Theater: Massaging the Tight Spots

*[Specialty Track 1]*

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| **AUTHOR(S):** | Jon Adam Ross |
| **SUMMARY:** | 2017 is a year filled with difficult conversations. The time is NOW to work together to hear each other, to question each other, and to work through the tight spots. You will play with actor/playwright Jon Adam Ross, founding artist of [The In[heir]itance Project](http://postandcourier.com/20160507/160509537/the-rebecca-play-innovative-theater-project-uses-book-of-genesis-as-its-genesis), to explore difficult conversations through a theater process inspired by his work in Charleston, SC. *– Submitted by Jon Adam Ross* |
| **TOPIC(S):** | Theater, Communication Skills |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** | Participants will learn tools for devising theater, exercises for generating material, and strategies for lowering the barrier of entry for personal, deep, and complex conversations. |
| **AUDIENCE:** | Any audience |
| **TIMING:** | 60 minutes |
| **APPENDICES:** | Appendix for Massaging...1 (Genesis Chap 29-30) |
| **MATERIALS NEEDED:** | Paper, pens, smartphones (participants bring their own) |
| **SET-UP DETAILS:** | Any open space with room to move around  No furniture is ideal - just wide open. |

**Session Timeline & Outline:**

* Warming Up - exercises to prep for the session
  + Physical warmup
    - Can I have your space?
  + Vocal warmup
    - 1 hen, 2 ducks
  + Character warmup
    - Cocktail Conversations - Everyone selects a character from the Torah (famous or obscure) and a moment in that character’s story and then becomes that character in that moment. The group interacts with one another by walking through the space as the character and then engaging in one-on-one conversations with other “characters.”
* Establishing the model
  + Sacred text study - We will look at a short section of verses from the book of Genesis Chapters 29 and 30. We will read the verses in chevruta and then we will come back to the group. Everyone will share one word to describe the relationship between Rachel and Leah. We will then allow people to ask each other about their words.
  + Honing prompts - We will make a list of concepts/themes/ideas in the text that relate to difficult conversations in 2017. From that list we will hone some prompts/questions that will generate material for the next phase.
  + Generating material - We will split up into small groups and answer the prompts for each other using smartphones to record the answers and content (while also taking notes).
  + Sharing - We will come back together to collect gathered material that stood out.
  + Devising - We will begin to shape a narrative from the collected material in conversation with the original sacred text to create a short piece of theater.
    - Cocktail Conversations as Rachel/Leah

**Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:**

This is the first session in a process. You could break it down and spread this out over a few sessions, or repeat with multiple texts for the same or different characters.