you without fear of judgment.

Possible questions

- Please tell me about your experience with . . .
- What aspects were most meaningful?
- What aspects were hard?
- In what ways did the ritual address your needs/the needs of your family at this moment?
- What ideas do you have for enriching this experience?

Next steps

- Choose a life cycle or holiday ritual that your shul, organization or community practices.
- Choose a person or people whose experience of this ritual you want to learn more about.
- Ask them if you can interview them.
- If they say yes, have the conversation!
- Bring what you learned to our next network on May 8.

Reflection and Next Steps



We are together again May 8 at 2:30 est