



The Network for Peace through Dialogue Why Dialogue? (and when, and how, and where?)

LIFE WITH THE WRIGHT FAMILY

[The Dialogue Project](#), based in Brooklyn, New York, is a neighbor-to-neighbor community development program which creates bonds between neighbors of different backgrounds through dialogue. For their session, a panel presented transformative dialogue techniques now being practiced throughout the greater New York metropolitan region in ongoing sustainable dialogue circles among Diaspora Palestinians, Israelis, Jewish, Muslim and Christian Americans. Participants engaged in exercises and dialogue demonstrating how trust, relationships and partnerships are established when differences surface. They explored hot words such as *jihad*, *security*, *Zionism*, *terrorism*, and examined how active/generous listening and reflection are tools that allow us to create a safe, confidential space where these difficult conversations can take place. They also examined how trust and affection can grow when very different worldviews and personal connections to conflict exist among people.

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left at home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately yelling, "It will be a right cold day before I return."

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright, and Shelly Wright, and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway someone had left a trash can in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Tommy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Tommy took so long that they almost left him in the street. Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. Father Wright told her not to worry. He had checked the stove and he had not left it on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone. No need to worry now, they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered he had left his wallet at home. So Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car,

saying that she had to throw up. This of course got Mother Wright's attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright who was playing a game in the back seat. With all of this going on, Father Wright decided that that this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all of the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said, "I wish the Wright family had never left the house today!"

So: Facts-

- Who was left behind?
- What were the names of the 2 Wright sisters?

Process-

- What do you think happened?
- "Trigger" words? One of the Dialogue Project people Mr. Cox said that at his first dialogue meeting he had no knowledge of

what it meant. He started with the idea that it was an advocacy, but realized dialogue is to listen to each other. You don't have the opportunity to get beyond preconceived notions in ordinary situations.

Linda the Palestinian woman said that she had wanted to know what it was like. She now recognizes a person as a person, looking at people as being people and taking the message back to her family. She learned about herself and about others being a Muslim in America.

The Imam from Damascus said that dialogue will not change the world, but we are not making more problems in the world, and he does dialogue because it makes us feel more comfortable amongst ourselves.