

How to Close the Communication Gap Between Men and Women

By Deborah Tannen

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Although it seems that men and women grow up in the same world, how they use language--in different ways and for different purposes--makes it seem that indeed the two sexes are talking at cross-purposes. For women, talk is the glue that holds relationships together; it creates connections between people and a sense of community. For men, activities hold relationships together; talk is used to negotiate their position in a group and preserve independence. With these divergent concerns, women and men typically talk differently when they are trying to achieve the same end. They often walk away from a conversation having "heard" very different interactions. Consider these two examples of communication confusion: A woman who owned a bookstore asked the manager to do something, and he agreed to do it. Days later it had not been done.

Here's what the woman said: "The bookkeeper needs help with the billing. What would you think about helping her out?"

The man had said, "Okay," by which he meant, "Okay, I'll think about helping her out." He had thought about it and decided that he could not spare the time. The owner was perturbed; she felt she had given him specific instructions. But what he heard was a suggestion he was free to reject.

A woman asked her adult son, who lived with her, for help with expenses after he began to work full-time. Weeks later he was acting as if they had not spoken about it.

The woman had asked for rent money like this: "I think it would be fair for you to pay rent now."

He replied, "I'm leaving soon anyway."

The woman walked away from the conversation greatly relieved. But as time passed and no rent appeared, her anger erupted. In the ensuing quarrel it emerged that her son had heard her statement as an opinion, not a request for rent. He had walked away from their initial conversation feeling that the idea of his paying rent had been raised, but not settled.

Is it a coincidence that in both conversations, one taking place at work and the other at home, the person who gave "orders" indirectly was a woman, and the person who misunderstood her intentions was a man? According to my own and others' research, the answer is an unequivocal no.

Women and men have characteristically different conversational styles. Although there are ethnic, regional, and individual differences in conversation, a vast number of people--myself included--feel that gender differences account for their behavior and that of their partners, friends and colleagues.

Understanding the differences between women's and men's styles makes it possible to ease or even dispel the frustration that results when others do not understand what we mean and behave in ways that seem puzzling, if not downright objectionable.

The full article can be found at

<http://www.lcu.edu/NR/rdonlyres/C362D906-6593-456C-9FD4-369EFB3EE21D/0/TannenHowtoCloseTheCommunicationGap.pdf>



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Check Out Our Website
www.jpwn.org

Fifteen Minutes With...

Dora Manela

Dora Manela is our fifth JPWN Featured Woman and we are proud to say a JPWN member. Dora is currently a ballet teacher at the Atlanta Ballet and has been a professional dancer and teacher since she was 15 years old. She grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and now lives in Sandy Springs with her husband, Flavio, and their children, Bernard, 15, and Luna, 11. JPWN spent some time getting to know Dora better.

When did you start dancing?

My mother was a very well known ballerina in Brazil and she was considered to be a genius. She was my idol and I started dancing at the Rio de Janeiro Opera house School of Dance at age 11. I was the youngest graduate ever from this school. At 18, I had a full contract with the Opera Ballet Company in Rio which was a first-rate international arts center. I toured extensively and worked with people from the Paris and London Opera Houses. I performed in Rio until 1984, when I came to the United States with my husband.

Was it unusual to be a Jewish ballerina?

For my mother, it was unusual in the 1930's and 40's. Jews were not generally comfortable exposing their bodies in public, even in the artistic expression necessary for ballet. But when I was dancing in Rio, four of the principal dancers were Jewish and the two conductors of the symphony were Jewish. Incidentally, in the middle ages, several dance masters were Jewish. And even today, we have the marvelous example of the Messerer family in Russia, which produced many great ballet dancers and masters.

How did you decide to start teaching ballet?

Teaching and dancing are really two different disciplines. All of those years I was dancing, I did not realize I was



learning how to be a teacher by just watching and having it all sink in. I started teaching while I was still a dancer – a lot of people fall into teaching - and at some point it became clear that this is what I should be doing. The international experience and caliber of the people I have worked with has opened many doors for me in America, where there are not as many well-trained teachers.

Have you taught any famous dancers?

Wendy Whelan dropped into my class when I taught in Louisville. She is now a principal dancer for the New York City Ballet. Patrick Swayze also took classes with me at that time. Like me, he is the child of a ballet teacher.

Story continued on page 4

JPWN Member Database Goes Live September 2006

We are very excited to announce that our membership directory web site is live and many of our members have already taken advantage of it! Beth Cooper, a fellow Jewish professional woman in Atlanta, and principal of Digital Positions, a company that crafts custom web applications and site management tools, created a searchable membership directory for JPWN that each member can access from JPWN's web site using her own individual password. The secure member portion of the web site contains a picture of each member; contact information; personal information such as synagogue affiliation, undergraduate and graduate schools attended, camps attended, hobbies; a description of the type of products or services the member offers or is seeking and what kind of contacts and business the member is looking to obtain. If you have not joined already, this is an excellent time to join JPWN to make sure you can connect with the other members of JPWN and they can find you when they need you and when they have the ability to make a referral. You can join at <http://www.jpwn.org/Membership.htm>

BellSouth Attorney Dorian Denburg Appointed an Officer of the National Association of Women Lawyers 2006-2007 Executive Board



BellSouth's Chief Rights-Of-Way Counsel Dorian Denburg was named an officer of The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) 2006-2007 Executive Board. Denburg's appointment was announced at the organization's 107th annual meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. Denburg will continue to serve with NAWL as Corresponding Secretary. NAWL is committed to recognizing and supporting women within the organization who have developed strong leadership capabilities.

"BellSouth and the BellSouth Legal Team congratulate Dorian on her appointment to the Executive Board of The National Association of Women Lawyers," said Marc Gary, general counsel for BellSouth Corporation.

"In line with BellSouth's commitment to diversity, Dorian will further the professional development of women serving in the legal profession."

Dorian Denburg

Founded over 100 years ago, The National Association of Women Lawyers is the leading national voluntary organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's rights. The organization supports and advances the interests of women in and under the law and works towards the social, political, and professional empowerment of women. NAWL members work to end discrimination and violence against women and to prevent the erosion of hard-fought gains. NAWL's members include both men and women lawyers.

As Chief Rights-Of-Way Counsel for BellSouth Corporation, Ms. Denburg leads BellSouth's nine-state legal team which negotiates, litigates, and participates in the legislative process relative to diverse public and private rights-of-way issues. She has successfully litigated numerous cases of first impression and has spoken extensively on rights-of-way issues before legal, national legislative and municipal government organizations.

Prior to joining BellSouth, Ms. Denburg litigated for seven years, concentrating in commercial and tax litigation. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester and the University of Miami School of Law.

Dorian is a JPWN member and was our second JPWN Featured Woman profiled in our November 2005 newsletter (http://www.jpwn.org/Nov_2005_JPWN_Newsletter.pdf) and we wanted to congratulate her on this amazing accomplishment.

Location, Location, Location

As you may have noticed, last month's luncheon was at King & Spalding, as our "usual" room at Powell Goldstein was not available due to a scheduling conflict. Please let us know your thoughts on the location change. JPWN is also considering other locations, and in the future we will have events at Powell Goldstein and elsewhere. Also, some women have remarked that they would like to have an event in Buckhead or Sandy Springs, so our next luncheon will be at Maggianos - Buckhead and our member cocktail party will be at Joli Kobe in Sandy Springs. If you have a comment or suggestion about the locations, please email us at info@jpwn.org, and you'll get \$5 off a future luncheon event.

Announcements: Person, Place or Thing...

Joe Weber, owner of AM1690 Voice of the Arts, is looking for someone who is interested in the arts to help him develop programming for WMLB. This should be an individual who frequents the music and comedy clubs in town as well as the theater and symphony; someone who enjoys the arts but has a feel for business as well. If you know of anyone who is interested, that person can contact him at joeweber5@bellsouth.net or on his cell 404 375 3819.

Experienced program manager seeks position in Atlanta in the areas of career counseling, marketing, or public relations in either a university or corporate environment. Superb written communication, interpersonal and organizational skills. Please contact Susan Perlman at susanperlman@bellsouth.net.

Marketing and public relations professional searches for her next career move. If you know of a marketing management or marketing communications position with an Atlanta-based company, Sandi Solow would welcome the chance to speak with you or a contact at the company to learn more about such an opportunity. Contact info: sandisolow@gmail.com or 404-808-7999.

Check Out: Movie: *Image Before My Eyes* Before World War II Poland was the largest and most important center of Jewish creativity, scholarship, and culture in the world. Jews had lived in Poland since the twelfth century, and in 1939 Poland's 3.5 million Jews comprised about one-tenth of the population. *Image Before My Eyes* depicts the full spectrum of Jewish life in Poland- from remote villages and small towns to major cities, from the traditionally pious to the ardently secular. It shows the great range of Jewish involvement in political and cultural movements such as bundism, Zionism, and anarchism, and in the creation and sustenance

(continued) Fifteen Minutes With...

Dora Manela

What are you teaching at the Atlanta Ballet now?

I teach classical ballet and I try to give my students historical background as well. When they are learning a new step, they are learning 400 years of history, music and art. Right now, I am teaching a class of 10-11 year olds once a week. I also teach a class of 12-18 year olds four days per week, plus many extra rehearsals. I make my students read and understand the history of ballet and its connection to all arts, to help them mature as artists.

How do you feel connected to Judaism today?

We attend synagogue with our kids and we have Shabbat dinner every Friday. We have been traveling so much over the past several years and we made a conscious decision to slow down so that our kids can have more of a connection with our synagogue and community.

Have you traveled to Israel?

I have been to Israel three times. The first time I went was my first break from ballet. I was 20 and I took three months to backpack around the world by myself. The second time I was in Israel, I went with my husband in the mid-80's, and we seriously thought about making Aliyah. The third time was very recently. I went with a mission with our synagogue, Congregation Or Hadash, and had the pleasure of experiencing Israel with our children and congregation.

Many of the women in JPWN have young daughters who are aspiring ballerinas. What advice would you give?

Take them to various experiences in the arts. People really underestimate how much very young children can get out of seeing performances, listening to music, and appreciating visual arts. We are all a result of what we receive. What we put in artistically cultivates our sensibilities and hopefully creates appreciation and love for the arts in the future.

of educational and social institutions. Through interviews, photographs, and rare and remarkable film footage, the film pieces together a warm and evocative portrait of Jewish life in Poland between the wars. 90 min. The movie is sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Georgia and The Breman Museum. The meeting be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 13th at The Breman Museum (1440 Spring Street, Atlanta). The Ida Pearl and Joseph Cuba Archives and Genealogical Center will be open for research beginning at 1:00 pm. Registration is not required. The meeting is free for Museum members and \$5 for non-members. Register at <http://www.thebreman.org/progevents/calendar.htm>. For more information, visit <http://www.thebreman.org/jgsg.htm> or contact Gary Palgon at 404-575-3767 or JGSG@TheBreman.org

We welcome your announcements, events, job postings, etc. and would love to kvell with you. Please email us at info@jpwn.org.

November 7, 2006

Jewish Professional Women's Network cordially invites its members to attend a members-only complimentary cocktail party to welcome our members and celebrate the launch of our members directory web site.

Event: JPWN Cocktail Party

Date: November 7, 2006

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Joli Kobe
5600 Roswell Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30342
404-843-3257

Directions can be found online at:
<http://www.jolikobe.com/location.shtml>
***Space is limited**

November 30, 2006

Dianne Harnell Cohen

Commissioner of the City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

"We are in this together" is the topic of Ms. Dianne Harnell Cohen's presentation.



January 2007

Judge Debra Bernes

Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia



March 6, 2007

Emily C. Sanders

Ms. Sanders will speak on Financial Planning and Investment Strategies for Women

<http://www.sandersfmi.com/>



Members-only cocktail party

November 7

Now that we have over 40 members, we are hosting a members-only cocktail party on November 7 at Joli Kobe to welcome our members, let them get to know each other, and celebrate the launch of our membership directory web site. And the best part is members are welcome to attend and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and 2 drinks for free! Members, this is your chance to meet the other members and get to know them better socially and professionally. Please take advantage of this great opportunity and join us at Joli Kobe, 5600 Roswell Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30342, on November 7 between 6:30 and 8:30. If you can attend, please RSVP to info@jpwn.org and let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly. Non-Members, if you have been thinking about membership, this is a great time to join, meet the other JPWN members and be able to attend the cocktail party for free. Just click here <http://www.jpwn.org/Membership.htm>, pay the membership fee and then RSVP for the cocktail party to info@jpwn.org. We hope to see you on November 7.



Book Club and Movie Club

Many of you have expressed interest in participating in a JPWN book club and movie club. We are ready to launch both. For the book club we are proposing Sunday morning December 4 at 10 am or Wednesday evening December 6 at 7 pm as the first book club date. The event will be at Ronni's house in Dunwoody and snacks will be served. We are open to suggestions for the first book. Please email info@jpwn.org and let us know which date you prefer and any book suggestions. We will send out the invitation with the book and the date when we get enough responses.

For the movie club, we are thinking about the afternoon or evening of November 5 as the first movie date at Phipps Plaza. We are also open to suggestions as to the movie. Please email info@jpwn.org and let us know if you prefer afternoon or evening and what movie you would like to see.

From the Founder

Ronni Solomon Abramson

It has been a while since you received a JPWN newsletter, and we apologize for the delay. Between new jobs, motherhood, scheduling JPWN events, and not having a contingency plan for our graphic designer's busy schedule, the newsletter suffered. But we are back, and as I like to say, better than ever. We have so many exciting events coming up in the next few months – a complimentary members-only cocktail party at Joli Kobe; the launch of our book club and movie club so there will be further opportunities for you to connect with other Jewish professional women in informal settings; and our November 30th luncheon event at Maggiano's. We hope you will join us for these events.

It has been over a year since Suellen and I started JPWN and it is amazing to me how it's grown in terms of our email distribution list (well over 500) and members (over 40) and the attendance at our events has been full capacity. We have met so many amazing women, and I personally feel my life has been enriched. I have had lunch with fabulous women I didn't know before, attended Shabbat dinners at fellow JPWN members homes (and I personally know of others who have done the same), and I have celebrated wonderful Jewish holiday dinners with Dorian Denburg's amazing family – all because of JPWN. Thank you for making JPWN a success and for your support by attending our events. If you have not considered membership, I hope you will join in time to attend our members-only complimentary cocktail party. Membership entitles you access to discounts, special events, and the member directory portion of our web site where you can connect with other JPWN members. Joining JPWN shows your commitment to the group that helps sustain JPWN. You will become a part of our family, and we can help you make the connections you are looking for and plan events that are interesting and meaningful to you.

If you have any questions about membership, any of the upcoming events or just to find out more about JPWN, please do not hesitate to contact me or Suellen.

Sincerely,
Ronni

In Time for Hannukah . . . Potato Latkes

4 lbs (1 kg) potatoes (you can use white potatoes or sweet potatoes)
1 small onion
4 large eggs
Oil for frying

Peel the potatoes and grate them (an electric food processor would be ideal here). Place the potatoes into cold water. Drain the potatoes in a colander and squeeze out as much water as you can (you may want to press them down with your hands in the colander).

Beat the eggs in a separate bowl and put it aside. Chop the onion and mix the onion, potatoes, and eggs together well.

Coat the frying pan with oil and heat it. Take up to ¼ cup of the potato, onion, and egg mixture and drop it into the oiled pan. Flatten it a little with a spatula. At this point, you may want to lower the heat so that they cook evenly. When the bottom side is brown, flip it over and brown the other side.

Place finished latkes on a paper towel to drain and serve while hot. Serve plain or with sour cream or applesauce. For variety, consider adding any of these to the batter: salt and pepper, a scallion, or even one carrot, finely grated.

