

The Eternal Jew
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Cotton States Region #72

Summary: Members of Okeon AZA and River City BBG thought they would be attending a night of “Dating” activities and games. In the middle of the expected “dating” program, the two Chapter S’ganim (Evan Kline and Happie Hoffman) unexpectedly turned off the lights, explaining to the participants that the year is 1942 and that being Jewish is unsafe. After a Havdallah service where everyone whispered the prayers, we explored our connections to Judaism by creating a new Jewish holiday and Jewish food dish.

Full Description:

Promotion: Make sure everyone in both chapters knows about the program! Make flyers and send e-mails.

Where: Try to have this program at a large house. There is a lot of moving around, and depending on the chapter sizes, the kitchen will need ample space.

Supplies needed: Note cards (to be filled out in the beginning and for the holiday and food dish explanations), bowl to put notecards in, Havdallah candle, 4 knives, 8 plates, fruits and condiments (listed in detailed outline below), snacks, drinks, freshly baked cookies (for winning group), 8 sheets to hand out to group leaders (attached)

Getting everyone quiet: With so many people in attendance, we knew we would need something to get everyone quiet. We used a whistle to get everyone quiet and to notify a shift in Mingle and Speed Dating.

What are your suggestions for someone who plans a similar program?

- Get to the program VERY early to organize the foods and locations
- Get acquainted with the program location, so groups can rotate smoothly!
- Change up the script and add your own quotes/ideas!
- Add more ice-breaking “dating” games.
- Promote the program is about dating with another chapter: it really brings people to the program!
- Make each group clean up their area of the kitchen.
- Add another part or get rid of any part! Try to make this program your own!

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM:

00:00-00:15—Because so many people attended this program, we allowed 15 minutes for everyone arrive, eat pizza and snacks, and just hang out.

***When people arrived, they wrote their “dating” profile information on a card (this card is later incorporated in the script). Also, the cards replaced the need for attendance!

00:15-01:00—Evan and Happie pretended the theme of the program was “Dating Through the Ages”, so everyone started playing Bar/Bat Mitzvah games. We played Mingle and Speed Dating (include other games if applicable, including Coke/Pepsi, Improv games, etc.)

Mingle- Everyone gets a partner and is told to touch a body part with that person. The whistle was blown and another body part was yelled. After each new body part is yelled, the participants got a new partner and touched that body part. (Body parts to touch- knee, ear, arm, elbow, foot, butt, nose, hand, cheek, etc.)

Speed Dating- The guys get in a circle facing outward. The girls then get in a circle facing the guys. After each question, we blew the whistle and the girls rotated. We asked questions such as: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why? If you had only one day left on Earth, what would you do? Where do you feel the most at home? Have you ever visited Israel (Yes, explain your experience. No, explain how you feel about Israel)? **MAKE YOUR OWN QUESTIONS!**

01:00-01:15—Evan and Happie UNEXPECTEDLY turned off the lights while participants engaged in speed dating. Evan and Happie went to the center of the speed dating circle, as the room was pitch black and the only visible light was from a candle held by Happie. Evan and Happie read the current situation (script) and ask everyone to join in Havdallah, but with a twist. Because in the current situation it is unsafe to be Jewish, the Havdallah service was whispered. (The service included the 4 main prayers along the Lai,Lai tune)

01:15-01:30—Evan and Happie lead everyone to the staircase (you can stay in the same room if you like, but we wanted to get people moving around AND if people stand on the staircase the message from the script relates

better). Evan and Happie read the next part of the script about Jewish strife and making Judaism your own. This is also the part of the script where the “dating” profile cards were related to Judaism.

01:30-01:40—Evan and Happie chose group leaders before the program started (We chose experienced seniors/juniors and inspired sophomores) . While everyone was on the staircase, we asked the 8 group leaders to come down next to us. We divided the number of program participants by eight and divided people into groups as they walked down the stairs in a very organized fashion (worked out VERY well). **Group leaders were given explanation sheets about their group tasks** (making a new Jewish food dish and new holiday).

***Group people as you wish!

***The first 4 groups were sent back upstairs. The other 4 groups went to the kitchen.

01:40-01:45—Allow for groups to mingle and go to their location.

01:45-02:00—Half of the groups go back to the main room, the other half went to the kitchen.

02:00-02:05—Groups switch places (From kitchen, go to the main room. From main room, go to kitchen)

02:05-02:20— Group now works on other activity

MAKING A NEW JEWISH HOLIDAY:

Happie moderated this activity. Groups were given ONE notecard and sat in a circle. On the note card given, they were told to explain the details of the holiday their group created. We asked for them to include the following information: meaning behind holiday, customs of holiday, season of year and why, who celebrates it (American Jews, Israel, all Jews, etc.).

Example Holiday (was actually made by a group):

Jewish American Appreciation Day- This holiday was to celebrate the over 6 million Jews currently living in the United States. Many of these Jewish Americans have made significant contributions to the arts, media, culture, politics, Hollywood, medicine, and society in general. On this

holiday, it is a custom to watch a Jewish movie with friends/family. If this holiday were real, the group said they would promote studio production companies to film movies about Jews/Jewish Americans and release them on this day. This holiday is December 1 because the winter is a joyous time of year.

MAKING A JEWISH FOOD DISH:

Evan moderated this activity. Groups were given ONE note card and got to choose 3 fruits and 2 toppings. Before the program, Evan and Happie bought bananas, kiwis, apples, peaches, strawberries, blueberries, oranges, chocolate chips, mini marshmallows, honey, chocolate syrup, peanut butter, and coconut shavings (Total cost was less than \$40). Evan and Happie cleaned the fruits and divided the toppings into small bowls.

Each group was given a knife, a plate, 3 fruits, and 2 toppings to create a NEW Jewish food dish. Each ingredient added to the dish needed to have a relation/significance to Judaism.

Groups told they were being judged on:

- Presentation of dish
- Meaning behind each ingredient (to be written on note card)
- Quality of taste

02:20-02:45—Everyone meets back in the main room. Evan and Happie were reviewing the holidays and food dishes as the groups were creating them. Evan and Happie chose the best holidays/food dishes to be presented by three people from that group. Evan and Happie tasted many of the food dishes (some were great, others DISGUSTING), and chose a winner! The winning group won a batch of freshly baked cookies to share.

Time Required for Program:

- Less than 2 hours _____
- 2-5 Hours X
- 5-12 Hours _____
- More than 12 hours _____
- Weekend _____
- Any Length _____
- Ongoing _____

Program Type:

- Aleph-In-Training _____
- Alumni _____
- Arts _____
- Athletic _____
- Brotherhood _____
- Business Meeting _____
- College _____
- Community Service _____
- Convention _____
- Education _____
- Entertainment _____
- Exercise _____
- Fundraising _____
- Havdalah _____
- Hebrew _____
- Holocaust _____
- International Service Fund _____
- Israel _____
- Israel Advocacy _____
- Israeli Culture _____
- Jewish Holiday _____
- Judaic _____
- Kallah/Judaic Convention _____
- Leadership _____
- Leadership Training Convention _____
- Member-In-Training _____
- Membership _____
- Mind/Body/Attitude _____
- Movie/Film _____
- New Member Convention _____
- Online/Technology _____
- Other _____
- Political Activism _____
- Prayer/Services _____
- Recruitment/Outreach _____
- Retention _____
- Separates _____
- Shabbat _____
- Sisterhood _____
- Social _____
- Social Action _____
- Spirituality _____
- Travel/Adventure _____
- Women's Issues _____
- WOW!/Community Wide _____

Target Populations: (Who were the target populations?)

- Girls (BBG) _____
- Boys (AZA) _____
- Members _____
- Prospective Members _____
- Members-In-Training _____
- Alephs-In-Training _____
- Teen Leaders _____
- Convention Participates _____
- Freshmen _____
- Sophomores _____
- Juniors _____
- Seniors _____
- 8th Graders _____
- 6th-8th Graders (Teen Connection) _____
- Parents _____
- Alumni _____
- Summer Program Prospects _____
- Summer Program Alumni _____

- Community at-large _____
- Other _____

AZA:

- Athletic _____
- Judaic ___X___
- Community Service/Social Activism _____
- Education ___X___
- Social ___X___

How many people participated in the program overall?

- Under 10 _____
- 10-30 _____
- 30-60 _____
- 60-100 ___X___
- 100-200 _____
- 200 or more _____

EVAN & HAPPIE'S SCRIPT

The Eternal Jew

****LIGHTS SUDDENLY TURN OFF**

Happie: Stop! The year is 1942. We have word that the Nazis are getting closer to our small town in Poland,

Evan: The previous months have been filled with rising anti-Semitism from the vastly growing Nazi party.

H: From what we know of previous invasions, It is dangerous for Jews to be in large numbers and we are constantly hiding our Jewish faith.

E: We must not get caught, for we will lose our liberties as Jews and as human beings. So, it is necessary that you remain completely quiet.

H: We musn't abandon our faith. So tonight, we are going to conduct our havdallah service a little bit differently.

E: We must be as quiet as possible, our life is at stake. Please scootch close, whisper, and join me in the prayers.

Baruch ata adonai elohaynu melech ha olam boray pree hagafen boray pree hagafen

Barach ata adonai elohaynu melech ha olam boray mee nay vsameem boray me nay vsameem

Baruch ata adonai elohaynu melech ha olam boray moray haeish boray moray ha eish

Baruch ata adonai elohaynu melech ha olam Hamavdil bein kodesh lechol hamavdil bein kodesh lchol

Happie: BARUCH ATA ADONIA- BESSED ARE YOU GOD. May you support the Jewish people in their times of trouble.

Evan: Please line up and follow us silently and cautiously.- as you walk, ask yourself- what does it mean to be a Jew? To be part of a religion that has constantly rendered faith and perseverance.

****Everyone led to stairs and is standing on stairs and looking down.**

E: As you are looking down the staircase, look back. Look back at the numerous struggles that the Jews have faced.

H: For thousands of years, we have constantly been faced with reoccurring struggles, trials and tribulations. From the babalonians, to the romans

E: from the nazis to the KKK- our jewish ancestors have had a tough road to travel-

E&H: But we have overcome.

H: What is it about the Jews that makes them invincible?

E: Our ancestors never abandoned their faith in G-d by ceasing the practice of their religion its rich traditions.

H: As time has progressed, Judaism has modernized with the ages. Our Judaism isn't our parents Judaism. Though we connect in different ways, we are still connected.

E: And How can we ensure our generaion is just as prepared as our ancestors were?

H: You were just sitting in a program enjoying life and having fun with your friends. If it was 1942 and your Judaism was really challenged, how would you react?

E: Would you be prepared? Would your Judaism be strong enough?

H: It is vital that you make Judaism important in your life, in whatever way you choose to do so. If our people had not constantly made the sustenance of our culture and tradition a priority, we would not be here today. We would not be Jewish.

E: When you filled out what was most important to you on your card earlier tonight, chances are you did not put Judaism. but weren't **really** expecting you to. As time progresses, you will find your niche in Judaism. You will find your own personal connection that makes Judaism a vital part of your life. Judaism is all about pathways.

H: So strive to make Judaism you own. Find what aspect is appealing to you, whether it is culture or faith.

****EXPLANATION OF PROGRAM BEGINS**

E: Tonight, we are going to make new connections to Judaism.

H: As you walk down the stairs, stay in a line. You are going to be divided into groups.

E: In your groups, you are going to be creating new connections to Judaism.

LEAD PEOPLE DOWN STAIRS WITH THEIR GROUP LEADER!

*****After the selected groups presented** their holiday and/or food dish, Evan and Happie concluded the program by talking about:

-Make Judaism your own! If you want to make a new holiday, make it! Connect how you want to.

-As Jews, we will face anti-Semitism throughout our life. Look past their ignorance and overcome!

-ADD YOUR OWN POINT TO CONCLUDE WITH!

INFORMATION FOR GROUP LEADERS

1. **Create one new Jewish Holiday-** On the notecard you were given, please explain the details of the holiday your group created. Please include the following information: meaning behind holiday, customs of holiday, season of year and why, who celebrates it (American Jews, Israel, all Jews, etc.)
2. **Create a new Jewish food dish.** You are allowed to take three pieces of fruit and two toppings. You will not know your items until your kitchen shift. You will be notified of a shift change when the whistle is blowed.

Your group will be judged on the following:

- a. Presentation of dish
- b. Meaning behind each ingredient (write ingredients and meaning of each ingredient on second notecard)
- c. Quality of taste

You will have 15 minutes to do each!