

10/21/25: FJC Storytelling & Leadership

Dear Yitro Cohort V,

It was a genuine pleasure to share space with all of you, and I am grateful for your every effort to build the most joyous, meaningful, and inclusive Jewish environment for your campers and their families. I invite you to reach for me and the JoCI if we can support you, your team, or your campers in any way!

Onward & Upward,
Arya Marvazy, Senior Director of Programs, arya@thejoci.org

Arya's 4 Storytelling Truths

1. Storytelling helps you connect the dots between who you've been and who you're becoming.

Your identity isn't fixed—it's unfolding. When you tell your story, you start to see the patterns, the pivots, the values that keep showing up. And when you're leading others, that self-awareness becomes your compass.

2. Leaders don't just have experiences—they mine them for meaning.

Every twist in your story holds a lesson, if you're willing to look closely. Sharing those moments—especially the hard or humbling ones—models reflective leadership. It says: *I learn from my life. You can, too.*

3. Authentic storytelling builds trust—and trust builds leadership.

When you show up honestly in your story, you invite others to do the same. That vulnerability doesn't weaken your leadership—it strengthens it. People follow leaders who make them feel seen, not just those who impress them.

4. Every story you tell is a mirror and a bridge.

Stories reveal self and connect us to others. As you tell your story, notice what it reflects back to you. And watch what happens when someone hears it and feels its resonance, finds deeper understanding and connection, or feels less alone.

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- Dive deeper into our two major research studies, [Counting Inconsistencies](#) (2019) and [Beyond the Count](#) (2021).
- Explore our [2024-2025 IMPACT report](#) to learn how the Jews of Color Initiative is making structural change through research, grantmaking, programs and more.
- We'd love to work more closely with you, your communities, and colleagues. To explore a speaking engagement, program offering, partnership, or collaboration with JoCI, please submit a [Speaking Engagement Request](#). Feel free to review [our FAQ Here](#).
- We invite you to [consider a gift of any size](#) to support our work to develop leaders, programs and efforts that ensure a thriving multiracial Jewish future. Every gift matters and makes a difference!