

JSL Conference Call #3

November 19, 2008, 1pm

Topic: Adding text to the turkey: **How Can I Integrate Text Without It Feeling Forced or (Worse!) Being Boring?**

Tentative Agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Attendance
 - Julia Malkin, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Boston, MA
 - Josh Boress, Jewish Federation of Rochester, NY
 - Alana Tipton, Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning, Rockville, MD
 - Charlotte Frank, Adath Shalom, NJ
- III. Introduction of PANIM staff on the call
 - Moderator: Lia Katz, PANIM
- IV. Goals of these calls, overview of today's agenda
- V. Topic of the month: Adding text to the turkey: **How Can I Integrate Text Without It Feeling Forced or (Worse!) Being Boring?**
 - a. Why do we use text? What's the goal when we use text in a JSL setting?
 - b. Characteristics of texts that have worked well
 - c. Innovative ways to integrate text / Alternatives to traditional text study methodology
 - d. When a traditional text study might work
 - e. Thoughts from the field – what has worked for you? What hasn't worked?
 - Using a text study in service projects can help ground the project; it gives it relevance, and connects the experience to Jewish identity and promotes identity building.
 - Texts that work well are often short and in English: The key is accessibility – this is not the time to push a new level of text study.
 - Some innovative ways to integrate texts – ensure students are utilizing other senses:
 - Comparing an ancient text with a modern text
 - Asking the students to create a visual representation
 - Creating a skit – or creative way for the students themselves to present the text
 - Traditional text studies work best when:
 - Teens are particularly comfortable with a text study
 - There are several service periods, and one is devoted to a traditional text study
 - Teens are expecting to learn: catching them by surprise never works!
 - The setting of the room allows for a traditional classroom study
- VI. Open space for questions/suggestions/great experiences in general
 - What are some books and resources that people recommend to create effective text study programs?
 - PANIM's JUST curriculum at www.justaction.org, has a number of different lessons and text studies that teachers can use. It is also available in a hard copy.

- Jewish Literacy by Rabbi Telushkin, is very helpful and organized by topic
- Zot Hatorah, has a Mitzvah of the week to help teach parsha

VII. Looking forward

- a. There are some “blank” weeks - - are there questions that people have that they’d like to see addressed there?
 - Program evaluation
- b. Next month’s topic: December 18 : Balancing staff and youth roles: **What Can I Do While They’re on Vacation?** Bring your ideas!!

VIII. Closing Remarks:

- JSL yahoo group
 - groups.yahoo.com/jewishservicelearning
 - Click ‘join this group’
 - OR – send Lia an e-mail
- Seminar registrations are due!

Working with high school students? Register for one of PANIM’s teen seminars!

 - www.panim.org/events/futuredates.html
 - www.panim.org/events/seminarinterestform.html
- National Educators’ Institute dates for summer 2009. Scholarship is available!!
 - June 21-25 at the University of Maryland*
 - August 2-6 at the CAJE conference, in San Antonio, TX

*there is the possibility of an advanced track at the University of Maryland. Send Lia or Rachel an email if interested.