

May 26, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

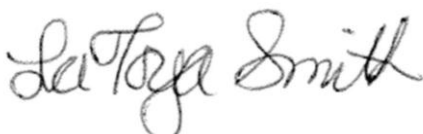
It is my supreme privilege to recommend Mr. Ron Jones and Mr. Larry Jay Tish of the Black Jew Dialogues to your school/organization for diversity training purposes. Our community was blessed with the presence of Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish in February 2011 for a five-day community impact experience. Brought to the area by Evansville's Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series, a city-wide initiative which has brought the likes of Khaled Hosseini, Marlee Matlin, and Retired Gen. Colin Powell, the Black Jew Dialogues was by far the best event that the Series hosted and was the event that truly fulfilled the mission and intent of the Series.

The Black Jew Dialogues is a diversity training godsend in numerous ways. First, its facilitators/actors, Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish, are the right individuals for the job. Passionate, incredibly hard-working, down-to-earth, painstakingly honest, and inspiring are just a few words to describe both Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish. In their five-day visit to Evansville, Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish literally took over the city. They were everywhere from the Jewish synagogue to a predominantly African American Baptist church to a local high school auditorium to a corporate forum room in which they facilitated industry-specific cultural sensitivity workshops. Very rarely do you meet individuals who are willingly to go wherever and whenever to get the work done. Their visit was truly high-impact, something that the normal two-hour diversity training session cannot begin to touch.

What I found extremely impressive is that not only are they highly-competent and experienced in diversity work, but they have managed to delve deep into diversity work and not be bitter. With the powerful weapon of humor, they are able to address intimidating concepts and engage in highly difficult dialogues in a non-threatening manner without diluting the content. In order words, participants are put at ease by the humorous approach that they let their walls down far enough and long enough that they learn without even realizing it because they are having so much fun. In fact, Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish were able to touch colleagues, who I have been trying to reach for quite some time, by using humor. This is a feat that many diversity trainers struggle with; yet, Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish have found the dynamic formula and have excelled in this area.

It is no overstatement to say that lives were truly changed from this experience. Overwhelmingly, participants not only enjoyed diversity training (imagine that), but they learned key insights, concepts, and strategies to enhance their cultural competency. I promise that if you invite Mr. Jones and Mr. Tish to your school/organization that not only will they exceed your expectations, but they will stir up the pot in a positive way and catalyze your individual and collective diversity journeys. They have the ability to connect with any and every constituency and lead them, gently, toward inclusive excellence.

Sincerely,



LaToya Smith
Coordinator of Diversity and Outreach Initiatives