

THE MURDERED JEWESS

for adult and teen learners



Shining the Light

This exercise is designed to help you and your students deal with the difficult or hidden parts of personal or communal history.

1.) Choose whether you would prefer to focus on:

- a.) A personal story that you might find challenging or that you feel reveals some things that might not be points of pride or have been previously hidden
- b.) A family or intimate community story that shares the same parameters as the personal narrative
- c.) A story from your nation or a larger community's history that is also difficult in the ways indicated above

2.) First, reflect on why this story may have remain hidden and what the fears are about it being revealed. Make some notes on these reflections if you find it helpful to do so.

3.) Now, reflect on what has been lost because this story has not been told. Has some part of your history been denied? Are there gaps in understanding your family? Are there challenges that could be dealt with more effectively if we engaged with more complete information? Write down your thoughts if you find it helpful to do so.

4.) Next, write down details of the story as they occur to you. Dates, names, places, etc.

5.) Write down questions that are unanswered. Are there gaps in the story for which you need more information?

6.) Attempt to answer these questions through research (conversations with friends and/or colleagues, reading source materials, etc.) Some questions may remain unanswered.

7.) Return to your details of the story and add any new information you may have received to that list.

8.) On your phone or on your computer, record yourself (in video format) telling the story. This may take 5 minutes or it may take 20. Include all the details you feel are necessary. Acknowledge the places where there are uncertainties. Talk about the spots that make you uncomfortable.

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9.) At the end of the story, record yourself talking about what lesson you think this story has to teach or what you learned by telling it.

10.) Watch your video. Reflect on if there is a value in sharing this story with others and what might be gained and lost by doing so. If you decide it is wise, identify with whom you would like to share it. If not, keep this for yourself and allow its information and lessons to influence you.