



How to Make a Family Portrait — with Hanoach Piven

An Educational Program Guide by Lisa Friedman



**THE JEWISH
EDUCATION PROJECT**

Developed in partnership with The Jewish Education Project

Overview

In this 100-minute intergenerational program, families will share their stories with one another and with the community through a creative art experience — making family portraits based on the work of Israeli artist Hanoah Piven.

Enduring Understanding

Family stories are powerful. Sharing them links us to the generations that came before us, to the generations to come, and to our collective Jewish narrative. According to [research](#) from Dr. Marshall Duke and Dr. Robyn Fivush, the more children know about their family's history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives and the higher their self-esteem. Art is one way of telling family stories.

Goals

- Engage in a meaningful and fun Jewish learning experience as a family (children, parents, grandparents, other family members).
- Understand that knowing our family's story helps us to grow more confident and resilient.

Materials

O: Organization provides

F: Families bring

F	Devices to connect with extended family members (cell phone, iPad, laptop, etc.)
O	Large piece of thick cardboard or cardstock for each participant/family
O	Colored construction paper
O	Markers
O	Scissors
O	Glue guns or glue bottles
O, F	Large quantity of household objects (buttons, bottle tops, yarn, stickers, feathers, small toys, combs, leaves, pebbles from the garden, playing cards, beads, small costumes pieces, plastic utensils, etc.)
O	Printed copy of guidelines for each family/table

O	Printed copy of Why Sharing Family Stories Is Good for Your Grandchildren for each family/table
O	Name tags for participants, pens/markers
O	Screen and projector, speakers, computer to show JGN's Hanoch Piven's how-to video

Suggested Room Setup

- Large room with good cell reception and strong Wi-Fi
- Clear directions to connect to Wi-Fi
- One table with 4–6 chairs per family — enough space to spread out materials and set up devices to connect with long-distance family members
- Table coverings, if desired
- Place card with directions on each table
- Microphone, if needed

Timing (100-minute program)

O: Organization does

F: Families do

O	Welcome, outline of agenda, and set induction	15 minutes
O	Introduction to Hanoch Piven and watching video	15 minutes
F	Portrait creation	40 minutes
F	Sharing portraits	15 minutes
O	Wrap-up	15 minutes

Program

0:00–0:15 Welcome, outline of agenda, and set induction

Rabbi/educator/facilitator shares the following texts with participants:

1. "The great questions — Who are we? Why are we here? What is our task? — are best answered by telling a story. This is fundamental to understanding why Torah is the kind of book it is: not a theological treatise or a metaphysical system but a series of interlinked stories extended over time, from Abraham and Sarah's journey from Mesopotamia to Moses' and the Israelites' wanderings in the desert. Judaism is less about truth as system than about truth as story. And we are part of that story. That is what it is to be a Jew." ~Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks
2. "And you shall tell your child. . . ." ~Exodus 13:8

In small groups, discuss what these texts teach us about storytelling.

- Why is storytelling important? (possible responses include: helps us understand ourselves and others—and the past; it's an accessible way to convey values; stories can have different meanings for each listener; entertains while informing)
- What are some ways we tell stories as Jews? (*Torah stories, holiday stories, Jewish folktales, rabbi's sermons*) As families? (*at family meals and celebrations*) How are these the same/different? (*Seders and Hanukkah rituals are largely celebrated as families; a celebration such as brit/baby naming or bar/bat mitzvah is both Jewish and often part of a community celebration and part of a family's story.*)
- What are some other ways to share stories? (*photographs, videos, art, social media*)

0:15–0:30 Introduction: Hanoch Piven

Hanoch Piven is an award-winning Israeli illustrator, educator, and seasoned creative motivator. Piven's artwork is unique in both form and method. By reinventing the meaning and use of everyday objects, he creates associations between these objects and the subject of his creation.

Say: We are now going to watch a video of Hanoch Piven demonstrating how to create a family portrait, produced by the Jewish Grandparents Network.

Show JGN's [Hanoch Piven video](#).

Explain that participants will create their own portraits. They can do this any way they choose: each person makes a self-portrait, each person makes a portrait of another family member, everyone works together to make one family portrait.

Encourage participants to think about the following as they create their portraits: