

SWEA Conference 2023
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YOU MUST Learn TO JOIN THE DANCE

Taking SongWorks to Germany

Taryn Raschdorf

SONGWORKS IS a WAY OF LIFE!

- Get to know Kate Smith if you don't already know her! The idea was planted in 2018 that SongWorks can go anywhere to anyone.
 - "SongWorks Made Me Fearless" (SWEA Conference, April 2018)
- Putting my money where my mouth is - August 2022
 - "Takes 2 to Tango" (SWEA Conference, April 2021)
 - If I can...anyone can

TV IS DIFFERENT THAN "real LIFE"

- (sidenote) Refugee situation in Germany
In the middle of 2021, Germany reported almost 1.24 million refugees and 233 000 asylum seekers, making it the biggest host country for refugees in Europe. Half of the refugees are from Syria. Germany also hosts 27,000 stateless persons¹
- My trips to the refugee centers
 - 11 different nationalities in one small city
 - Hospitality at its finest

SHARING one's CULTURE

- What is the best of our culture and how do you share it? How do you invite others to share theirs?
- Cultural Night in Konstanz Germany...sharing a dance broke down the walls.

WHEN LANGUAGE IS a BARRIER

- Jake Harkins writes about "BALANCE" "EMBRACE" AND "PERMIT"²
 - BALANCE between the amount of time students are *watching* and the amount of time students are *moving*."
 - EMBRACE the messiness
 - PERMIT yourself to be playful in interactions and activities.
- From my "2 to Tango" presentation, I tried to also implement

¹<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/germany.html#:~:text=In%20the%20middle%20of%202021,hosts%2027%20000%20stateless%20persons.>

² Jake Harkins "Playing with Tradition" (SWEA Conference, April 2018)

- Building a vocabulary of moves (Principle #1 SW2)
- Practicing in safe context (Principle #2 SW1)
- Keeping the “game or play” as the focal point (Principle #6 SW2)
- Overcome inhibitions and anxiety (Principle #2 SW1)

come and JOIN THE DANCE

“Mayim”³

- PROVIDE VOCABULARY: step-together-step, mayim, walk in/walk out, stomp, run
- CONTEXT: Hebrew folk dance (NOTE: words were taken out to not create offense)
- PLAYFULNESS: noise
- ANXIETY LEVELS: easy to learn (repetitive)

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO TRY, TO DO,
and
BE ALL YOU CAN BE**

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³ “Mayim” <https://youtu.be/KktnY3f1Iag>