



JEWISH CARTOON WORKSHOP FAQs

We're all storytellers. There's no one alive who isn't a storyteller, even if they don't think they are. Every day is a story. —Steven Spielberg (@NYTimes)

WHAT IS THE JEWISH CARTOON WORKSHOP?

The Jewish Cartoon Workshop is an exciting and innovative structured program led by veteran Batman editor and cartoonist Jordan B. Gorfinkel. Gorf gets every participant creating their own cartoons on Jewish Themes, i.e. *Parshat Hashavua* (Torah portion of the week), Israel, holidays, family profiles and/or Jewish tales and values, and then collects them into a comic book for the participants to share. Best of all, *everyone can do this*. NO DRAWING SKILL NECESSARY. Really! And while this one-of-a-kind program is child-friendly, it's *not childish*—it's for the entire family age range. Read on...

...Or check out these informative **VIDEOS** first and see it in action (many more available on Instagram @JewishCartoon):

- Families (Adults and Youths):

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C4UvdgdOyMC/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

https://www.dropbox.com/s/owcus7o0ur4zrfq/JCW_KMS_RoomPan.MOV?dl=0

- Schools:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DAUiiIjNCDO/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

- Summer Camps:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CvURMwngUFO/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFiZA==

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEjgKoBzQwA>

- Israel Programs:

Students:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C2kB9War8rb/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA==

Adults & Families:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3Oy_9PNh0K/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA==

HOW A SESSION WORKS:

Gorf opens each session with an overview of the Jewish theme and an interactive demonstration of how to adapt the theme into a story. Every participant completes one comic strip. Participants are hands-on with the interlocking stages of producing comics, including brainstorming, writing, penciling, inking and lettering. They utilize the same pencils and pens that professionals use and illustrate on regulation comic book board (see Appendix A: Materials List & Budget).

In a flash, every participant has created their own Jewish- or Israel-themed cartoon! (See Appendix B for link to Topics).

WHAT IF I CAN'T DRAW?

No prior drawing experience or expertise required. If the participant can tell a story (and everyone most certainly can!), s/he can create comics. This is because comics is not about sophisticated art; rather, it's about telling a simple, concise and clear story using a combination of words and pictures—as basic as stick figures...and *everyone* can draw a stick figure, right? In fact, for many people, detailed drawing gets in the way of clear storytelling by creating unrealistic expectations and frustrations.

In today's world, in which superheroes have never been more popular, and graphic storytelling and concise viral content are increasingly important currency, the skills the Jewish Cartoon Workshop employs are sublime and valuable to reinforce Jewish

identity, connection and pride. Gorf has worked extensively with schools, camps and families of all backgrounds, the world over.

Therefore, the workshop is, in actuality, a communications primer dressed as cartooning. The ability to communicate clearly and concisely is an invaluable skill to have in our increasingly fractured digital landscape and comics is its purest distillation. But don't tell the participants that they're learning; they're having too much fun!

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE AND HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS?

The Workshop is particularly enjoyable for adults, teens and families; and also students in a variety of settings.

AGE GROUPS:

- Grades 9 and Up: Ideally 36 max; Up to 50 possible with proper staff support
- Families: Up to 75+. It depends on several factors; please inquire
- Grades 5-8: Max 30 participants

DO YOU HAVE A PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY GRADE AGES?

Yes, Gorf offers a younger track customized for ages corresponding to grades 1-4; see below for details.

HOW MANY DAYS IS THE WORKSHOP?

The Jewish Cartoon Workshop is available for individual sessions, full days, and also multi-day residences.

During each day, Gorf can lead several workshops in one track, or combine different tracks for different age groups, as follows:

1. **MAIN TRACK:** Participants create four-panel (box) cartoons in the newspaper comic strip style (e.g. Peanuts/Snoopy)
 1. 110-120 minute program
 2. Up to 3 SESSIONS per day
2. **ABRIDGED TRACK:** Participants create one-panel (box) cartoons with captions (e.g. The Far Side, Family Circus)
 1. 80-90 minute program
 2. Up to 4 SESSIONS per day
3. **COMBINATION OF TRACKS:** Please Inquire

Gorf can tell you from tons of experience that the full durations listed above are necessary for the participants to complete their cartoons, especially when he has many participants and wants to personally ensure everyone's success and enjoyment.

HOW ARE THE TIME PERIODS SPENT? (THE PARTICIPANTS DON'T GET RESTLESS?)

There's not enough time to be bored! Gorf knows that the average participant needs this total length of time to do all the steps successfully. Gorf has additional projects for those who work faster and a backup plan for those who work slower. You won't see the wheels turning while the program is running, but he's training his expert eye on progress to keep the participants moving along. The time *flies* while we're cartooning, with everyone fully engaged in telling stories, drawing, learning and laughing! That's why kids do not get restless.

HOW MANY PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ON HAND AS IN-PERSON GUIDES?

- Grades 9 and Up: 1-2 support staff
- Families: 2-4 volunteers to monitor supplies
- Grades 5-8: 1 support staff per 12 children
- Grades 1-4: see below

WHAT IS THE PREFERABLE LOCATION?

- Indoors: Experience has shown that the preferable location is a well-ventilated room with tables or benches that is reasonably secluded from distractions, and conducive to focus and inspiration. Dining rooms are great; play rooms are less ideal because they pose distractions.
- Summer Camps: well-shaded outdoor area with tables or benches that is reasonably secluded from distractions, and conducive to focus and inspiration.

WHAT ARE THE DETAILS OF THE ELEMENTARY GRADE TRACK?

For Grades 1-4 (the youngest ages that kids can draw and write, which are prerequisites for cartooning), Gorf offers an complementary track. Participants work in teams of four. They develop their story together as a team, and divide up the drawing so that each student draws one panel that, taken together, add up to one complete cartoon. Each team is captained by an adult, counselor or caregiver, and Gorf guides the entire process.

IS THERE A "MASTER CLASS" TRACK?

Gorf is pleased to now offer a Master Class Track in which dedicated participants advance through single- and four-panel cartoons to a full page “superhero”-template comics page and Graphic Novel story. Please inquire for details.

WHAT SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED, WHO PROVIDES THEM, AND WHAT’S THE COST?

Gorf provides a supply list (see Appendix A) for you to purchase easily procured items at the local office supply store, such as Sharpie permanent ink pens. Generally the items total less than a hundred dollars (some of the materials you may already have on hand, like scratch paper, rulers and pens). There are two specialty items:

- A. Specific pencils that you may order online (see Appendix A); and
- B. Templates that clients print out (see Appendix B).

At the conclusion of the workshop, Gorf scans participants’ cartoons to edit and compile the work into the comic book collection. Participants keep their original artwork.

WHAT’S THE WORKSHOP’S TRACK RECORD? MAY I GET A RECOMMENDATION?

The workshop has been hosted successfully across more than a decade at many synagogues, JCCs, and Jewish schools (including several Solomon Schechters, Ramaz, and Fuchs Mizrahi School), and camps (the Ramah, URJ, Moshava and Young Judea systems), in addition to PJ Library events, to name a very few). Gorf has himself attended Reform, Conservative and Orthodox day schools, and Yeshiva in Israel, and is comfortable in all denominational settings.

TESTIMONIALS:

- Camp Ramah Darom (addressing another executive): <http://youtu.be/f-bmXKnY80Q>
- School Principal:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/yag004fzyhuod66/PHGN_JCW_StephenSWiseSchool_Testimony.mp4?dl=0
- Parents:
https://www.instagram.com/reel/C4ehLmINs80/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hg4a6egb9fa9mz52pyzsn/JCW_WallingfordPA_020925_ToSend.mov?rlkey=7o155mltd5bpytluge1xlqq1v&st=fwcziqbp&dl=0
- Article:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/se0tqfe8c31akuv/JCW_SSDSofBC_ToSend.pdf?dl=0.

More recommendations and/or referrals available upon request.

The best proof of success is in the smiles generated by *thousands* of cartoons and dozens of comic books that have been produced by *many thousands* of participants of all ages and backgrounds who have participated in the Jewish Cartoon Workshop.

DO YOU OFFER OTHER PROGRAMMING?

Gorf is a dynamic speaker whose engaging discussions about Jews and comics inspire audiences of all ages and backgrounds in their Jewish identity, pride and continuity. His motto: MAKE JUDAISM YOUR SUPERPOWER!

Details at www.JewishCartoon.com

APPENDIX A: MATERIALS LIST & BUDGET (Pre-approved Travel Invoiced Separately)

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Budget:</u>	<u>Qty:</u>
Day Rate Honorarium:	\$2500.00 USD	3 sessions
Ala carte:	\$1500.00	1 individual session
<i>Program Materials:</i>		
Black Sharpies (Ultra Fine Point)	\$0.75	1 to 1.5 per participant
Black Sharpies (Fine Point)	\$1.00	1 to 1.5 per participant
White Out Brand (With Brush)	\$2.00	3
Sanford brand Prismacolor Pencil #919, Non-Photo Blue (FYI if it has an eraser, it's the wrong type of pencil) – see link at bottom	\$1.35	1 per participant
Pencil Sharpeners	\$0.50	3
Professional Comic Book Board	Client Prints Out	Enough for everyone
Scrap Paper (for scripting)	Client Provides	Enough for everyone
Regular pens or pencils (for scripting)	Client Provides	1 per participant
<i>Post-Production:</i>		
Printer/Scanner	Client Provides	n/a

- Sanford brand Prismacolor Pencil #919, Non-Photo Blue — recommended vendor:
https://www.dickblick.com/items/prismacolor-premier-colored-pencil-non-photo-blue/?clicktracking=true&wmcp=pla&wmcid=items&wmckw=20508-5531&country=us¤cy=usd&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAzba9BhBhEiwA7glbanWwyn-AnHbKMhR3mc3_2uo90p1Ccy2gvocTP_IQP-IEMFrpg_7y1hoCJ_QQAvD_BwE

APPENDIX B: TEMPLATES, TOPICS & SET UP

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LzEO6rql8NximNrd0EM1jvndInt1fMvLhfNrzLTpw18/edit?usp=sharing>