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Judaism Your Way

www.judaismyourway.org



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Judaism Your Way (JYW) believes that outreach cannot be successful if it only means inviting people to “our” organizations and “our” way of being Jewish. This is certainly true in Denver, where 60% of the Jewish community, or as many as 50,000 Jews, are not involved with Jewish life. To thrive in the future, JYW feels that the Jewish community needs to extend itself to the very population it currently turns off. JYW pioneers this approach by providing life cycle event counseling, traditional celebrations in non-traditional ways, and alternative approaches to Jewish education, specifically designed for Jews who don’t fit the mold, such as interfaith families, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Jews, and Jews who do not feel at home in synagogues and traditional institutions.

To be inclusive of the broadest possible Jewish community, JYW offers educational programs such as the Open Tent B’nai Mitzvah Program, which offers five bar or bat mitzvah ceremony options, including a traditional Torah service, interactive theater, or a presentation of a Jewish research topic. JYW also offers adult education, an interfaith couples group for expecting parents, and referrals to organizations throughout the Jewish community. Since its founding, JYW has engaged more than 6,000 individuals through various programs. Going forward, JYW would like to alter the way Jewish outreach is viewed in communities across the country.

Evaluators are impressed with JYW’s accomplishments in Denver, “where there is a huge need.” One evaluator feels JYW has recently experienced “growth and achievement” that reflect years of hard work. Another evaluator believes that “charismatic leadership and educators are the key to JYW’s success and the reason [it is] gaining traction.”

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