



CONSTRUCTING

Our Imagined Community

How can we envision our Imagined Community? Last week JInsider and The Jewish Week co-hosted a brainstorming session with top Jewish thinkers, activists and journalists. The focus of the conversation was to collectively design the potential of our Imagined Community. The blueprint below is a summary detailing priorities, barriers and possibilities discussed. We also want to hear your ideas! Please visit the Imagined Community website at www.jinsider.com or e-mail connect@jinsider.com. Please also let us know if you want to be considered to take part in a brainstorming discussion.



Priorities:

- Eradicate poverty for Jews and the world
- Provide affordable, quality universal educational opportunities (schools, camps, college experiences and adult programs)
- Transmit Jewish values from one generation to another
- Properly fund communal activities
- Communicate in an effective manner the Jewish story worldwide
- Ensure a thriving, secure Israel and peace with its neighbors

Other Priorities:

- Connect our community better
- Create priority process for allocating resources and focus
- Foster a tolerant environment for discussion
- Motivate younger generation to be engaged community members

Barriers:

- Leadership vacuum
- Wrong people at the table
- Loss of values/Lack of proper education
- Egos and the current structure of competing organizations
- Funding

Other Barriers:

- Need to define what it means to be Jewish and what are Jewish values)
- Institutional bureaucracy and inertia
- Fragmentation and lack of compromise mentality
- The Rabbinate
- Lack of an immediate crisis to motivate action and funding

What will Our Imagined Community look like?

Lee Hendler, Trustee, Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds: "My Jewish community is a virtual and real world community that invites every Jew to come in. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, Judaism has something to make your life, and the lives of everyone around you more sacred and joyous. These institutions, organizations, experiences are yours to use, grow and to pass on as you see fit for those who come after you.. Judaism is your blessing to yourself, your inheritance to protect and celebrate. Enjoy it. Live it. Pass it on."



THE BLUEPRINT

Focus:

Return to basics with a strong outcome orientation
 Mission to heal the world and be a "Light unto the Nations"
 Address real issues on the ground such as education, poverty and volunteerism by taking on eight broad-based aspirational initiatives to generate support for actions with real milestones and measurements (UN Millennial Model)

Structure:

Few but well-funded, democratized institutions
 Nexus around relevant-specific issues
 Modern technology used to mobilize resources and share ideas
 Transparent and accountable with minimal redundancy and resources generously shared

Personality:

Possesses a strong Jewish identity
 Capable of meaningful dialogue and appreciates differences
 Leaders are educated, active, farsighted and passionate.
 They exemplify and practice our values.

Where do we go from here?

1. Facilitate further discussion with community members and organizations to expand and refine collective wisdom
2. Finalize initial assessment of Priorities, Barriers and Community Blueprint
3. Develop initial Millennial Goals for the community based on meetings and by leveraging Israel 60 and UN efforts
4. Report findings to community and leading Jewish organizations to make our Jewish Experience more meaningful and eternal

