

**3:10-4:05 Community (Chairs in circle)**

Led by: Jaci

For this activity we'll need:

- blank posters headed *Our Jewish Involvement, Positive Aspects of Jewish Community, Gaps in Jewish Community*
- Each pair has three colors of post-it notes and a marker

**Instructions:**

For the next hour, we're going to be thinking and learning about community, specifically the Jewish community of Atlanta. First we're going to pair off and talk from our own perspectives, and use that to generate some first analysis. Then we're going to have some fun looking for information on the Web, and hear from Lara about a study done about the Atlanta Jewish community in the last couple of years.

Look in your binder – you'll find questions to ask each other about. You will also see that you are to write some of your answers on a specific color post-it note. Give each person about three minutes to speak and then switch; at the end give your post-it notes to a staff member as you walk into the computer lab.

Be aware that people in this group are involved in very different ways in Jewish life and in very different degrees. Those of you with a lot of positive Jewish experiences have some things to offer, and those of you with fewer experiences or even negative experiences can raise some challenges. All of it will help you figure out what your role should be in strengthening our community. Now, choose someone to work with whom you haven't yet worked with or gotten to know.

**One-on-one –**

- What Jewish activities or groups are you involved in? *Blue post-it*
- What do you like about them?
- What do you dislike about them?
- What other Jewish nonprofit organizations do you know about?
- What do you think are the positive aspects of being Jewish in Atlanta? *Green post-it*
- What or who do you think is missing in our Jewish community? *Yellow post-it*
- What good thing needs to be increased or strengthened? *Yellow post-it*

Meet in the computer lab at 3:20 – bring your post-its with you.

- Collected by a staff and taken back and put on the posters ....

**3:20-3:30 Community Activity 3: Webquest****Instructions:**

On the next page in your binder are a series of questions to try to find out the answers to. We're going to the computer lab – find another pair to work together with. See if you can find out more than any other group!

*Staff circulate during webquest, helping and steering some groups toward questions later in the list.*

**Webquest:**

- How many Jews live in the Atlanta area?
- Find as many Atlanta-area synagogues as you can. For each one you find, note what area it is located in, what denomination (e.g. Orthodox, Reconstructionist) it is connected with, and when it was founded.



- If you wanted to participate in dialogue between Jews and African-Americans, what local organization would you contact?
- Find three organizations that offer Jewish cultural experiences.
- What local colleges have organizations for Jewish students?
- Find out what three different synagogues' social action or "tikkun olam" committees have as current projects.
- Find a Jewish group that does something related to the environment.
- Find an organization that serves people who are sick or elderly. Do you have to be Jewish to be served?
- Where does the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta have facilities?
- Pick any two synagogues and compare them based on their websites – what impression do you get of each of them? What's appealing to you?
- Pull up the community directory at <http://shalomatlanta.org/section.html?id=5>. Get another screen with the directory in either Boston (<http://www.cjp.org/section.html?id=5>) or the San Francisco Bay Area (<http://sfjcf.org/resources/guide/>). Can you find any type of Jewish organization that some other community has but Atlanta does not?

If you have time left over, you can take a break ... meet back in the \_\_\_\_ room at 3:35

3:35-3:40 As you arrive back, take a look at the posters with the post-it notes..... observe any patterns?

3:40-4:05 Community Activity 4: Presentation on Community Study

- Presentation by Lara
- Q&A and Summary: Based on your post-its (may need some pattern analysis here), your webquest and this study, what are some issues, concerns, gaps, etc?

**4:05-4:15 Next Steps (Chairs in Circle)**

Led by: Adam

As we just saw, our community is filled with nonprofits pursuing so many goals and meeting so many needs. You are functioning as a foundation, with a certain amount of money, and you have the opportunity and challenge of choosing where you are going to focus.

Let's start by taking the pulse of this group right now about some questions you'll have to deal with in order to come to your final group mission statement. For each question, I'll ask you to position yourself to the right, left, or somewhere in the middle. Wherever you put yourself now, you do not have to keep that position the next time we talk – feel free to change your mind or develop your thinking.

(At this point it would be useful to stand on a chair! After the group distributes itself for each question, ask someone from both ends and from the middle to explain why they are there. Some back and forth is okay – use your judgement.)

1. Jews should give to take care of Jews – Jews are responsible for everyone in the community
2. Local needs are most important – The most important needs could be anywhere in the world
3. Jews have an obligation to help Jews here in Atlanta – Jews everywhere have a special responsibility to help Jews in Israel
4. Immediate needs such as food and shelter are the most important – cultural needs like education, arts, and the quality of life are just as important
5. Meeting someone's need today is the highest priority – organizing and political work to stamp out the cause of need in the long-term is most important

Hand out this text sheet:

Talmud Bavli Gittin 61a

*Our rabbis have taught:*

*We support the poor of the non-Jews, along with the poor of Israel,  
and visit the sick of the non-Jews, along with the sick of Israel,  
and bury the poor of the non-Jews, along with the dead of Israel ....  
in the interests of peace.*

1. What are your reactions to the Talmudic statement that we take care of non-Jews along with Jews "in the interest of peace?"



2. What are the benefits of this kind of attitude?
3. What modern examples can you think of to support this text?

Robyn/Anita: Explain why the steering committee made the decision that this group must give the money to the Atlanta Jewish Community.

**4:15-4:35 Making Your Mission Jewish (Tables in U)**  
Led by: Robyn

Let's look back now .... Each of you created your own mission statement based on a passion and values you hold. Then, we worked together in group to create a group missions statement that you all support. Next, we looked at the Atlanta Jewish Community and our attitudes towards Jewish giving. Working together, we will now take your mission statement, and put it through a Jewish lens. The outcome, will be the guiding mission statement this cohort will work under and fund!

**4:35-5:00 Organizing the Group**  
Led By Anita & Adam

Agenda:

1. General information – calendar, time and meeting places
2. Working with staff
3. Facilitating meetings – rotated role – two volunteers to go first
4. How do we want to communicate as a group? Facebook, Blog, Email?  
*Full rosters will be emailed tomorrow*
5. Other roles – go through suggestions (see below under Homework Assignment)
6. Naming the group
7. Rituals for the group – e.g. music, other ideas for opening and closing sessions
8. Assignment for next week: As a group come up with suggestions for a name, ideas for roles, volunteers for roles

Some ideas for roles:

- PR/Marketing
- Blog/Facebook
- Time Keeper
- Photographer
- Facilitator Organizer
- Scrapbooking
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Officer
- Ritual Coordinator
- ????

9. Note that Jerry who they met last night wants them to approach him for \$\$ ... we need to create a plan for that

4:50 Individual time to write in journals:

- What did I learn today?
- What things from this weekend are getting me excited?
- What is one thing I would add to one of the conversations today?
- What goals or hopes do I have for myself through this experience? For this group?

5:00 Shared reflections

- Once around the circle – a goal or hope for this group.

5:05ish L'hitraot!

