

## IRAC's- Truly Loving Israel Program

### Goals:

- 1) PP's will think critically about different components of the State of Israel that evoke both positive and negative reactions (i.e. making Aliyah/proving Jewish status w/ Ministry of Interior, the struggle of Reform and Conservative Judaism, significance of national holidays, Israeli achievements, being touched by terrorism)
- 2) PP's will develop a deeper understanding of their personal emotions towards Israel
- 3) PP's will understand that truly loving Israel means becoming aware of, and tolerating its shortcomings and imperfections.

### Objectives:

- 1) By the end of the program, PP's will have learned the facts of both positive and negative aspects of Israel today.
- 2) PP's will have discussed central aspects of Israeli society and generated their own opinions on them.
- 3) PP's will become aware of the multiple emotions and various connections that all Jews have towards Israel and will be able to articulate the personal emotions that they have.

### Materials:

- Four sheets of paper, each labeled 1, 2, 3, or 4 (to designate rooms)
- As many sheets of paper as PP's (with a large heart drawn in the middle)
- As many paper hearts as PP's, cut into fourths (cut out of 8' by 11' sheets of paper)
- Around sixteen glue sticks (for PP's to glue sections of hearts onto their own papers after each discussion)
- At least four sharpies (or any markers) for GL's to number PP's hands as they enter room for intro to program (this will make organizing the PP's into 4 groups virtually effortless)
- As many copies of lyrics to David Broza's 'Yihyeh Tov' as PP's (for program intro)
- As many pens or pencils as PP's (for program intro)
- As many copies of this program as people involved in running it (PL, GL's, facilitators)

### People:

- **One Program Leader** (PL) to introduce, help facilitate and conclude program.
- **Four Group Leaders** (GL's) to lead the discussions on each emotion towards Israel.
  - \* Each of the four GL's should have copies of the cut-out hearts (i.e. GL in room 1 has the first quarter of the heart, GL in room 2 has the second quarter, GL in room 3 has the third quarter, and GL in room 4 has the fourth quarter, so that after all PP' have gone through all four rooms, the hearts on their sheets of paper are filled with different emotions.)
- **Four facilitators** to keep time limits of the programs in-check and to help ensure the PP's transition between rooms smoothly.
  - \* It is recommended that all people involved in the running of this program read through a copy of the program *before* it is actually run, so as to ensure the program runs as smoothly and effectively as possible.

### **Space needed:**

- One large room to introduce the program (should fit all PP's and leaders)
- Four smaller rooms adjacent to each other is ideal for the program
- Each small room will hold the discussion on each of the emotions towards Israel.

### **Timetable:**

00:00-00:05	GL's number PP's hands as they enter room (1, 2, 3 OR 4)
00:05-00:15	Introduction to program
00:15-00:20	PP's break out into four different rooms for activities/discussions
00:20-00:30	1 <sup>st</sup> rotation of discussions
00:30-00:35	transitions between rooms (PP's shift to the room on their right)
00:35-00:45	2 <sup>nd</sup> rotation of discussions
00:45-00:50	transitions between rooms (again- PP's shift to the room on their right)
00:50-01:05	3 <sup>rd</sup> rotation of discussions
01:05-01:10	transition between rooms (PP's continue to shift to the room on their right)
1:10-1:20	4 <sup>th</sup> rotation of marriage discussion
1:20-1:35	Closure of program- song session

### **Detailed procedure:**

#### **00:00-00:05 GL's number PP's hands as they enter room (1, 2, 3 OR 4)**

- Each GL should number the PP's as they enter the large room according to the room that they are assigned to, so that all PP's are divided about evenly into 4 different groups.

#### **00:05-00:15 Introduction to program**

- PL introduces program
- PP's have time to read through Broza's 'Yihyeh Tov' lyrics and identify the song's various emotions.
- (suggested to have the song playing while PP's are reading and responding to the lyrics)

#### **00:15-00:20 PP's break out into four different rooms for activities/discussions**

- After introduction, PL explains to entire group that they now have 5 minutes to get to their respective rooms, according to the numbers written on their hands.

#### **00:20-00:30 1<sup>st</sup> rotation of discussions and emotional responses**

- GL's have 10 minutes to lead discussions on their respective topics in every rotation.
- After each discussion comes to an end, GL's should give every PP in the group a piece of the heart and give them time to write down the emotion they've identified.
- Facilitators should let GL's know once 10 minutes are up, in case GL's overlook time limit. Facilitators should do this before every rotation.

#### **00:30-00:35 transitions between rooms (PP's shift to the room on their right)**

- Facilitators should help guide groups of PP's to their next rooms, as most won't really know where they are supposed to go next.
- This should happen during every rotation.

**00:35-00:45** 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation of discussions and emotional responses

**00:45-00:50** transitions between rooms (again- PP's shift to room on their right)

**00:50-01:05** 3<sup>rd</sup> rotation of discussions and emotional responses

**01:05-01:10** transition between rooms (PP's to shift to room on their right)

**1:10-1:20** 4<sup>th</sup> rotation of discussions

**1:20-1:30** **Wrap-up discussion**

- PP's should stay in the rooms of their 4<sup>th</sup> rotation for the wrap-up discussion.  
- After the wrap-up discussion, facilitators should instruct all PP's to go back to the large room they started in.

**1:30-1:45** **Closure of program- song session!**

- PP's come back together in large room for a song session, with an emphasis on Israel.

**Appendices:**

<i>1) Program Leader's Introduction Script</i>	<i>p.4</i>
<i>2) David Broza's Yihyeh Tov lyrics (make as many copies as PP's)</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>3) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Happiness and Joy</i>	<i>p.6</i>
<i>4) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Pride</i>	<i>p.6</i>
<i>5) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Anger, Frustration and Shame</i>	<i>p.8</i>
<i>6) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Fear and Insecurity</i>	<i>p.9</i>
<i>7) IRAC's wrap-up discussion sheet</i>	<i>p.10</i>

### **1) Program Leader's Introduction Script**

*PL should use the following script to introduce the program*

**What does it mean to love Israel?** So often we find ourselves singing Israel's praises- in our prayers, our songs, with our families and our friends. There's no doubt that the Land of Israel is deserving of our love, but to truly love something means that you are able to accept all of its flaws, regardless of what they are. THAT is unconditional love.

We love our families unconditionally, as do we love our true friends. Loving Israel unconditionally is possible too; but to truly love Israel, we must become aware of ALL of the emotions we as Jews have towards our homeland.

To quote Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of our affiliate, The Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) and leader of the non-denominational, women's only prayer group Women of the Wall:

*- "Love is what remains after you know the truth, it is not one emotion. To feel love means you can tolerate more than one emotion."*

**Anat is right- true love exists alongside many emotions; the same holds true for loving Israel.**

- The following program is designed to challenge your pre-conceived understandings on your feelings towards Israel. You will soon be moving in and out of different rooms, exploring both positive and negative aspects of the State of Israel. Keep Anat's revelation in mind- that love is not just one emotion; it is what remains after you know the truth about something.

Has anyone here ever heard of David Broza? (Give PP's some time to raise their hand/respond).

- David Broza is an Israeli singer and songwriter who has been moving listeners for over thirty years. In the next few minutes, you guys will have the chance to read the lyrics of one of his most famous songs- Yihyeh Tov- all will be good.

- As you read through Broza's lyrics about Israel, write down the different emotions that you think he expresses, as well as the different emotions that the words rouse in you."

**2) David Broza's Yihyeh Tov lyrics (make as many copies as PP's)**

**David Broza- Yihyeh Tov lyrics (Yihyeh Tov- All will be good)**

*\* As you read these words about Israel, write down the different emotions that you think the writer is expressing as well as the emotions the song arouses in you.*

I look out of the window  
and it makes me very sad,  
spring has left  
who knows when it will return.  
the clown has become a king  
the prophet has become a clown  
and I have forgotten the way  
but I am still here

And all will be good  
yes, all will be good  
though I sometimes break down  
but this night  
oh, this night,  
I will stay with you.

Children wear wings  
and fly off to the army  
and after two years  
they return without an answer.  
people live under stress  
looking for a reason to breathe  
and between hatred and murder  
they talk about peace.

And all will be good...

(Yes) up there in the sky  
clouds are learning how to fly  
and I look up  
and see a hijacked airplane.  
A government of generals  
divide the land,  
to what's theirs and ours  
and we do not/when will we see the end?

We will yet learn to live together  
between the groves of olive trees  
children will live without fear  
without borders, without bomb-shelters  
on graves grass will grow,  
for peace and love,  
one hundred years of war  
but we have not lost hope.

And all will be good...

I look out of my window  
maybe it has/will come  
a new day

Here comes the prince of Egypt  
oh how I rejoiced for him  
there are pyramids in (our) eyes  
and peace in his pipe  
and we said let's complete (it)  
and we'll live as brothers  
and he then said (let's) advance,  
just go out from the territories.

**3) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Happiness and Joy-  
The creation of the State of Israel in 1948:**

- GL's should use this guide to lead the discussion on Israel as a source of happiness and joy. When reading Ben Gurion's Declaration of Independence, pass the paper around to allow interested PP's to read the lines of the Declaration.

- **Israel was born upon the declaration of the State of Israel by David Ben Gurion on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948.** After thousands of years of overcoming unbelievable odds while living in the Diaspora, the Jewish people finally establish a Jewish state in Eretz Yisrael.

- (Now ask for volunteers to read from the Declaration of Independence)

\* Thus on May 14, 1948 at 4:00 p.m., Hay Iyar, the 5th of Iyar, Israel declared itself a state. After 2,000 years, the land of Israel was once more in the hands of the Jews.

David Ben Gurion read the Declaration of Independence over the radio:

*"The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here the spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world..."*

*"Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of the dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and restoration of their national freedom."*

*"Accordingly we, the members of the National Council met together in solemn assembly today and by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people... hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine to be called Israel..."*

*"With trust in the Rock of Israel, we set our hands to this declaration at this session of the Provisional State Council on Sabbath Eve, 5th Iyar 5708, 14th day of May 1948."*

- **GL: When independence was declared, the armies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria all attacked Israel.** With unprecedented determination, the newly born state managed to defeat these armies and retain its independence. This was a modern-day miracle.

- **Why do you think Independence Day- Yom Haatzmaut- is one of the most joyous holidays in Israel today?**

- Think of the thousands of years that the Jewish People lived in exile under foreign rule. Throughout all different periods of Jewish history, Jews were oppressed, restricted and basically held back from determining their own destiny.

- In Israel, Yom Haatzmaut is truly a commemoration of accomplishments of the past, a celebration of the State's present existence, and a nation-wide expression of hope for the future.

- **What emotions do you feel when you guys celebrate Yom Haatzmaut at home?**

- **How do these emotions differ from the emotions you feel when you celebrate America's independence day?**

\* Don't forget to give all PP's your pieces of the heart to glue to their sheets of paper.

#### **4) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Pride-**

##### **Israel's economic, technologic and humanitarian achievements over the past 61 years:**

- *GL should use this document to lead the discussion on Israel as a source of pride.*
- *When going over Israel's accomplishments, pass around this document to allow each PP the opportunity to read an achievement out loud.*

**- Israel, for the young country that she is, has made some unbelievable advancements in the last 61 years. The world's 100th smallest country, with less than 1/1000th of the world's population, can lay claim to the following:**

- \* The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.
  - \* Most of the Windows operating systems were developed by Microsoft-Israel.
  - \* Both the Pentium-4 microprocessor and the Centrino processor were entirely designed, developed and produced in Israel.
  - \* Voice mail technology was developed in Israel.
  - \* The technology for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis.
  - \* Israel's \$100 billion economy is larger than all of its immediate neighbors combined .
  - \* Israel designed the airline industry's most impenetrable flight security. US officials now look to Israel for advice on how to handle airborne security threats.
  - \* Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world.
  - \* Israel has the highest average living standards in the Middle East.
  - \* Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East.
  - \* In 1984 and 1991, Israel airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopian Jews (Operation Solomon) at Risk in Ethiopia, to safety in Israel.
  - \* When Golda Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel in 1969, she became the world's second elected female leader in modern times.
  - \* When the U. S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya was bombed in 1998, Israeli rescue teams were on the scene within a day — and saved three victims from the rubble.
  - \* Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship, and the highest rate among women.
  - \* Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity. (Including hundreds of thousands from the former Soviet Union)
  - \* Israel was the first nation in the world to adopt the Kimberly process, an international standard that certifies diamonds as “conflict free.”
  - \* Israel's Given Imaging developed the 1st ingestible video camera, so small it fits inside a pill. Used to view the small intestine from the inside, cancer and digestive disorders.
  - \* Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce.
- The State of Israel managed to accomplish all of the above while engaged in regular wars with an implacable enemy that seeks its destruction, and an economy continuously under strain by having to spend more per capita on its own protection than any other county on earth.

**- Why do you guys think Israel has achieved so much in such a short period of time?**

**- As a Jew, how do these considerable accomplishments make you feel?**

- \* *Don't forget to give all PP's your pieces of the heart to glue to their sheets of paper.*

**5) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Anger, Frustration and Shame**  
**- Understanding the lack of recognition of Reform and Conservative Judaism & challenges in making Aliyah:**

- GL should use this fact sheet to lead the discussion on Israel as a source of anger, frustration and shame. GL should pose as Israel's Minister of Internal Affairs (Eli Yishai) and explain to PP's entering the room that **they are now all Jews attempting to make Aliyah through the Ministry of the Interior and register with Israel's Chief Rabbinate to become citizens as Jews.**

- Use the list of questions below to question the PP's on their 'Jewishness'. Ask various PP's in the room the questions; allowing different PP's to answer different questions (so as to involve the entire group).

**Ask these questions to every group of PP's:**

- **Do you have any documentation that proves you are Jewish?**

(\*The documentation of US Jews doesn't say they are Jewish, let PP's know this fact)

- **Do you know Yiddish? If yes, say 5 words in Yiddish**

- **Is your family buried in a Jewish cemetery? If so, do you have pictures to prove it?**

- **What are all the Jewish holidays?**

- **Which prayers do you know? Recite the prayers to prove it.**

- **What food do you eat on Shavuot? (dairy) Why do we eat this food?**

- **What do you do on Yom Kippur? Why do Jews do this?**

- **What's on the Seder plate? What do these things symbolize?**

- **Do you have a relationship with a non-Jewish spouse?**

- **So it should be fairly obvious that registering as a Jew in Israel is quite difficult.**

- In Israel, there are two different frameworks for determining Jewish identity: those determined by the Ministry of the Interior- for purposes of immigration, and those determined by the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate- for purposes of assignment of Jewish status.

- While the Ministry of the Interior accepts immigrants to Israel as Jews if they have at least one Jewish grandparent (based on the 1950 Law of Return), the Rabbinate only recognizes Jews who are Jewish according to Halacha (traditional Jewish law).

- **Both Reform and Conservative forms of Judaism are NOT recognized in Israel.**

- Because of this, non-Orthodox converts and children of non-Orthodox converts are unable to register as Jews with Israel's Rabbinate.

- In effect, this means that people who are not Jewish according to Halacha can make Aliyah as Jews, but not register as Jews with the Rabbinate.

- **How did it feel to have your Judaism questioned by the government of Israel?**

- **How does it make you feel to know that both the Reform and Conservative Movements are not recognized in Israel?**

- **Does anyone think that the Orthodox Rabbinate's definition of what makes someone Jewish is too strict? Do you think that if the Rabbinate was not exclusively Orthodox that the criteria for registering as a Jew in Israel would be different?**

\* Don't forget to give all PP's your pieces of the heart to glue to their sheets of paper.

**6) IRAC's Fact Sheet: Israel as a source of Fear and Insecurity**

**Understanding the wars that Israel has fought in since its birth:**

- GL should use this fact sheet to lead the discussion on Israel as a source of fear and insecurity. Read the list of wars out loud to the entire group in order to begin the discussion.

- In 1967: The Six Day War broke out between Israel and its neighbors Egypt, Jordan and Syria
- In 1973: The Yom Kippur War occurred between Israel and Egypt and Syria
- In 1982: The First Lebanon War broke out between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization operating out of Southern Lebanon.
- In 1987: The First Intifada erupted- a Palestinian uprising against Israel
- In 2000: The Second Intifada unfolded- another Palestinian uprising
- In 2006: The Second Lebanon War between Israel and Hezbollah
- In 2008: the Gaza War (also known as 'Operation Cast Lead') broke out between Israel and Hamas.

GL: It should be pretty clear that Israel has had to fight continuously to defend its borders and secure its people. Many of Israel's neighbors were reluctant to accept its legitimacy; most still resent its very existence.

**How do you think you'd feel if you were raised in a country surrounded by angry and often militant neighbors?**

**Do you agree with the compulsory army service that is ingrained in Israel's society? Why or why not?**

**What do you think are the root causes of these continued wars with various states and organizations? Are these wars preventable?**

*\* Don't forget to give all PP's your pieces of the heart to glue to their sheets of paper.*

**IRAC's wrap-up discussion sheet**

- GL should use this document to sum-up what everyone has learned during this program.

- The following questions are designed to encourage PP's to articulate some of the different emotions that they, as Jews, have towards Israel.

- How do you think it felt to be in Israel in 1948, when independence was declared?
- What are some other things about Israel that make you feel happiness and joy?
- Did any of Israel's accomplishments that we previously discussed stand out as particularly significant? Why or why not?
- Can you guys name one thing about Israel that is a source of pride for you?
- Did anyone feel bothered when their Judaism was challenged by the Ministry of the Interior when we discussed Israel as a source of Shame, anger and frustration? Why??
- Was anyone surprised when they learned that the only recognized stream of Judaism in Israel is Orthodox Judaism? Why do you guys think that the Reform and Conservative Movements are not recognized in Israel?
- Are there other things about Israel that cause you to feel anger? Frustration? Shame?
- Did reviewing Israel's wars make anyone feel uncertain about Israel's security? Why or why not?
- When considering the concept and the reality of the modern State of Israel, what other emotions come to mind??

*Once 10 minutes have passed, GL's and facilitators should instruct PP's to re-group in the room everyone started in for a closing song session.*