

1. Big Idea: To develop an "illustration" of Joshua Elkin's method of teaching end of life practice through the values they represent.
2. Elevator Speech: Traditionally, Jewish life cycle has been taught chronologically. This answers the "what" we do, but not "why." Rabbi Joshua Elkin suggests organizing the material by the values the practices exemplify. This presentation does just that, and illustrates those ideas with pictures, references to Jewish texts, and examples of current practice.
3. Teaching the last life cycle transition organized by the values inherent in the practice is an innovative idea proposed by Rabbi Joshua Elkin. Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky takes this idea a step forward in a power point presentation. She illustrates each value not only with pictures, but with verses from Torah, Talmud and prayerbook, as well as listing many current practices that exemplify each value. It can be used as
 - *a teaching tool for independent study
 - *as a resource for teachers who will want to explore the various sources listed, or use it to teach Jewish practice at the end of life
 - *a thoughtful exercise for those familiar with the topic to think about it in terms of values.
4. Charming illustrations, engaging stories from ancient sources tell what Jews do as someone makes the transition from life to death.
5. WHY Jews Do What They Do When Someone Gets Sick and Dies.
6. --NA
7. BIO: Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky was ordained at Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2007 after a career as a clinical social worker. She has studied with the Gamliel Institute for 4 years, and was instrumental in establishing a chevra kadisha and consecrating a Jewish cemetery in Williamsburg, VA. She currently serves as a Hospice chaplain for VITAS in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she uses her family therapy work, artwork and rabbinics to comfort the dying and the bereaved.
8. See Below
9. Me'irah Susan Iliinsky San Francisco, California

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11. Education/ Survey (Curriculum?) (Presentation?)
12. Target Audience: Synagogues, Hebrew Schools, Community, Bikur Holim Group, Chevra Kadisha?

13. Not sure how to make links. It links to Josh Elkin's article. Hopefully, someone can record



me giving the presentation, but it would be good to also just HAVE the presentation on the website.

13. G. I have learned from Rabbi Stu at Gamliel to look at the FUNCTION of rituals. I have learned that Jews today want to know “why?” searching for the values laden in our current (and ancient) rituals makes them more compelling. It has taught me to ask the question, “What Jewish value does this ritual articulate?” “How does this ritual assist the bereaved in their process?” “What are the principles that Judaism has held dear for millennia, and how have these principles or values kept Judaism alive for so long?”

In addition to examining the values, I have also added some verses from Jewish canonical texts. I learned that the values are exemplified even from very long ago in these ancient texts. It has allowed me another critical tool in examining the stories of our tradition.

(Dan, is this what Stu is looking for here?)