

# **JEWISH STAR WEBINAR:** **LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!**

**With Billy Jonas**  
**Outline 2.6.19**

1. INTROS by participants
2. MEDITATION
3. WHEN DOES YOUR EVENT BEGIN? A. When contracted/set up; B. When you arrive; C. When you step out onto bima/stage/classroom....
4. KAVANAH, and HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS — FOR YOU...? FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS... ? What's your vision? What does it feel like? And look like? And sound like?
5. SPACE — once you have defined success, and established some kavanah, how can we organize all elements of a space to support your vision, and to maximize success. (physical space vs mental/emotional/spritual space of constituents/community)
6. INSIDE VS OUTSIDE
7. STAGE VS ALL ON SAME LEVEL
8. ROOM ITSELF — PREP (see below)

**Helpful documents / checklists:** • Contract • Rider • Event Advancing Sheet - each sheet refines expectations.

**Stack the deck for maximum success: Establish expectations, on your part and theirs, in the interest of eliminating distractions and barriers to success....**

- Size of room - appropriate? Can you all fit in a smaller space
- Features of room - are there windows where distractions may occur? Where is the door or doors? Can those be at the back of the room, instead of behind you, or any place where participants will be distracted by people coming and going? Where are bathrooms? Will people be visibly walking by
- Noises - eliminate
- Acoustics - can you employ baffles (curtains, etc) to eliminate distracting echos? Can you set up sound reflectors (turn a table on its side to reflect sound....)
- Boundaries - are they clear? Do they contain people?
- Lights - do they enhance what's happening? Is the sun melting people, or in their eyes?
- Safety concerns — wires people might trip over
- Smells
- Physical distance of you from participants
- Seating - fixed verse flexible/moveable? cushions? Mats? Floor? Combo?
- Spaces - elimination of empty spaces
- Temperature - too hot? Too cold? Drafts? Noisy AC turning on and off?

**You are large and in charge!** Visualize and establish in writing (with contracts/riders/gig advance sheets) what you're going for; ask kindly for all changes necessary to achieve your vision; gracefully accept whatever limitations or challenges remain.

(more below)....

# GROUP ORGANIZATION STRATEGIES:

## WAYS TO ORIENT PARTICIPANTS FOR MAXIMUM SUCCESS (USING FOOD AS VISUAL METAPHORS)

“matzah” - traditional, in a square

“knish” -- semi circle, my favorite

“latke” - one big circle of people. Leader can be in the center, or at a point on the circle.

“bagel” - concentric circles of people (maybe folks near center of circle sitting, folks in the outside rings standing....)

“jelly donut” -- like Rick Recht likes to do, get everyone squished together.... Yummy in the center.

“burekas” - people in a triangle shape

“hamantashchen” - when you orient people to face towards a corner of a room, with the leader at the apex/in the corner. i use this often in unamplified settings with a lotta distractions, to increase the focus on the leader.

“bially” or “breadstix” or “twix” - a gauntlet of two rows, where one row is participants, and one is leader/leaders

You might have a different designation for whether the participants are s'posed to be sitting or standing for each of these.... Make up new ones! Like maybe matza is sitting in a square, and keugel is standing in a square. Regarding the knish shape — depends if you got your knish from the guy in Soho, where they are square, or the guy near Wall St. where they are samosa shaped....

## BILLY JONAS

Performer, songsmith, educator, and multi-faith advocate, Billy has performed worldwide since 1987. His 10 CDs, 2 DVD's and PBS special feature voice, guitar and 'industrial re-percussion' -- instruments made from found, foraged and recycled objects. In addition to solo and Billy Jonas Band shows and Shabbatonim, Billy's latest project is Abraham Jam, a Jewish/Christian/Muslim trio. When home, Billy is a cantorial soloist at his Asheville NC synagogue. From the White House to the West Bank/Palestine, from the U.K. to Israel, each concert is a soul-spelunking, heart healing, joy-filled journey.

BillyJonas.com • [AbrahamJam.com](http://AbrahamJam.com) • [Cdbaby](http://Cdbaby) - Billy Jonas Music - buy here! • [Billy Jonas Youtube](http://BillyJonasYoutube)

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