

# SISTERHOOD PROGRAM IDEAS

## Beginning the Conversation

The introductory Conversation Pieces are true stories of people in our communities, in their own words. Whether intermarried, same sex, with adopted and bi-racial children or without children, these families have experienced attitudes and biases that sometimes – perhaps often – resulted in a sense of marginalization or exclusion.

As you read them, listen to their words – think about their experiences and how they might have led to feelings of being an outsider, or different.

What can we do as a Jewish community to encourage everyone to enter the tent – that they are welcome – as a Jewish family just like any other?



### Program I: In Their Own Words

The leader should familiarize herself with the conversation pieces (there are 8). They are different but each has a common thread. Decide how many to feature.

1. Choose volunteers to read the Conversation Pieces and be sure that they read them over beforehand.
2. Set the room with the readers' chairs in front.
3. Each volunteer reads her Conversation Piece.
4. When they are finished reading, ask the group to discuss them, perhaps using the following questions:
  - a. *Whose story/stories did you find the most troubling?*
  - b. *Whose story/stories did you find the most difficult to believe?*
  - c. *What kinds of changes can our sisterhood promote?*

### Program II: In Their Own Words

You will need flip charts or large pieces of paper and markers.

Make two copies each of the Conversation Pieces you have selected.

1. Follow the procedure for Program I, but when the readers finish, break up into groups, based upon the number of Conversation Pieces. Give each group one hard-copy Conversation Piece.
2. Ask each group to highlight 6 words in their assigned Conversation Piece that they think important and illustrative. (About 10 minutes).
3. Reassemble the entire group and ask a representative from each small group to make a short presentation on the words they selected. (This would be most effective if they could write their 6 words on a large sheet of paper for the whole group to see.)
4. Include time for a short follow up discussion.