

JSL Conference Call #7

March 19, 2009, 1pm

Topic: Making the celebration more than a party: **How do I call attention to their good work?**

Tentative Agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Attendance
 - a. Charlotte Frank, Morris Plains, NJ
 - b. Jennifer Meyers, Newport News, VA
 - c. Michal Greenbaum, Whippany, NJ
 - d. Beth Margolis-Rupp, Gratz College
 - e. Annie Wynn, Gratz College
 - f. Brendan Bailes, Gratz College
- III. Introduction of PANIM staff on the call
 - a. Rachel Meytin, Vice President for Programs
 - b. Lia Katz, Director of Jewish Service-Learning
 - c. Reisa Shanaman, Pollin-Cohen Fellow
- IV. Goals of these calls, overview of today's agenda
- V. Topic of the month: Making the celebration more than a party: **How do I call attention to their good work?**
 - a. What is celebration?
 - i. Recognition of the good work they've done
 - ii. A way of acknowledging they've done something of importance
 - b. Why, on earth, is it part of a service-learning program?
 - i. Underscores the learning they've done and the work they've put in
 - c. How is celebration both an often overlooked and often incorrectly implemented component of service-learning?
 - i. Usually involves a pizza-party, which does not match the service done
 - d. Other names / ways to think about celebration.
 - i. Something that talks more about meaningful mega-reflection, that also evaluates it
 - ii. A process, rather than an event
 - iii. Presentation in front of parents, school, peers, assembly, art show
 - iv. Celebrate/showcase what they have done to the larger community
 - e. When should it take place? (Or, when ELSE should it take place?)
 - i. At the END of the program, but also throughout
 - ii. Half-way is a great time to write an article, or some other benchmark
 - iii. If you move it back to sometime during the project, you can include the partners in the 'celebration' to show the importance of the others involved
 - f. How to make it relevant AND appropriate

- i. Tie it back to the work they've done to underscore the learning
 - g. Thoughts from the field – what has worked for you? What hasn't worked?
 - i. Charlotte: Working with a Holocaust survivor, culminates with an assembly that honors the relationship between the student and the survivor
 - ii. Reflection on project working with the elderly?
 - 1. Event that involves both groups that celebrates the relationships they've formed, perhaps inviting other family/community members
 - 2. Senior Prom on-site
 - 3. Scrapbook/photo album project
 - iii. Beth: Bringing the media in can add to the celebration and helps acknowledge the participants
 - iv. Concern - - want to recognize parent volunteers without making those who haven't volunteered feel excluded
 - 1. Easy way could be to ensure that parent volunteers are included in photos interacting with the students, without having to specifically name them
- VI. Open space for questions/suggestions/great experiences in general
 - a. Students have started a petition, sort of a pre-reflection, to share a piece of legislation the students are working on
 - i. Holocaust bill that encourages school to teach Holocaust and Genocide studies to support the bill on the floor, but they don't feel support is strong enough
 - ii. Asking community members and peers to sign it, and telling them about their related J-Serve project, anticipate having 1000s of signatures by April 26 (J-Serve Day)
- VII. Looking forward
 - a. Next month's topic: Wednesday, April 22, 2009..... Looking at ourselves: **Where are we as a movement? As individual practitioners? Where do we want to go?**
 - b. Overarching Themes for Next Year: What should these calls look like?
 - i. Organize by theme
 - 1. What projects work best with what age groups
 - 2. Topical/educational
 - 3. Torah portions
 - 4. Connecting projects to other events on the calendar (MLK Day, J-Serve), other ways to enhance the experience, make it stronger
- VIII. Closing Remarks:
 - JSL yahoo group
 - Post your ideas, questions and reminders!
 - Yahoo group name: jewishservicelearning
 - Seminar dates for next year (09-10 school year) – not too early to plan
 - Dates are up on www.panim.org
 - National Educators' Institute dates for summer 2009. Scholarship is available!!

- June 22-26 at University of Maryland, College Park
- There will be an advanced track for those who have come before
- Application is up at www.panim.org/educatorsinstitute (one application for both tracks)