

# Organizing Listening Parties: Celebrating Your Community's Memories Workshop

## Notes for Session Planners:

You may use or adapt this session and video resource for a Children's Sabbath gathering on the weekend of the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths, as a lead-up to it, or as a follow-up step to build on the Children's Sabbath focus, "Where Does It Hurt?": Listening to Heal Our Children.

This session could be intergenerational, and held within a single place of worship, with many places of worship from different traditions, and/or with members of community organizations.

This session is based on a workshop led by Remember2019 leaders Mauricio Tafur Salgado and Arielle Julia Brown at the Children's Defense Fund's 2021 Proctor Institute in July. This session provides an opportunity to consider together the power and potential of intergenerational listening. Participants will learn more about the work of Remember2019 and learn from them about dimensions of remembering, values that guide authentic intergenerational and culturally sensitive listening, and the work that can grow out of that listening—including a "listening party." In this session, the group will begin to explore what planning an intergenerational community "listening party" might look like, and consider how participants might want to pursue that possibility. The full video is available at <https://youtu.be/iYYXGPHg59M>.

**About Remember2019:** Remember2019 is an effort to make space for the congregation of the Black communities and Black cultural workers of Phillips County, Arkansas. Our work is to support and facilitate local practices of self-determination, memory, and reflection that are directly related to the mass lynching of 1919, the lasting effects of racial terror, and the current and future health of these communities.

You can learn more about their work at [www.remember2019.org](http://www.remember2019.org)

- [Preview the video resource](#) to decide who you will invite to engage in this session. For instance, will you invite an intergenerational mix of adults, young adults, and youths? Will you extend an invitation to other places of worship or community organizations? Will you use it with the social justice committee of your place of worship?
- Review the session outline and the entire video ahead of time. Determine if you will use all or some of the segments for your program, depending on how long your session will be and what is appropriate and useful for your setting.
- The following outline would be used for a two-hour gathering.
  - Welcoming
    - ◆ Greeting
    - ◆ Prayer of Gratitude
    - ◆ Introductions



## ORGANIZING LISTENING PARTIES: CELEBRATING YOUR COMMUNITY'S MEMORIES WORKSHOP

- Remember2019
    - ◆ Agenda
    - ◆ To remember is...
    - ◆ Our Working Values
    - ◆ Our Work
  - Listening Parties
    - ◆ Intergenerational Listening Spaces
    - ◆ Journaling: A time when you were heard or felt you needed to be heard across a generation
    - ◆ Small Group Conversation: how does culture facilitate listening? How does culture get in the way of listening across generations?
    - ◆ Planning Listening Parties (worksheet and video discussion of process)
    - ◆ What has come up for you in this time together? Insights, hopes, concerns, ideas?
    - ◆ What next steps might we take individually or collectively?
  - Closing
- Because the workshop uses segments of the video, session facilitators are encouraged to have a second co-leader whose primary responsibility is getting the video keyed to the appropriate segment, so that the primary facilitator can focus on guiding the conversation.
  - You may wish to print the questions for various parts of the discussion on flip chart paper. Also have paper and pens for participants to use during the journaling exercise. Make one copy of the workshop sheet per participant.

## Session Outline

### Welcoming (15 minutes)

- **Greeting**
  - Welcome participants to this workshop that is part of the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths with the 2021 theme, *"Where Does It Hurt?": Listening to Heal Our Children.*
  - Let them know that this session will be combining video segments from a workshop, "Organizing Listening Parties: Celebrating Your Community's Memories," that was offered at the Children's Defense Fund's Proctor Institute in July, led by leaders from Remember2019, Mauricio Tarfur Salgado and Arielle Julia Brown. They will learn more about Remember2019 in the session.
  - Explain that this session will be an opportunity to consider together the power and potential of intergenerational listening. The group will learn more about the work of Remember2019 and learn about dimensions of remembering, values that guide authentic intergenerational and culturally sensitive listening, and the work that can grow out of that listening, including a "listening party." In this session, the group will begin to explore what planning an intergenerational community "listening party" might look like, and consider how participants might want to pursue that possibility.
- **Prayer of Gratitude**
  - Play the video from 0:00-2:55.
  - Then, invite participants who wish to share aloud their responses to one of Mauricio's questions: "What are you grateful for? What are you grateful for in this moment? What are you grateful for that ensures your growth?"
- **Introductions**
  - Play the video from 7:35-8:22.
  - Then, invite participants to share their name, an ancestor whom they bring with them to the gathering, and something that they know about the name given to them at birth or their chosen name. (If the group is too large to allow each person to share this with the full group, invite them to turn to the two people closest to them, and share their responses in groups of three.)

### Remember 2019 (25 minutes)

Play the video from 13:00-37:09, which will cover the following:

- **Workshop Agenda**
  - Introducing ourselves and the work of Remember2019
  - Let's talk about intergenerational listening
  - Developing Listening Parties

- **To remember is...**
  - **To remember is to *recall*.** We recall the mass lynching of 1919 and the intergenerational trauma it caused for the Black communities of Phillips County.
  - **To re-member is to *reunite*.** As members of distant and different communities, we re-member these communities in order to self-determine, see one another, and value our interconnectedness.
  - **To remember is to *remind*.** We center our work on the values and traditions that have brought us this far and are the wellspring of our enduring joy.
  - **To remember 2019 is to *call forth*.** We call forth community creativity and wisdom to encourage a re-imagining of our future, 100 years after the Elaine mass lynching of 2019.
- **Our Working Values**
  - Cultural Specificity
  - Culturally Specific Histories
  - Transformative Justice
  - Intergenerational Collaboration
  - Moral Fundraising and Management
  - Sharing Stories
  - Moral Imaginary
- **Our Work**

(If desired, take a 5-minute break here before continuing the program)

### Listening Parties (45 minutes)

- **Intergenerational Listening Spaces** (5 minutes)
  - ✦ Continue the video at 37:10 and pause it at 38:30.
  - ✦ Invite participants to respond to the question: “What are intergenerational listening spaces you know?” Record responses on a flip chart.
  - ✦ *(Responses might include, for example: church, shul, masjid, family reunions, community arts programs, the library, my aunt’s house, Freedom School, community kitchen.)*
- **Journaling** (5 minutes)
  - ✦ Play the video from 41:20-42:10.
  - ✦ Distribute paper and pens/pencils to participants for them to respond to the question: “What was a time when you were heard or felt you needed to be heard across a generation?” Let them know that they will not be required to share their responses, but they may bring their insights to the small group conversations that will follow.



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- **Small Group Conversation** (15 minutes)
  - ◆ Play video at 55:50-57:37.
  - ◆ Divide participants into groups of four (if your group is large enough. If seven or fewer, remain in one group.). Invite them to respond to the questions: "How does culture facilitate listening? How does culture get in the way of listening across generations?"
  - ◆ After 10 minutes, bring the group back together and invite those who wish to share insights that emerged in the small group conversations.
- **Planning Listening Parties** (20 minutes)
  - ◆ Distribute copies of the worksheet.
  - ◆ Play the video from 1:14:22-1:22:34, in which Arielle Julia Brown discusses the planning process and walks through the worksheet.
  - ◆ Ask: "What insights, ideas, and possibilities have arisen for you as we think about intergenerational listening parties? What next steps might we take individually or collectively? Gather contact information of those who are interested in meeting again to explore planning an intergenerational listening party, using the worksheet as an initial planning guide."

### **Closing:** (5 minutes)

- Close in a way appropriate for your setting and participants. Possibilities include: the invitation to share in a word or phrase one gift each is taking from the time together; prayer; music; or silence to listen to one's inner voice.

## Remember2019 Workshop –CDF’s Proctor Institute and Children’s Sabbath:

### Organizing Listening Parties Workshop Sheet

<p><b>Listening Party Goals:</b> What would you like the audience/witnesses to leave the space with? What would you like to see come from this space?</p>	<p><b>Listening Party Overview:</b> Write a one-sentence overview that names the people you plan to gather for a listening party and why.</p>
<p><b>Audience/Witnesses Listening Traditions:</b> What are the listening practices of the community witnesses you are gathering? What are the traditions of these people that make listening come easily?</p>	
<p><b>The Invitation:</b> How and where will you invite people to come to your listening party? Consider how this invitation sets the tone for the gathering.</p>	
<p><b>Locations Centering Listening:</b> What locations (in-person or on-line) are hubs for the act and process of listening in the communities you are working with? What does partnership with these spaces look like?</p>	
<p><b>Foods Centering Listening:</b> Which foods make space for listening or remind us that it is time to listen?</p>	
<p><b>Rituals Centering Listening:</b> What collective rituals or practices do your audience witnesses work with to set the tone for deep listening?</p>	
<p><b>Other Storytelling Technologies:</b> What storytelling technologies might be most compelling and accessible to your audience/witnesses? These might be live sound, perhaps via song or oration, or digital, as in recorded sound replayed in a mixtape, recorded oral history, or interview.</p>	