

KENISSA

COMMUNITIES OF MEANING NETWORK

National Consultation

March 5-7, 2017

Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center
Falls Village, CT

Co-Sponsoring Organizations:



Kenissa is funded by grants from the William Davidson Foundation, William and Audrey Farber Foundation and Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, and is fiscally sponsored by Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

Consultation Goals:

1. Participants will see themselves and their work in the context of the larger social trends in American society and in the Jewish community and understand both the differences and similarities with the others at the Consultation;
2. Participants will understand key themes that are central to emerging Jewish communities of meaning (e.g. *chochma*, *tzedek*, *kedusha*, *yetzira* and *kehillah*) and explore how those themes might relate to their own work.
3. Seed the ground for Communities of Practice within *Kenissa* and strengthen the network going forward.

Sunday, March 5

All sessions will be held in the Synagogue unless otherwise noted.

4 pm	OPENING: Welcome and Grounding <i>Participants joining with each other and overall purpose of Consultation.</i> <i>Initial grounding in the Venn diagram.</i> To open each session, we'll be led in song by Renna Khuner-Haber and Ilana Lerman.
4:45 pm	CONNECTING: Sharing Our Leadership Stories, part 1 <i>Participants tell their own leadership story.</i> <i>Group explores range of the landscape through individual stories and mapping.</i>
6:00 pm	DINNER
7:30 pm	CONNECTING: Sharing Our Leadership Stories, part 2 <i>Continued exploration of the range of the landscape through individual stories and mapping.</i> <i>We will reflect on the range of responses reflected in the participant essays in response to Jewish Megatrends.</i>

Monday, March 7

7:00 am	MORNING GATHERING <i>Two concurrent options:</i> Kohenet <i>Davvening</i> - Rabbi Jill Hammer <i>In the Red Yurt</i> This prayer service in the style of the Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute will use chant, guided visualization, and communion with the natural world to attend to our connection with the Source of Life. We'll use Siddur haKohanot, the prayerbook of the Kohenet community, as our text, and our Hebrew prayers will be abbreviated in order that we may concentrate deeply on particular phrases. Our prayer will use female-gendered as well as male-gendered God-language, as well as other ways of understanding God. We will allude to the Torah portion but will not be formally reading Torah.
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	<p>Alternative <i>Shacharit</i>-Rabbi Natan Margalit <i>In the Lounge</i></p> <p>We will use chant, movement and meditation to feel ourselves forming a group, a <i>minyan</i> that is more than the sum of our individual parts. In addition to the regular Torah reading we will do an exercise that wakes us up to the nearly infinite possibilities for finding meaning in the Torah.</p>
8 am	BREAKFAST
9:00 am	<p>FRAMING: <i>Why Kenissa?</i> <i>Rabbi Sid will share why Kenissa was developed and participants will begin to understand how the Kenissa Network can benefit their work.</i></p>
10:15 am	BREAK
10:30 am	<p>PEER RESOURCING: 3 Breakout Sessions <i>Gaining wisdom through peer sharing with direct application to current work.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Funding: including strategies and models; overcoming challenge of asking; how funding can be scaled; trade offs. <i>In Great Hall</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEER EXPERT: Jane Shapiro FACILITATOR: Audrey Lichter Leadership: matching people with needs and gifts; making tough choices; multiple hats; managing transitions; loss and uncertainty. <i>In Sun Room</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEER EXPERT: Cheryl Cook FACILITATOR: Lisa Lepson Scale and growth: Balancing depth and breadth; growing infrastructure and program together; letting go. <i>In the Lounge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEER EXPERT: Judi Wisch FACILITATOR: Joshua Avedon
12:00 pm	LUNCH
1:30 pm	<p>PEER RESOURCING: 3 Breakout Sessions <i>Gaining wisdom through peer sharing with direct application to current work.</i></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilizing for Justice/Intersectionality: Working and building across multiple boundaries; countering oppression (micro/macro) <i>In Lounge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEER EXPERT: Julie Aronowitz FACILITATOR: Daniel Kaplan

	<p>2. <u>Covenanting</u>: Balancing accountability and hospitality; defining mission; dealing with change; belonging. <i>In Great Hall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PEER EXPERT: R. Dan Goldblatt ○ FACILITATOR: R. Miriam Margles <p>3. <u>Sustainability</u>: Personal well-being of self, staff, partners. <i>In Sun Room</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PEER EXPERT: R. Sara Luria ○ FACILITATOR: R. Ruth Sohn
3:00 pm	BREAK
3:15 pm	<p>HOW WE GATHER</p> <p><i>Presentation from Angie Thurston and Casper ter Kuile (Harvard Divinity School) on their work focused on new forms of community and spirituality on the American social landscape</i></p>
4:30 pm	BREAK
5:00 pm	<p>MINCHA</p> <p><i>Mincha/Soul Break and unstructured time</i></p> <p>Sacred Presence- Rabbi Miriam Margles <i>In the Lounge</i></p> <p>In this songful prayerful afternoon offering, we'll explore some subtle ways of relating to voice, breath and movement as pathways to attuned listening, releasing, opening and making ourselves available to Sacred Presence.</p> <p>Baruch Ata Adonai? - A Blessing Practice Rabbi Sara Brandes <i>In the Red Yurt</i></p> <p>We will explore the question, "Can prayer change us?" by experimenting with a blessing practice we offer on our Or HaLev silent meditation retreats, whose "effectiveness" has been demonstrated by science. Following a short discussion, we'll learn the blessing practice, try it out, and share our results. In so doing, we'll consider what we really mean when we say "Baruch Ata Adonai..."</p>
6 pm	DINNER
7:15 pm	<p>FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO OUR HOUSE: Where we go from here</p> <p><i>Individual reflection and group discussions</i></p>
8:30	<p>BEIT CAFÉ and PRAYERFORMANCE</p> <p>Hosted by Rische Groner and Ilana Lerman <i>In the Great Hall</i></p>

Tuesday, March 8

Time	Design/Activity
7:00am	<p>Morning Gathering <i>Two concurrent opportunities</i></p> <p>Gestures of Prayer- Hannah Kapnik Ashar <i>In the Lounge</i> We'll look at texts that describe gestures and body motions in prayer, and provide a space for private experimentation with embodied prayer in the context of traditional, song-rich <i>tefillah</i>.</p> <p>Embodied Shacharit -Julie Emden <i>In the Red Yurt</i> Discover your own sensing, moving body as a resource for cultivating presence in a grounding Iyengar-based yoga and movement prayer experience. Awaken all levels of being – mind, body, heart and spirit - in this gently energizing and awakening prayer practice. Wear comfortable loosely layered clothing in which you can easily move.</p>
8 am	BREAKFAST
9:00 am	<p>APPLICATION: Learning from the Breakouts <i>Individual reflection, peer coaching and large group discussion.</i></p>
9:45 am	<p>APPLICATION: Plugging In <i>Kenissa opportunities going forward, with focus on Communities of Practice.</i></p>
11:30 am	CLOSING
12:30 pm	LUNCH