

**Orthodox Jewry: Community, Connection, Understanding
Orthodox Jewish Singles
(May 2, 2022)**

Full Report available at <http://nishmaresearch.com/social-research.html>

Survey Verbatim Responses

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Note: Responses are presented generally as received. We do not edit for spelling, grammar, etc. These verbatim responses are anonymous; we do not know who said what, and we do not include any identifying information. Thus, a few comments with clearly identifying information (e.g., respondent's name) are edited appropriately.

Q29. What do you think are the main factors holding you back from finding a spouse? [Asked of single individuals]

- I don't know so many people
- Knowing where to look. But also am I truly ready or is it just expected that at my age I should be ready so all the dates I go on aren't good because I'm not in a place for them to be good? Unclear
- I am terrible at "cold" meeting with people I don't know. I do not like club scenes, and I do not enjoy shiurim so I do not know where to go to meet people for dating. I have begged my shul for years, but despite having over 600 member families, they offer no singles activities, and the other local shuls are no more active than that. I have lost hope almost completely.
- Connection, attraction.
- Need time developing my career. Do not want to be dominated or neglected. Do not want to be with a needy man.
- Age and health issues - I'm not "prime material"
- I'm not looking. Enjoying being single way too much
- Location, and becoming more observant more recently, and therefore having a smaller network to draw from and knowing less about this world.
- I'm actually good being single now. I'm happy & satisfied as is.
- Opportunity. I'm rarely set up. (And have faced backlash when I have turned down suggestions of men who are completely inappropriate for me.)
- Illness
- Working/Learning conundrum. I want to start off learning but also plan to go to work and will need to eventually start. And Stan personality.
- I am older and have recent health issues that would interfere.
- i'm over 60

- The complexities that are involved in being a divorced man raising children at home - less flexibility in location, in finances, in schedules, and in religious practice.
- On dating sites, distance is a BIG factor. Person to person, I need to feel a spark and a connection as well as a commitment to Judaism.
- At this point - lack of real motivation
- trust
- Not ready to date yet
- Contentment with current situation (jobs, social circle, community, family)
- My parents and their opinions
- I have been unable to find someone who would be on the same page with me on an open worldview, yet combined with very committed chassidish practice
- I dont need a spouse i'm extremely contented with children parents friends havrusas and career
- being divorced
- Not enough normal men out there
- I haven't met anyone I'd want to change my life for and spend the rest of my life with.
- Not being in New York
- Ratio orthodox men:women, ageism, small pool of people in a given city
- I don't view it as mandatory. I'm happy single. I know I contribute a great deal to the community and world as a single. So the bar is pretty high, and when it has been met (or exceeded), it has been by someone not hashkafically or even halachically appropriate.
- age
- location
- being gay and religious and overweight. It's a small dating pool and my appearance doesn't help.
- mental illness and its stigma and my current looks (obese), lack of friends who care enough to try and even look to help me find an appropriate spouse
- Meeting the "right person" can be really difficult. Especially living in NYC, despite the sheer number of young singles. Many

womxn from the NYC area can't imagine ever living Elsewhere and that can be hard for those who aren't committed to living in NY forever. Many womxn are also not particularly worldly or intellectually curious, something not correlated to education or profession.

- I do NOT wish to have one. I would never legally bind myself to another human being again.
- I meet many people. I have high expectations for myself and those around me, and I'm looking for a husband, not buying a sofa. The men I've encountered do not have goals, do not have drive or motivation, and are barely contributing to society. There isn't much they bring to the table, except more baggage that isn't worth handling. It is almost easier being single than dating someone who has put no effort into himself and has done no work to improve.
- Age
- Number of quality available men, COVID.
- Finding people to date who would be a good match for me.
- Not getting a date
- Health issues, age, few eligible single men in my community
- It's a numbers game; more orthodox women in my age group than men. Men all want 15 - 20 years younger than them and I don't want 15-20 years older than me - too big an age gap All the women in my single friends group want children or at least younger step children; very few men our age want children. They have teens or college age kids already and "don't want to start over"
- Independence, fear of vulnerability, not wanting to share control
- Very recently widowed.
- It was financial. at this point, I am not trying
- my mazel it has not been the right time for me yet. additionally my family situation. im slightly older, divorced parents and can lose a few pounds.

- After a bad experience with marriage and then following divorce I'm not sure I want to look again.
- picky
- Like anyone else, I have flaws. I'm very out of the box philosophically. For this survey, I wasn't sure how to identify myself, but I picked something. I'm autistic and struggle with picking up on body language, implications, connotations, and other forms of non-explicit communications. My tone, facial expressions, and body language don't always match my emotions. Health issues have also been somewhat of a handicap.
- Politically views and observance of Halacha rarely match
- The difficulty of meeting other lesbians.
- Too much of a check-list. We are humans, not grocery items.
- Location.
- Being older and not having a job.
- Getting connected with potential dates and social opportunities to meet people that appeal to the "right" kind of people, or events that my other single friends want to attend. Either the crowd is socially awkward, it's too expensive, or it's people everyone has already dated.
- Ability to make connections and meet potential spouses
- being deaf and now older
- I'm not interested in putting myself out there at this time
- When I was younger, I wasn't ready. Definitely had mental blocks/fear. Blind dating never felt natural to me. When older, plenty of heartbreak chipped away at trust. Pool of available eligible men grew smaller and less appealing. Never thought I'd still be single.
- My relatively unique ideological and demographic position.
- Too many women with predisposed notions of what they expect from a guy. Once you've hit your 60's that should be behind you!
- In my 20's: not being pretty enough, being too outspoken and too educated, lacking some magical flirting ability other people seemed born with In my 30's: the men progressively not being good marriage material, not being pretty enough In my 40's: the men wanting women in their 30's and not being good marriage material
- I don't live in NY and my friends in NY aren't thinking about potential partners for me.
- Age
- Unconventional Shidduch Reference checking from girl's mothers
- I'm not looking for one.
- Time. I'm busier in retirement than I was when working. My lack of success in finding a partner may be a manifestation of my own doubts if I have the time, or want to make the time, to create a wonderful relationship. It may also be a manifestation of the fact that the Ribono shel Olam has other things he wants me to do. Of course those could be intimately related.
- I don't want to be married right now.
- My own trauma/PTSD and cynicism. I find it hard to believe in happy relationships.
- Myself
- The communities expectations for who I should or shouldn't marry
- My family and my mom
- After two bad marriages I'm not sure it's worth it.
- I'm queer but I want to be with someone who is interested in being at least some level of modern Orthodox
- Honest answer - fear of commitment, lack of trust, dating anxiety. Possible answer - I haven't met the right person yet. I've never felt extremely attracted, whether emotionally or physically, to most of the individuals I've dated. Out of the many people I dated, I saw a future with only one, but he did not share that same feeling.
- Access to people
- My age, location, and other personal factors
- 1. having somewhat atypical grown up children living with me 2. burt too many times, sort of lost interest...for now

- Lack of ability to meet people. The culture of mostly telling women here's what you do to find someone with the implication of being less authentic and have lower standards. But men are not really given any feedback and are allowed to stay super picky and not be willing to compromise.
- I have children and family so I don't feel the pressure
- The system not working holds everyone back, including me. I also know my independence and life choices make me a unique fit for a partner.
- I cannot find a man who is serious about marriage. I have been sexually assaulted on first dates several times, when I told the guy I am interested in dating, not hooking up. It is also hard to find a man serious about Yiddishkeit. They look frum on the outside, but barely keep any mitzvot
- Aliyah, religiously non-conformist, living in small community outside of NYC area
- my physical and mental health
- I don't fit well into any of the standard "boxes" in terms of my religiosity. I am fiercely independent. I only want to be in a relationship if it makes my life a lot better.
- I am [in my 70s], and I don't want to remarry.
- Having felt so much internal and societal pressure to get married which led to several wrong relationships where I settled for less than I deserved.
- With good Jewish value
- I haven't started dating yet, I am waiting for my older sister.
- Finding a normal guy
- Me living halfway between the US and Israel-- needing to find someone comfortable being in the US short-term but Israel long-term.
- Hard time meeting people, especially given the pandemic and varying levels of health concern
- I'm not actively looking right now. I'm concentrating on other things.
- People over 35 and never married are viewed as flawed in the Orthodox Jewish world
- Scared to be vulnerable and get hurt. I've also been working on self growth and I'm in therapy. I don't think I was mentally stable enough for marriage. Now I do. I also get very overwhelmed by the process of dating and don't want to do it. It's been hard for me to let people down or have to defend myself. Especially because I'm a people pleaser. Also, I find shadchanim to not be pleasant and makes me feel worse about dating so I've stopped going to them which might mean fewer dates but it's worth it for my mental health.
- Money, geography, relationship style/skills, appearance
- Poor quality of matches having little to nothing to do with what I specify. Disrespect of me directly and of my family background as a Ba'alat Teshuva before even meeting or a Zoom call. The poor quality of parental marriages of men I have dated infringing upon guy's ability to appropriately respect a partner and engage in a healthy, constructive, and meaningful life partnership as members on the same team. Meddling Shadchanim, dating coaches, and parents look to make a quick financial interest or poisoning a relationship before it even starts.
- Lack of eligible men
- There aren't enough liberal, single Orthodox men to date.
- Interest
- Yes Tall and curvy build Less common hashkafa
- Well, mainly that rabbis and shadchanim refuse to help. Rabbis say I should move to NY or Israel and maybe someone will help me there. Not that they know anyone who will help me there. They're just pushing me off on someone else. So really the lack of care of the community. They care about putting tefillin on non-religious Jews, but

don't care after a person has become observant.

- I don't know how to meet or talk to people
- Availability of suitable males has been well documented in the UK - many more single females than males
- I'm a lesbian, and finding another frum lesbian who is single and in my age group has so far been impossible. I'm trying really hard but there is only one website for queer frum Jews to find dates, and I have gotten about 10 matches in 3 years, and none have panned out.
- My personal issues
- Myself. I don't put myself out there
- I don't want one. Remaining single while offering various types of help, paid or unpaid, to already existing Jewish families and children, related or unrelated, is an emerging full-fledged and valid means of supporting the Jewish community.
- At my age, (and I became religious in my 30s) the normal ones are married. I need a divorced laid back guy. The always single guys aren't normal unless they spent a lot of time working on issues like I have
- Access to guys
- Myself
- Body, organization, social skills
- There isn't much of a space for people who don't fit into concrete boxes or find themselves in the middle (e.g. fully to the right or not at all religious, or currently don't wear pants but potentially would)
- Lack of online sources to find modern orthodox jewish girls who are machmir on what i want but also lenient on what I want.
- Not searching hard enough.
- The fact that "working boys" are considered less than and may not be frum enough for me
- knowing what i want and not finding it
- I have kids and live out of town.
- I started dating pretty late, so a lot of my friends who are married just don't know anyone to set me up with.
- People have a difficult time putting me into a box. And, I won't do anything to make myself feel put in a box.
- I got discouraged after so many years & just gave up dating. Giving up is surely a guarantee for failure
- Not having completed my civil divorce Being overweight
- Lingering trust/psychological issues resulting from bad broken engagement.
- No interested.
- Haven't met the right person
- I dont believe in settling for the wrong person for me just to get married. I would rather be alone than in a bad relationship or become an aguna.
- Probably PTSD from my last marriage
- Bureaucracy of setting people up and how it takes forever, guys saying no for dumb reasons and being unwilling to go on a first date
- not interested in remarrying
- Being honest with myself and finding the right balance
- I am older. My time is devoted to my kids, work and other obligations. I am not interested in total commitment to another person.
- Right now, that I am not looking yet.
- I'm comfortable and safe being single I haven't met someone who I'm attracted to or respect enough to trust
- Haven't found the right person yet
- Having a very atypical background (e.g. being a convert. Cultural differences -- being from the Deep South and family coming from a lower socioeconomic background than most MO makes it difficult to relate. Not being socially well-connected because I didn't go to the same day schools/camps/etc.) Also being introverted and not being attracted to very many people generally.
- personal circumstances
- I spend Shabbat with basically the same people every week. I don't meet a whole lot of new people regularly.

- I don't have a lot of friends so I don't come to dating with much support. So I can't take as much risk with being hurt, because I won't have necessarily have someone to confide in. Also it's really hard to find someone who is self aware, communicates openly, and has a healthy self esteem. I would rather stay single forever than be with someone who's totally out of touch with their emotional world, or closed, or puts other people down. I would just be miserable with someone like that. I believe most men are capable but don't learn how.
- My size - many men won't date me because I am a plus size woman even though I am in good health and lead an active lifestyle.
- My own challenges in life that can sometimes affect my day to day life and guys don't have the patience/care or understanding to want to work with.
- Lack of single people in my area
- Introversion
- it takes two to tango
- Being queer and orthodox and there being a small dating pool because of that
- Lack of opportunities
- I have not found someone who accepts me for who I am and for who I am not. Not yet found someone who is at the same stage in life.
- Finances and emotional development- was only mature enough for a spouse about two years ago.
- Not interested! I'm an almost-80-year-old widow! I have a pretty good life as is.
- This is an insensitive question assuming I have been doing something wrong. Should be removed from survey.
- Opportunities to meet people and COVID definitely impacted it
- Age, location, desired level of religiousness. Won't (can't) relocate, >45, have 2 kids at home, not planning to birth more.
- Financial situation
- I am no good at dating.
- Lack of access to other like-minded folks to connect with,Äî just don't know where else

to look/to find them. He hasn't been at shul, he hasn't been at all the dumb singles events I've been to, he's not in all the shiur I'm or ~self-improvement~ classes I've taken. So where the f*** is he? Believe me, it's not from lack of trying. That and a SEVEEEERE lack of emotional maturity and actual respect,Äîas opposed to the rampant latent internalized misogyny,Äîand severely underdeveloped sense of self-awareness relative to my own. Honestly? I feel like I've done all the work and guys are NOT pulling their f***ing weight. I've asked guys out. I've started conversations. I have my own career and manage my own home and somehow men are just not held to the same standards AND they don't have the same ticking biological clock affecting the way they're seen as dating currency. And yes, men are that blunt about it. It sucks out here. Apologies if those reading these are sensitive to the profanity, but I'm so, so tired and angry about all of this and I feel like my efforts are just not being matched, let alone met, and have no idea if or when that will ever change. I'm almost 35 and looking into egg-freezing. Sh***'s dire. I'd rather that, though, then have ended up with any of the man-children I've dated these last few years (aside from the last two years of pandemic and dating tumbleweeds, anyway).

- I'm not looking for a spouse :)
- Availability of people willing to work with someone who is not in a densely frum area. Also potential partners not wanting to put in effort in a relationship
- Lack of men wanting to date someone who's 29
- I do not want to biologically have children. As someone who exclusively dates men (trans men are men and trans women are women, for the record), this is often an issue, as men have the obligation to have children. Outside of religious factors, most people want to have children, at least in some sense. I have a hard time meeting people who are open to not having kids, and sometimes that is the only thing we have in

common, which ultimately does not make us compatible. I also refuse to date anyone who is politically conservative/right-wing/republican, and although I live in an overall liberal city, the majority of ModOx people, especially in larger communities, still tend to lean that way.

- Isolation. There's also the emotional side of things. Still having feelings for an old boyfriend, some anxiety about opening up to a new person, and just being generally constrained by my overall life circumstances.
- Not enough singles like me near me
- My age. I am 80 years old and comfortable as I am.
- The amount of people available to date, health Self esteem
- Again, as a transgender BT, I think that most of the people I would be able to date are still in the closet, or even if they are out, not yet independent enough to stand up to their families and chose to be with me despite disapproval. The insularity of the community affords little space to LGBT Orthodox Jews to figure out who they are and what they want, as a BT I have the benefit of already doing much of that work before I entered the Orthodox community. I don't think FFBs will start catching up to me in terms of maturity and independence for another few years, so I have to be patient.
- I am very committed to living a mainstream Orthodox Halachic life while also tend to be more progressive, liberal, and openminded in my hashgafa and outlook on the world and on matters concerning Jewish community. Finding other people in that boat is hard to come by - they are often either very observant Conservative Jews who are somewhat religiously compatible and mostly hashgafically compatible, or they are hashgafically compatible but very halachicly lax Orthodox Jews.
- Don't know how to find Jewish lesbians that are my type.
- Lack of social interaction due to pandemic

- Finding out where they went to kindergarten and all the external nonsense that's going on nowadays. Also there's no natural way to meet. Everything is separate this and separate that. Fat and other attitude to have created the Shidduch crisis which doesn't have to exist
- Small number of local jewish Individuals.
- Divorce not finalized yet.
- It's complicated
- Challenges in my personal life taking up too much space
- I find it difficult to meet someone. It is also hard because I am older, and it is hard to find events for singles my age. In addition, it is hard for me due to career set backs.
- Lack of life discipline; Geographic distance factors. Women who are otherwise compatible in the tri-State area don't usually want to leave said area.
- I think that through the course of 26 years of being single I've seen so much humanity through an adult lens - the good, the bad and the ugly. I discovered myself along the way! And while I'm always open to marriage, I will not settle for just anyone. I would marry someone who embellishes my already fabulous life. It's different for people who are of child bearing age. But even that has been addressed. Women can have children with IVF, they don't need to find a husband.
- Time. I only started dating in past 6 months during Covid!
- Availability How many dati, fit, sane men are single at 43-55?

Q28. What is the most important advice, if any, you would offer to people who are dating?

[Asked of all respondents]

- Don't expect anything prepare a life where you can be successful both if single or married.
- Honestly I need the advice, don't really have any to share

- Don't look at the person in front of you, look at the person they can grow into and become. There is obviously no guarantee that they will become that person, but know that especially when people are young, they change and grow over time.
- Clearly I am not one to be offering advice.
- Don't give up.
- Parents should check if the other side is normal. First dates should be to see if values can add up. After that, play for chemistry
- Date a lot of people because it's a numbers game. Everyone will seem terrible until you find the right person.
- Be honest and run away from anyone who isn't
- Don't get intimate because love blinds
- Trust yourself, don't just listen to the shadchan/mentors- because they're not the ones dating.
- Be attentive to what a person expresses.
- Don't give in to social pressure to get married, if the person isn't right for you
- Don't be so picky. Date someone in the next borough, or even out of town! Don't expect perfection, recognize people's humanity. Don't freak out if the guy doesn't wear his hat on the date (such as a recent FJJ letter to the editor). Get to know the person without prejudgements, if they're in a similar hashkafic area and you get along well then give it a go. Focus less on the superficial and more on what matters.
- stop looking at yemem. Look at what you need
- Be realistic, be demanding on important things and not fussy about less important matters.
- more important to match on values than on interests
- Read "Eishes Hayil" before dates to put things into perspective and drop attachment to superficial characteristics.
- Take the opportunity to become your own person, while you are single, cultivate your own interests, and take advantage of experiences and opportunities (like travel), rather than focusing on your unpartnered status.
- Find someone you have fun with, no matter what.
- Spend time away from your family. Hillel or Chabad or
- Be flexible.
- Do not get discouraged and stay open minded. Give time for connection to form
- be sure they are 1) Jewish 2) at a minimum socially Orthodox
- Know yourself and what you are looking for
- Don't make decisions when you are twenty as if you are getting married that year. It make take a few years and dont spend every day wondering when you will get married
- Keep trying. Sign up for the websites, and never give up.
- Look at middos and personal goals. How do they want to live the rest of their lives? Who people know, who their family is, etc., is much less important.
- Keep an open mind. Date early, date often.
- Have a rebbi or mentor whom you can talk to for advice.
- Meet people in person. Don't look at pictures. Keep your list of dealbreakers short. Attraction grows over time, for men and women, and connection requires openness and vulnerability.
- Stop doing things for shidduchim.
- To work on being the best version of yourself.
- Make sure you're on the same page about goals and values
- Be open minded. And you don't need to date orthodox people to be orthodox. Know who you are and what's important to you.
- Keep an open mind
- The idea of shidduch dating, and the shadchan system, are not the same
- It's all in the expectations. Lower the expectations.
- Live somewhere with lots of singles
- Seek and a create a full life for yourself as an individual; don't view yourself as incomplete

until you find the person you'd like to have at your side.

- Be honest and be yourself
- Be yourself, be honest, be expressive and communicative.
- dunno, my kids are young
- Don't remain stuck in one place that prevents you from making progress in dating. Do what you have to do to start moving again.
- Compare yourself to regular Americans - nit Orthodox jews when it comes to marriage age.
- Marry someone whose character you can admire and respect -- and who feels that way about you.
- Don't expect everything to go exactly the way you want. Learn to be mivater
- if there are repeating patterns and its frustrating etc- get therapy
- Being reasonable and realistic is not mutually exclusive with being idealistic. Also, perfection doesn't exist. That doesn't mean you can't find someone who is just right for you.
- Be very clear on what's most important
- Be open
- Stay true to who you are and your values. Don't give up your essential self in order to fall into the category of "married". The goal is to find someone who fits well with you, not to conform in order to be considered a "good catch".
- be tolerant and patient
- Avoid the shidduch system, try and meet potential partners organically, through friends, meals, activities/classes, and be yourself. But I know this is such dated (haha) advice for many.
- HASHEM RUNS THE WORLD, INCLUDING SHIDDUCHIM!!!! Work on your bitachon!
- Narrow down your preferences to 3 must-haves and 3 dealbreakers, and separately figure out your religious/observance level and how you would see your home religiously. Then stick to dating within this range.
- Make them fall in love with you. Don't think if they are worthy for you, make yourself worthy to them
- The major directions your life will go in should be communicated up front at the beginning of a relationship
- Head first, heart second, physicality last
- Know thyself
- To consider the qualities like kindness and good character more than qualities like being cool or dazzling.
- Start looking at the people you date not at their outside stories Don't judge a book by its cover And don't push away a small gold coins for a big silver coin
- Listen to your gut. If you have to rationalize why you're dating someone then you know it's nonetheless right one
- Be proactive and be willing to put yourself out there
- Be prepared for marriage. What's after the wedding matters way more than what happens before or during the wedding
- Think outside rhe box
- Stress less (chill out more) when on dates.
- Be persistent and keep an open mind. There isnt a lot of choice if youre over 35
- Keep an open mind. It's great to know what you're looking for, but your bashert might not be exactly that person. Also, think beyond the person who's exciting to date. Think about the person you want by your side when life becomes (for better or worse) exciting.
- Overlook the superficialities, like what type of hat and clothes size, and focus on the person's character and personality.
- Don't give up. Don't stop living your life while you wait
- Don't rush, the goal isn't to be married. The goal is to be in a healthy relationship, snd being married is part of that. And sign a halachic prenup!
- Tyne are no scripts to life
- Have in mind what are your goals. Have in mind the most important positive and

negative traits in a potential spouse. Looks fade with time, character does not

- There aren't enough normal men out there!
- Be open and honest about who you are and what you want in your life and be vulnerable. Be open minded. Life is often surprising.
- Just find a person who you know deep in your gut you'd be happy building a Jewish home together. All externalities that hinder making that decision are petty. Focus on YOUR bottom line, not other people's, and chances are you'll find what you are seeking.
- don't be too picky
- Don't marry someone you don't want to spend time with, but the first date doesn't mean a marriage.
- Love grows, chemistry develops out of emotional intimacy
- Enjoy yourself.
- See a therapist for support and guidance during this process.
- Have fun! Modern Orthodox New York dating in a particular is clouded by prestige in self and partner. Do they fit the hashkafah, are they in a good enough job, do they have a good enough education, what is their social ranking- that a dating as a way to see if you can be friends is often left out completely.
- Get rid of the wish lists. You are looking for someone with whom you share values, have COMPATIBLE (not necessarily identical) life goals, visions and philosophies, and with whom you enjoy spending time.
- Try to find your beshert before graduating into the West Side.
- You may have a list but there's no such thing as perfection. And don't let anyone tell you to change who you are/your physical appearance as the "only way" to find someone. Everyone has their beshert
- Date many people at once until one is sure.
- Don't close off any avenues of opportunities. A friend of a friend may be the one who knows your basheret.
- Be open to date someone who is a kind, supportive, and upstanding person, even if they do not fulfill other criteria that may seem more important (e.g., religious practices or beliefs).
- There's no one right person out there for you. Make a connection and make a commitment for it to get better. And don't get married until you really know each other well!
- Know who you are as a person and what the purpose of a committed romantic relationship is for you before you try to find one.
- Be honest with yourself.
- Remember that whoever you date, they will change over time as will you. Think ahead and imagine what raising children with this person will be like
- Be open. And don't wait too long. The quality of the pool plummets after 40.
- Keep your eyes and mind open, because you never know where, when, or how you'll meet your future spouse. I took a chance on the random guy who paid for my books at a book fair, and I'm about to marry him. Also, be open to shidduchim even if they seem out of the ordinary. Before the fateful book fair, one of my friends tried to set me up with a guy who was a lot more right-wing than me. When she told me where he went to yeshiva, I thought, no way! But after she took the time to explain to me why we could be a good match based on personality, values, and interests, I was open to giving it a try. In the end, he wasn't ready to start dating, but I was still open to the idea.
- I think if parents would be more open to hear what their children are looking for in dating the children will be more open to sharing their feelings during dating.
- Every person has depth. Try to find it.
- look for people with good midos who are mentally stable
- To keep an open mind. You may have a list of non-negotiable things like Shabbat, kashrut, how to raise children. But other

things like looks and job should not immediately negate someone

- take your time
- Be open minded and do not overly focus on labels
- this is too hard a question to answer as one complete answer, depends. It is extremely hard for those who live in small cities, as urbanization of the dating world and what women think you are professional and culturally depends on where you live.
- Stop separating activities by gender. Give young people the chance to meet, talk! If weddings were not separated by gender, there would be many more marriages!
- have a rav, a mentor, keep an open mind
- respect those you date.
- keep an open mind and throw out the checklist.
- Lighten up. Attend mixed social events to meet members of the opposite sex in a social setting. (Assumes the community would create these events - I believe they would if the community leaders/rabbis encouraged people to attend.)
- take your time
- the person is more important than the way they look. not saying to date unattractive but the inside is more important than the outside.
- Compromise and work hard at your marriage and you will have a happy marriage
- Give people a chance, and don't be too picky from the get-go. That doesn't mean you should settle, but be honest with yourself about what you're looking for and don't write people off immediately due to superficial reasons.
- Try not to lose hope if you are having trouble.
- no clue
- Take it slow and learn about each other
- Comment on the survey regarding the previous question: My children are only just reaching the age where they are starting to date, so I actually have no idea whether or not the current "system" is working.

Regarding this question, my best advise would be the classic tautology that, if it wasn't meant to be it wasn't meant to be. That person may not have been the right person or it may not have been the right time, but the stars will align at the right time.

- Pray to G-d , and do networking
- Dont be extreme in any direction until you are more comfortable with the person.
- Nobody is perfect. Don't think you will ever change the other person.
- Be real. When you are misrepresenting yourself people figure it out fast. And people talk. Lots of single people have other single friends and will talk about you.
- Do not make hasty decisions Do NOT think you will change the person if a person has a reputation, it's probably true and you won't be the exception
- Put yourself out there, the odds of finding someone are better the more people you meet.
- Finding someone whose values match your own is most important
- Meet people...If there is no love connection...think about who you should introduce this person to that is in your network...host (or attend) shabbat meals...and bring new people..."stir the pot" of people who are meeting each other...go for that cup of coffee...!!!
- Take time to get to know the person. Look for true compatibility, shared goals and values, and a healthy respect for each other.
- I am currently dating, and I set people up when I have an appropriate idea. I wish singles would stay (mostly) true to who they are and what they believe. So many feel pressured to change huge aspects of themselves to date and at the end of the day I don't know if they'll be happy. Don't sit around waiting for the phone to ring, take classes, do chess, find hobbies, improve upon yourself so when your spouse meets you, you'll be a more complete human being. If you keep trying to date and failing,

there is nothing wrong with working with a dating coach to see how you can improve, and therapy is for everyone. If you work your issues out first your marriage will be more successful.

- to be sure their priorities are really important and not to focus on superficiality
- Don't be afraid to continue to remind people you know that you are looking.
- Be yourself.
- Be true to who you are. Don't expect someone to complete you or make you happy, look for someone to share your life, happiness, and sadness, with.
- Look past the resume, think for yourself.
- look outside the box and outside the geographic comfort zone
- Be open minded. Talk to more people. Spread your word.
- You should know each other/date at least 6 months
- Give it a chance
- get to know each other let things happen organically
- You'll never know exactly who your spouse is before you marry them. At some point a leap of faith is inevitable, and after you get married your spouse will inevitably change, as will you. What's most important is your communication as a pair, because that will serve you regardless of the inevitable change and challenges that life brings.
- You don't need to live on the Upper West Side to find a partner. Try to expand and get out of the bubble.
- Be patient. Be honest.
- Get married young; so many less options as you get older
- To make sure you're getting an accurate, non-generic picture of yourself out there to as many people as possible, because too many shidduch profiles basically just boil down to "I'm frum."
- Find shared values and base your relationship on shared respect.

- be honest with yourself as to the reasons you are saying no to prospective matches as well as why they are saying no to you
- open mind
- Make sure you agree on most things now because after you get married there will be so much more areas of disagreement, you should have a string base of agreement on key things.
- Don't just wait around for people to set you up because it may not happen.
- leave your list at home
- Make sure you get to know the parents
- Don't be too picky.
- (If I had any good advice, I'd be married by now!)
- Be realistic
- Every dating person should have a mentor for this exhausting process. It is important to reach out for support and understanding at this time of your life.
- think of your qualities no one is perfect!!!!
- settle
- Don't make snap judgements.
- The real crises seems in the Yeshivish/Chareidi sphere. Instead of relying on Shadchanim, young men and women should go out and meet people on their own. Friends introducing people is OK but the whole idea of a "Shidduch resume" leaves me beyond appalled.
- The community gives up when you reach older ages; It also should not require as much money such as weekends in the Catskills. It was a deterrent when I was trying to meet someone
- Don't put too much weight/stigma to the idea of receiving/giving dating suggestions, and be eager to discuss dating ideas for mutual friends - all such activities are productive or generating suggestions that could end up working out.
- if someones asks you out on a date and your not a 18 yr old seminary girl but rather a mature working adult that has a masters and holds down two jobs.you should respond directly to the person yes or no. i dont know

why people can be older and on the surface mature but when it comes to dating its strange peopl start sliding under a covers. the educational system needs to be more fine tuned to allow mature young professional responsibel adults to work with each other

- Make sure you take the time to truly get to know them. Spend time with them during lots of different activities, in different places, with different people, with their family, etc. Don't get caught up only in what makes them great, also notice their areas of need and decide if you can live with those because they may not change.
- do not say "no" too quickly
- Don't drive yourself crazy with worry about dating and marriage. Learn from experience and reflect. Try to grow and be the best version of yourself. Don't expect to meet the perfect person; you're not perfect either. Values and personality are the most important things. On dates, show interest in the other person and try to relax and have fun.
- remember it is all up to Hashem
- Nobody is perfect. Getting married is a working beautiful experience .
- It's exhausting, but it's important not to think that looking/dating for years is a reflection of the individual.
- Take care of yourself first and never do anything you don't want to do.
- Daven
- Neither of you are going to like the exact same things the exact same way.
- Be really clear and strong about who you want to be as a person and bring your best self into the dating process.
- Realize that Mr./Ms perfect does not exist and base your hoice on that.
- Never devalue yourself or think you're worth less than anybody else.
- Rabbis and friends should play a more active role in setting people up. Also, dating expectations, for dinner and drinks is very expenbsive and limiting.

- Make a list of qualities you are looking for in a life partner.
- Take the time and effort to figure out what you want as much as possible before beginning to date
- It's a serious business, not something done casually, and treat it like that. Keep the main thing the main thing.
- Don't think your ideal self will show up when you get married. Use dating as a means of testing what you share in common and see how each of you feels/reflects on your differences in potentially building the relationship further.
- Trust your gut
- Become the person you want to marry and mostly be true to yourself. Too many pretend to be something they're not or strive for someone completely out of their league.
- Give people a chance. I disliked my husband the first four times I met him
- Only worry about what you can change, which is yourself. Let Hashem take care of everything else.
- BE HONEST, and do NOT be judgmental.
- Always listen to ideas with receptively and respectfully, although you should not feel obligated to follow up on those ideas. My parents taught me that each shidduch idea brings the real shidduch closer. If possible pay or give a gift to each person who suggests a shidduch idea.
- Dont reject a date for a stupid superficial reason
- Try to find religious volunteering activities.
- Make sure anyone you are dating seriously meets your friends and family, and your friends and family approve
- I really can't see myself giving advice in such personal and complicated matter
- Get personal support
- Leave your parents out of the picture until after the third date DO not check any references until After the third date.

- I think dating for marriage is a good thing. Open communication is key. Be honest with each other
- Finding a life partner is not about a checklist of external qualities. It is about the intangible qualities of shared perspective, shared goals, and treating each other with genuine respect. Marriage in and of itself is not the path to a happy life. Live a full life, and perhaps a partner who fits you will come along to further enrich it.
- Depends on the age. Why do you want to marry? For young people, is the partner a suitable co-parent? Do your parents like your choice of mate? For people my age, is the partner a good companion? Do your kids like your choice of mate?
- Be open minded
- Don't rush into anything because of peer pressure. It's okay to wait. BUT be reasonable and open to new ideas.
- Take the pressure off of yourself. Figure out who you are, love yourself, and you'll find someone to love. There's no deadline. It's not a test.
- Try to do it organically. Get involved in things that interest you, and look to find men or women who share your interests because they, too, are part of these groups. Don't ever demean yourself by doing something that you find cringe-worthy.
- Chill out.
- No one is the "perfect one". Everyone has their flaws. But loving someone is accepting those flaws. It's hard to take the leap because you think there might be someone else better out there, but if you aren't turned off after a few dates, there is a very good possibility that they are the "one".
- Learn everything you can because the odds are high that even if you do marry, you might be living alone at some point.
- Be patient.
- Marry for base personality and emotional health, not stated hashkafa/ goals. Those are usually not true after 1,2 years
- Don't forget who you are while trying to win someone's affection. You want to be around, date, and eventually marry someone who loves you like you are and how you will be later on.
- Patience, be yourself
- Take your time; there's no need to rush
- Meet through friends
- Go to therapy
- take it easy
- Not sure if this question is "To people who are dating somebody at this point" or "to people who are dating around until they find somebody to be steady with", but assuming that it's the latter, my advice would be to do things that are important to them, be it Jewish social action or photography. You'll be happier because you're doing things you love, and you'll meet more people who love doing the same things you love. Then you can decide based on your criteria whether the people that you meet should fall in the "friends" category or the "dating material" category.
- Be 100% honest and real without worrying how the other person will see you. If you hide any part of yourself because you're worried they won't like you, and then you *marry* that person, you're in a much worse position than if you'd taken the chance and been yourself.
- Focus on a person's middot, personality and hashkafah- everything else is secondary
- Marriage is not a magic key for a happy, "perfect" life. One would be wise to first honestly look at him or herself, acknowledge strengths and relative weaknesses, and listen thoughtfully and reflectively to the other person, the perspective spouse.
- know yourself.
- Finding the right person is a matter of luck; marrying them is about effort
- Honesty and emotional transparency are absolutely essential for forming stable, healthy, long-lasting relationships. A good partnership involves two people who listen and talk to each other, and support each

other, both logistically and emotionally. Also, jealousy is an indication that you have a need that isn't being met, or that you are anxious won't be met, and it is super important to pay attention to jealousy when it arises, and then talk about the underlying unmet need with your partner. If you can't engage healthily with each other's anger, jealousy, sadness, frustrations, trauma, or struggles, know that those things won't become any easier to engage with after you get married.

- Have an open mind. You never know.
- Don't let your lack of relationship take away from your quality of life. Find ways to love yourself, and develop your inner world. Learn as much as you can, pursue hobbies, and create a network of friends and supports.
- Be open to potential spouses who may appear different based on superficial criteria.
- Learn to be happy being single, because if you're desperate for a partner, you'll make poor choices. Make friends. Meet someone naturally who can transition from friend to partner.
- It's a really terrible process
- I think people who are dating should try all avenues of the dating (shadchanim, Shabbatons, matched by friends, online apps) but the number one suggestion is to be flexible especially if you are an older single while also being confident in your own judgement.
- Be willing to actually go on a date. There's too much emphasis on a piece of paper and who's reading
- make sure you feel safe with them
- Know that you do not have to be a perfect match to be compatible with others. If you have different hobbies/interests or different religious levels, it can still work. It's important to be open minded. I also think it's important to remember age is just a number and put less stock into that.
- Don't date within the shidduch system.
- Daven
- be yourself and be open
- Try not to bow to societal pressure to get married and think about what you actually want out of life. Take care of your mental health and learn the skills to get along with a partner.
- Utilize every resource available, don't limit to just shadchanim or websites.
- It's your future on the line- take your time to decide
- Don't give up, don't compromise, know what and who you want, use the time when you're single well, don't be sad when things don't work out, they will eventually
- Know what you want but be flexible
- A bad date is the one never taken. You learn with every new person you meet. Step out of your shell and go on a date, it may be your last 1st date.
- Be realistic (esp the guys out there- if you are not model gorgeous do not expect the woman to be). You have to give to get.
- Keep your options open and don't be too picky.
- Meet through Your school, friend and community connections
- Have a good team of people you trust to help with specific needs: dating advice, looks, research. No one should do this alone!
- To learn about the important things that make a relationship successful and healthy and which aspects are negotiable or not important
- I'm a volunteer matchmaker. I highly recommend for singles to continually try to expand their network and be open minded as to who they are open to dating.
- Find a partner who will be your best friend
- Understand that marriage is not like dating and that kindness and consideration will be the most important things later on in married life.
- Do not succumb to the pressure of needing to get married by a certain age. Try to enjoy the process as much as possible and try to

create as full of a life as possible while you are single. This is way easier said than done.

- Getting married
- look for the good in a person...
- Meet as many times as you need. Don't rush decision. Midos and compatibility most important
- Think long-term. Assume that hashkafot will change. Identify traits that are important to you and focus on those rather than beliefs or pedigree. Community pressure won't help you be happy, so don't let it determine your choices.
- Daven.
- Be open to meeting people even if the people making the suggestion may not seem to reflect your views -- they may still know what's good for you.
- Don't "settle" or give up.
- Don't date for your parents.
- Find someone who's on the same religious wave length as you.
- Take your time. It's okay to be single. Don't give in to the ridiculous pressure to be married.
- Develop self-awareness - introspect & think about what you **really** want and not what others think you **should** or **they** would want. 2. Use multiple avenues to seek out dates - friends, websites, rabbis, and other ways.
- Be yourself. Do not get married cuz that's what everyone else is doing.
- Keep trying
- You never know what's going to happen, be open to the new and different. It's scary, but it might just work.
- Be yourself
- be open minded, decide what is important in a long term relationship and having a Jewish home and family.
- If someone has suggested that it might be time for a dating coach, or therapy, to better understand your own motivations and what's keeping you from forming lasting relationships... listen to the advice.
- Don't give up
- It's not you, it's the system.
- Be yourself. Give it time
- Good luck. This sucks and it's terrible. Be realistic about what you need and who you are. Don't obsess over getting married, continue developing yourself in other ways and have other interests. Have fun with friends.
- Use as many resources as possible. Cast a wide net.
- Communication is key. Don't be afraid to ask for (or state) what you need in a relationship. And don't try to force something to work that isn't working.
- Take it slow and don't let anyone pressure you
- Look at the big picture. Don't dwell too much on the small stuff. For example, his overall hashkafa, midos, and attitudes towards working and/or learning, are way more important than whether or not his hat stays on all night or what color shirts he wears. And her midos and overall personality are more important than whether she's a size 2 or a size 8.
- Think about what qualities are really most important to you in a life partner and focus on those.
- To have married friends make more of a concerted effort to set up singles in the community. To have synagogue Rebbeim not only give advice to those who they have one-on-one relationships with, but to address and raise awareness from the pulpit. To strongly discourage inappropriate background checks and to model healthy, constructive behavior for singles to reflect in their own relationships.
- Be yourself
- Be confident and present authentically. Know yourself (your adult self) before you look to share your life with another person.
- Don't do things because "that's the way it's done." Everything you say/do should be because that's who you really are and what your interests are, not because someone told you to do those things at that time.

- Be flexible and look to meet people with common interests in settings that are not specifically dating focused. For example, volunteering, touring etc
- Be rigid on issues of character & communication, and be flexible on pretty much everything else.
- try to develop a relationship; values and character is what matters most;
- Get into a social setting where you will find like minded people or have a good group of friends to help out, be invited to dinner, it's a not threatening and safe environment
- Try to enjoy the process of dating and get to know as many people as possible.
- Make sure the person would make a good parent as well as spouse.
- Talk to a mentor!!!
- It's so hard. Dating is the hardest time period in your life, in my opinion. Daven. Get support. Do the hard work of dealing with your own emotional issues and baggage. Also, don't look for perfect. Everyone has difficulties in their marriage, and - for women especially - know that every guy has problems and difficulties. Nearly every single one of my friends' husbands have a problem that is so challenging, it would be understandable if she wanted a divorce (for example, drinking addiction, bipolar, unable to hold a job, financially irresponsible to the point that they filed bankruptcy and lost their house, depression, etc.). However many of these couples have happy marriages and ultimately are happier than if they were still alone. Basically, life is going to be hard and marriage is going to have significant challenges, and that's okay. Do it anyway. It's better than being single and alone.
- Don't be jerks, consider how you fit together, don't get pressured by other people's wants
- Marry before 30
- Hopefully people can be open-minded about a person's past, not making blanket judgements, and realizing that a person can be different from how they grew up when they're now baalei teshuva.
- Have realistic expectations. It is not necessary to "fall in love" . Life is not like the movies. Beyond basic attraction, it is more important to focus on complimentary personalities, kindness and similar life goals.
- Be more forgiving over what you consider personality "defects" in your partner that are truly minor and trivial.
- Don't settle just because the community is pressuring you to get married between ages 19-22. It's okay to be picky and find the right one, your bashert. Also, I get that you may not think it should be necessary, but make sure both of you are willing to sign a halachic prenup - there are too many agunot in our community. Also, remember that keeping someone in aguna status is, in fact, abusive behavior. Be a mentch/marry a mentch - don't allow it to happen.
- I don't know, I am in my mid-30s and have never been on a date in my entire life.
- Put yourself out there. Don't be too picky, you never know
- Look at how they interact with their family, particularly their mothers. Don't be superficial - look at potential; money/jobs/looks can be lost in a heartbeat but a strong foundation is what will endure
- I'm really hesitant to give advice, as I myself received a lot as a single person. Every person's journey is different, and every person's threshold try various ways of meeting/dating (ex: apps, blind dates, meeting informally, long distance, etc.) is different. I was open to just about everything, but that's my personality; I enjoy meeting people and experiencing new experiences. It still took me nine years to meet my husband. I'd say, if you are in a good place mentally and emotionally, push a little past your comfort zone, but if that isn't realistic, if it will take a toll on you, don't let anyone try to convince you to do so.
- Discuss common goals, approaches to money, parenting philosophies, etc.

- Don't prejudge, age doesn't matter, just go and give it a try
- Make sure you prioritize your own self care abs do not solely focus on dating and waiting for calls. Make sure your self worth is not solely on frequency of dates etc
- Per my last comment, my advice would be to take your time and don't be pressured to get engaged/married before you're ready.
- Be patient with yourself and with your relationship. Don't fall For the love that is portrayed in movies, tv, or book or the stories that people tell You that they knew on the first date that they were with "the one." Sustainable love and the type you want to build a relationship and family with comes With time, growth, and patience. If you see even the slightest spark and you are willing to put in the effort you can have something really beautiful
- To trust your instincts, and not feel pressured to have a relationship with another person because others feel they are right for you. You are the best judge of what is right for you. While it is painful to be single, it is much more painful to be in a bad relationship. There is nothing wrong with you if it takes a long time to find your match (and no one should ever pressure you to be married by a certain age). Your life is valuable whether you are married or single. We all have to take advantage of the opportunities we have from Hashem. Sometimes the absense of one opportunity (marriage) creates the possibilities of other opportunities for careers, friendships, hobbies, and community service. We have to trust that things will fall into place at the right time, and live lives of positivity and productivity while we wait. And friends/family/community should appreciate and welcome you as a single person and, when possible, create opportunities for you to date and marry. To consider what their goala are and if they aren't sure, to take the time to craft them before dating.
- Be clear about what kind of home you hope to have- think carefully about what is most important to you in a spouse and be flexible about the less important.
- Trust in Hashem and go for it.
- Check & recheck sources
- Give people a chance even if they don't seem like an ideal match at first
- Don't look for perfection. Look for someone you can laugh with and enjoy spending time together, even if initially your interests don't align.
- Drop labels and lists of requirements except for two: halachically Jewish and good character. Look broadly and take every opportunity to meet people and expand your social circle. My four children are NOT involved in the "shidduch" world.
- Find a mentor or dating coach you can trust and that understands you. You will be better equipped to vet your dates and better equipped to handle disappointment should that happen.
- Get out and meet people in as many different settings as possible. Do not assume that your partner will look, think, or act in any particular manner, such that you choose not to meet people who could be a good match.
- Don't hold yourself back from other opportunities (work, travel, life), because you're waiting to find a spouse or you think that 'x' opportunity will make it less likely for you to get married.
- Don't know
- Meeting people organically, in person, is also going to work out better. I think we can get so extreme in separating genders that people have zero opportunity to just meet. I think we need to stop treating guys and girls hanging out or having some joint event like it's a bad thing.
- Keep networking and put yourself out there.
- If you feel imposed upon or uncomfortable by a situation (shidduch, blind date, being gay and being set up with people of the

opposite sex) get out. If you are 95% comfortable with someone, let the 5% go.

- Really get to know one another. See how your friends and family react to them. See how they act in a petty argument. Pay attention to pink and red flags.
- Don't let other people decide what is best for you and trust yourself to be the best judge of what works for you.
- Be honest about who you are and what you want.
- -Look for someone that makes you want to "show them off" to your friends and family. If the person is someone you're more secretive about and concerned about what others might say, that might be a red flag - There will always be another person who is smarter, richer, better looking, more established etc. than the one you're dating, what's important is if you find THIS person attractive in the things you're personally looking for
- To seek to date purposefully and to reach out to people. Conversely, it takes a village, we should all support singles from 18 to 48.
- Men need to want to be married and not fall into the habit of there's always something else
- find someone in college
- Be considerate.
- look beyond the superficial
- Socialize more and be more open to date those outside your usual circles
- imagine growing old together -- does it work?
- Stop looking for a sugar daddy (women) and for men, stop looking for "drop dead gorgeous" (I have been asked that!). Go look in the mirror and make a list of what you bring to the table.
- Never (or rarely) turn anything down flat. Many biases can be overcome once some investment is made.
- Stop labeling people and putting them into boxes- and especially don't judge by clothing or people who don't have a supportive

Orthodox family. Concentrate on meeting a good person

- ask your friends to introduce you to their friends - they know you best.
- be honest with yourself chose someone who is as intelligent as you chose someone who is genuinely nice religion is fluid- have some ground rules but be flexible
- Ask less questions, say yes to more first dates
- Don't look at pictures, if you're compatible, give it a shot. Also, always give everyone a second date, no one is themselves on the the first date.
- Throw out your lists
- there is no rush
- Trust your gut and don't get married after too few dates. Have open communication about your wants
- Don't be too picky, but also don't say yes to every suggestion. You're allowed to have standards, but someone outside-the-box may be exactly who you need, even if they're not who you think you want.
- Find someone who makes you laugh and treats you the way you deserve to be treated.
- It is important to get to know someone well and scheduled dates are not the best way to do so.
- Keep an open mind, think about whether you can live with that person permanently as they are now
- Your marital status does not define you. Singlehood is not a crisis. But, a bad marriage is a crisis. So do due diligence. There is no reason to be desperate enough to jump into a red flag situation.
- Get to know the other person and their family as well as possible
- look for a person you feel comfortable with - mutual trust and support are the core of any relationship - religious views and practices may vary during life, but character and intelligence hopefully are stable factors to support everything else

- Don't wait to be swept off your feet. Passion and desire wane. Commitment to a partner that is willing to grow with you will bring you greater satisfaction and happiness.
- Go to a dating coach
- Be yourself and stay that way. Seek a mutual ground to start a relationship.
- Don't sweat the small stuff.
- It's important to find someone that you can communicate with. Yes, being attracted to one another is important but if you can't communicate, then you have nothing
- Just like driving a car, you are not allowed to drive when you are old enough, you have to get your License first.... same here! Educate yourself in what relationship and marriage means, learn read listen to lectures do whatever it takes. Don't think that just because I am old enough that means I know how to be in a healthy intimate relationship...
- Put effort into knowing your self, planning events and dates, give benefit of the doubt to potential dates and treat yourself with a lot of respect (but not arrogance) in the process.
- Be patient, stay hopeful, have a sense of humor, enjoy single life (which has its advantages!)
- If the person meets many of the criteria (not all) and does not physically repulse you (even if not attracted), take a chance and say yes to a date. One date does not hurt anyone and can open a world to you if they know people for you if they are not the right fit. Too many people say no too fast. And often for minor reasons.
- Be honest with yourself and who you are and where you see yourself and meet people who have the same goals. Beyond being pleasant to look at according to YOUR opinions, looks don't matter as they change as you age and goals for life and enjoying similar things are more important. Also, trust your parents and if you don't find someone you do trust who "gets" you. GO to therapy if you need it but have someone deal with the winnowing process for you.
- Make sure you're having fun. If it's becoming stressful, or you're upset about being single, take a break. Take some time to indulge in yourself and things you love. Otherwise you risk making serious compromises, and ending up in an unhealthy relationship.
- Take your time and honor your own needs throughout the process. Don't stress too much about dating... remember, you're looking for someone who appreciates you for who you are, so you don't need to put on a show.
- Watch how the person you are with treats others; staff you encounter, people you pass on street, friends you run into. Actions speak louder than words. When in a relationship, see how they react during crisis.
- Do not allow the social pressure to get married young be the reason you ignore red flags in your dating life
- Look for someone who you think as a bit better than yourself.
- Find someone with shared goals
- Treat the other individuals you date seriously. If you mean to look for marriage, then act properly and honor your dates. If you are just fooling around, be honest about it and give the other person the choice to skip dating you.
- Don't say negative things about yourself like "I'm really not good at directions"...or that you study in a small school because you don't like large crowds...
- Like the person
- Confide in parents and other adults you respect to gain feedback on issues, problems or concerns you have during the dating process.
- Thoroughly vet the person and family. Enjoy the process
- Be less concerned about the "rules" and more open to casual meetings. Like young people meeting at weddings. Maybe shadchanim should come to weddings to help facilitate.

- Know yourself. Your bashert is someone to build a life together not to "fix" you.
- People change a lot after age 21 or after they enter the job market. Wait until then to start dating.
- While it may seem obvious, try to find Someone with whom you can be your full self around and feel totally comfortable with, no imposter syndrome or need to fake anything. Someone who loves you for you including all your flaws
- get to know each and their families
- Try to find people in clubs and activities. That way, if you don't find somebody, at least you're having a good time and hopefully found some friends.
- Treat each person as a potential messenger of G-d as you never know where a shidduch will come from
- Go on the second date and don't be so quick to judge.
- Be open minded, patient and empathetic Finding yourself is most important
- Be open
- Say yes unless you have a concrete reason to say no
- Look for people who act properly, not necessarily people who are like you.
- Use a therapist and/or dating coach. It's not just about the process of meeting someone, but make sure you are communicating what is desirable about you and receptive to why someone else should be a good match
- Look at the big picture
- It's always a 50-50 shot See a therapist
- Be yourself and go with the flow
- Go at your own pace and listen to red flags
- Trust yourself the most and don't get too wrapped up in "rules", "check boxes" and what other people think you should do.
- Be open minded but also go with your gut, as in think logically about your decisions but once that's said and done you can trust how you feel to make a decision for you.
- Let go, and let Gd
- Be open to meeting different kinds of people. Don't have a predetermined image.
- Be both clear about what is important and open minded to options you might not have thought of/considered
- Go on a second date unless you have a reason not to
- Be kind ,Ï to yourself and others 2. Work on your middot and live your values in every interaction. 3. Be aware that as a single you are in a vulnerable position and some people may try to take advantage of you. Don't sacrifice your well being or your self respect in order to get a date.
- Be yourself and don't settle to make others happy
- Keep calm and carry on. While it may be hard at times, no matter what is happening in your friends lives (be it engagement, marriage, baby, another baby, c"v divorce, buying a home, etc) you are not them and they are not you so don't compare yourself to them. Whether you're just starting to date or you've been dating for many years, hold your head up high (because you are awesome the way you are) and stick to your standards (because you are worth it!), you will find the right guy... at the right time!
- Start early
- DROP THE SHIDDUCH RESUME, it itemizes human beings. Relationships are complex and shidduch resumes focus us on materialistic elements. I came from a non-traditional background and would have likely had a resume ignored consistently, but thank God was blessed to meet my wife and date more generally without one.
- Networking to find connections that are relevant to you.
- I don't know
- Try to learn more about yourself, not just the person you're on a date with. 2. Make use of all resources available to you.
- BE "picky"! The person you marry is going to be the other parent of your children!
- Get rid of the resume. Get rid of the interfering mothers. Stop using a Shadchan and learn how to date and speak to each other.

- Trust your gut instincts above all else.
- Be open to meeting people and trust your gut.
- Enjoy yourself; enjoy learning about someone else; set healthy boundaries and stick to them; rejection is scary and can be hurtful, but allowing yourself to be vulnerable can lead to a stronger connection; talk about things with one another; do things together.
- Don't listen to serial daters. Find a dating coach or a married friend that you can trust. Don't listen to people that are still running the race. Talk to people that finished about how to get to the finish line.
- Since I'm not/never was part of that, I can't offer any advice.
- Be open - you and the other person will grow and change over time, good communication and giving equally to the relationship and to each other is most important
- If I had any I thought would help, I would probably not be single
- let your friends know you are or are not interested in being set up
- Be yourself and listen to yourself.
- If you've been trying to find a spouse for a long time without success, it's not your fault and there's nothing wrong with you.
- Make sure that house discuss the hard topics before getting too serious. They may be hard to bring up, but it's ultimately for your benefit
- Get to know the person with friends - yours and theirs. Listen to feedback from close friends. Trust your instincts. Take your time to get to know the person.
- socialize with your friends and the other people that they socialize with. The easiest way to meet people you will like is by connecting through people who you know well and like. A shadchan or other "match maker" attempting to match people who they don't know well is less likely to identify people that you will actually enjoy being with. Also, stop feeling pressure to date and

marry. The community pressure to marry young is inappropriate and can result in people marrying someone that they don't fit well with just because they are "old and running out of time".

- Be careful
- Trust your gut don't waste each other's time when you know you're not interested just because someone tells you to give everyone a chance
- Do not ever let someone tell you that you need to disclose any personal information before you feel ready to, or that you have to compromise on what you want (or don't want) in order to find a partner. The right person will respect you and your boundaries, no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Also, your value as a person and member of your community does not increase if you find a partner, and vice versa. If you have been made to feel that way, it is a problem with the world around you, it is not your fault and you are not the issue.
- I think advice really needs to be tailored to the situation, but here's something that corresponds to the way I've been answering this survey: The places we come from are much less important than where we are going. Be open to people from different backgrounds if you have mutual goals.
- be open to someone different to what you think they should be
- Go to places where there are other people around, even if it's not specifically there to be a singles event.
- I think we put a lot of pressure on dating/relationships/marriage as an avenue to solve all of our personal problems. But it doesn't. The day after you are married, you will still have the same problems with your friends, family and job that you had the day before your wedding. The only difference is you get to wake up next to the person you love most in the world, who will be there to support, love and help you with them. But they won't solve them for you. That is on you.

- Ignore marriage pressure, even from your partner. Do what is best for you.
- Learn to know yourself.
- Do not commit until you really know who this person is that you are seeing.
- Have realistic expectations, be willing to compromise, be you, don't be someone you are not.
- Be open and honest during the dating process.
- Be open to meeting folks- don't judge potential dates on what yeshiva or camp they went to or neighbourhood they live in or what your rabbi/parents/teachers think or anything else.
- Be sure you agree on your values.
- It's about shared values and ideals and desires for the future
- Go on more dates. More dates are more experience, more people to compare against, more knowledge, more practice, more chances for success. I think I offer that advice to every single person I advise.
- Relax and be yourself.
- Being honest, it is normal for Modern Orthodox people to get married at 30. It is also normal to date outside of the shidduch system, to meet people casually, and to consciously chose to not be shomer negiah because physicality is an important part of relationships. The existing model has left too many older singles, if we have to step outside of it to find meaningful relationships that don't end in divorce, so be it.
- Expand your friendship network and get active in what you enjoy (group leisure activities) or what moves you (community organizing for a purpose).
- Be more open to people that don't exactly fit your mold.
- Don't try to be someone who you are not so that the other person will like you. At the end of the day, if you are meant to spend the rest of your lives together, you are going to need to show them who you are. And if they don't love you for who you are, they're not for you, even if they seem wonderful.
- Be open to meeting new people without preconceived ideas. Forget the typically unrealistic lists of "must haves" in a future spouse.
- Forget about the "rules" and what you "should do." Be true to yourself and what matters to you.
- Date a few people before you decide.
- Don't let other people make your decisions.
- Take your time in choosing a mate
- Get past the labeling. Stop looking at pieces of paper and go out with someone more than wants to give them a chance.
- Don't give up
- Don't expect perfection, marriage is about helping each other grow in every way, not what the other person is going to do or give you. What are you willing to give?
- Be nice!!
- Always be yourself so that honesty between people is established.
- Look for a person whom you can work well with in day to day activities and in fulfilling your important life goals
- Be yourself.
- Seek guidance from parents, close relatives, rebbeim, other adults you feel close to --all who have significant life experience to advise daters. Don't shut out those who love and care about you as you embark on this most significant stage of life.
- Be honest with each other, think long term, maybe even pick a little fight to see how you both overcome it and move on stronger.
- Take the opportunity to meet people without worrying if he or she is "the one"
- Let everyone around you know you're looking and be open to a first date with anyone in the realm of relevant
- Be open
- Try to meet people on your own, and network as much as you can. Do reference checks if you're set up on a shidduch date/blind date. Try to get information verified by friends. Look for someone who is kind, honest, and has a good heart. Also consider finances.

- Be a mensch. Fundamental kindness and middot are more important than hashkafic differences (though those are also important).
- Get to know yourself first. Marriage is not the be all and end all of who we are. We must be our own best friend because when times get really tough, and they do, we need to be by ourselves, to be nurturing of ourselves. And then we can give to others. Our first shidduch is the 'marriage' of our body and soul, of our mind and heart. Only then can we attach ourselves to someone else.
- Don't give up
- Stick with your dreams! Don't settle. Marry someone who complements you, not someone exactly like you. Chemistry required! Tell the truth. Dig deep! But really, you'll know. You'll klik!

Q30. What suggestions do you have for shuls or Orthodox community organizations regarding actions or programs they could undertake to better address the needs of single individuals?

[Asked of all respondents]

- I have been moonlighting as a shadchanit for the past five years or so, and I've set up two couples BH. This is clearly not a great track record, but I nonetheless receive very good feedback from the singles I work with and they refer me to others. I believe that this is because I strive to really listen to the people I work with, to do my best to take them seriously and validate their concerns and integrate their feedback into the matches I send their way. We as a community do not listen to our singles, we don't ask them what they want or need, and it's high time that we start to.
- Do something instead of nothing.
- Make them a priority.
- More events, more inclusion, more caring. Also don't call them singles - they are people and not dollar bills or pieces of cheese.

- Stay out
- Create events for older singles. Attract high quality men. The women tend to be more interesting than the men.
- Have events to which singles are welcome - perhaps have special singles events or singles tables at "mixed" events. Do NOT EVER give a charge for an event as "\$X per couple" - this says "singles aren't invited"
- Stop redting a shidduch for nonsense reasons. In out-of-town communities, we already know each other. Stop saying we should date just because of physical proximity and nothing else. [My shul] regularly has shadchanim just throw whatever at the wall to see if it sticks. Listen to people's desires, for example I wanted someone else politically liberal and getting suggested active Republicans was just pointless.
- Provide shadchanim and shidduch guidance.
- encourage shabbat meals between families & singles -- not primarily as shidduch opportunities, but just to make a more cohesive and interconnected community
- Having more programming accessible for singles that is unrelated to dating, and making invitations for meals more of a priority for Shabbos and Yom Tov.
- Ensure communities have Kosher establishments with inviting atmosphere to go on kosher dates - coffee shops, nice indoor/ outdoor seating. Aesthetics that are inviting make a difference.
- Create inclusive programming/make a space for singles. Targeted singles events are great (unless I feel like I'm being used as a cash cow), but knowing that I can join a shiur or attend a Kiddush and not feel out of place is so much more important.
- Informal interactions, moving away from shidduch
- Single women are completely not part of the ultra orthodox community level. Men come to shul and to learn and women without

husbands are forgotten about as part of a communal level. Involving single women and giving them opportunities would be critical

- have more mixed events
- Shabbos invitation for singles
- More singles events in the Yeshiva communities
- Put them in leadership positions--let singles do some of the programming, let them state their own preferences.
- Make people aware of what is important in life and marriage. A guy isn't bad because he doesn't feel that he's not cut out for long term learning (and plans to be koveia etim) and girls should really know if they want a guy who going to learn/start off learning what it means and entails.
- Make it less about making shidduchim and more about making a community that single people can partake in and enjoy.
- Ask the singles what they want.
- Perhaps a sign-up list of potential guests and hosts, so that it is harder for singles to fall between the cracks?
- Treat singles like any other family, not less than. Don't assume women will leave a shul when they get married and follow their husbands. Invest in the human beings regardless of status. Have programs that are intergenerational, not only family oriented, and not only geared toward young people. Understand singles come in all ages and provide resources for singles of all ages and statuses including divorcees and widows.
- More Friday night dinners, or Shabbat lunches.
- Programs that integrate different types of people in the community - older, younger, single, married, etc.
- have events for retired or over 55 year olds
- Treat them like people, not just singles
- Combine forces to create critical mass
- This is a difficult question - it's really cultural. Shuls and organizations offer cater to the

relatively large number of young singles with dedicated programming, alongside programs geared toward married couples my age. I'd prefer not to be siloed into "older singles only programs" but to be seen as the fully contributing member of the community that I am, and for the "standard" shul programming to somehow integrate my needs as a 40-something single with those of the majority marrieds ones my age range.

- Encourage single people representing the broad spectrum of age to get involved in governance positions in shul. Create programs and sponsor activities geared to single people and the challenges they face. Encourage single people to participate in all shul events, even those geared to families.
- Treat us like we exist! Include us. Help us meet other singles.
- Singles Shabbats, Shabbat dinners, making sure the singles aren't alone too often for Shabbat meals...
- Have more singles events. Hire more single people.
- Don't advertise events for married woman - non married people can handle niddah too
- All shuls know who their singles are. If they cared, they could determine what their specific singles are seeking, They could share that data with other shuls. But they do not. Each "makes their own Shabbos." And rabbis do not care because there is nothing in it for them to foster a single connecting with someone in a different shul.
- i honestly don't know - perhaps survey community initiatives and take an evidence based practice approach
- While there should be events and services that cater specifically to singles, it's important that there are a range of events and services that don't focus on single vs married. And that includes family type stuff as well, since single parents are a real thing in the community. They shouldn't be invisible.

- Being supportive to older people
- Shabbos meals program, where singles can be matched with nice families for meals. Some shuls have a shul shadchan and I like that idea very much.
- everyone should provide the name of at least one single person they know and share with a central clearing house
- Try to make inclusive activities that aren't geared specifically toward singles. Have coed classes, events, etc. so that the stigma of "I'm going because I'm single" isn't there
- Try to create an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm for the singles in the community, let them be active in chessed and helping the community, instead of feeling bad that they're not married. Get rid of the stigma and negative associations
- General hospitality committee/person assigned to make sure singles always have a place to have meals. Make sure singles feel included in community events.
- Placing them for meals by other families. Exposes them in a stress free environment to people who will now think if them
- Regardless of the size of the single community there should be events geared towards single people specifically making them involved in the operation of the ritual and social life of the community
- I can't think of anything that would work in my circles, but definitely more intellectual programming geared for women
- Much more interesting and dynamic programs. The women who attend appear more well rounded than the men.
- To integrate singles into life of the shul so that leadership positions or communal involvement can be held by both married couples and singles.
- Start educating people that life is not just about money and looks But about being true to yourself The ones who look with open eyes find there match a bit faster then

the ones who don't face reality You are not a pot of gold with out the gold in it

- Respect us as full fledged members of the community
- More programming for older singles and widowed living alone
- Relationship and emotional intelligence.
- Ask the community you're trying to help for their thoughts.
- Orthodoxy is by definition conservative singles are only the norm in certain communities and its better for them to locate there where they can hang out with their own kind
- More programming specifically for singles, and more programming for everyone what they are welcomed like anyone else, with a mix of social, cultural events, active events, and volunteer opportunities. Relaxing a bit about keeping men and women separate -- a little more mingling would not be the end of the world and could do a world of good. Don't just rely on families to have awareness to invite singles for Shabbos and Yom Tov (we try, but might not know about everyone who needs a place) -- have an organized system of host families and an easy way for singles to sign up. I have lovely single friends I would be so happy to help fix up, but no one appropriate to fix them up with
- More events that aren't dating events, just plain socialization
- make sure that programs aren't exclusionary. For example, if there is a couples rate for a shul program, maybe there can be a special rare for referring a friend. - focus on inclusion during holidays - creating room in leadership for members who are single
- Don't demonize singles. Also recognize everybody was a single, at some point.
- Rabbis and staff should discretely ask singles if they are interested in a shidduch and then work to help them find one.
- help your singles

- Organize more singles events. Make it less of a stigma. Synagogue in different "communities" should reach out to one another to help connect their singles.
- More one on one counseling types of encounters with qualified people willing to be a part of that process with single people.
- not to make them feel invisible
- I don't believe that mass singles events are effective other than to provide a venue for singles to meet
- More events either directly aimed at singles (ie speed dating), or just a gathering (ie dinner or shabbaton)
- More social events and opportunities, especially on Shabbos and holidays
- keep singles as full members of the community. Be aware of language on membership. Using Households instead of family. this also means looking at pricing for individuals, not just families. Don't call any young minyanim the "young couples minyan" make space/events: casual and formal; with religious practice (prayer, study) and social. have space for single people to "hang out" and to be celebrated within the community as regular members.
- Mixers
- Educational programs where singles can mingle.
- Ensure that single members are treated equally. Make sure (for men) they get aliya, are able to lead davening at the same rate as married individuals. For single women, ensure programming does not focus solely on "family" and/or "parenting". Have social events that are open to all.
- Don't assume the next step after "young professionals" is "young families." Make sure you foster an environment where you don't assume that people over 30 are married. Also never assume the gender that someone wants to date!
- Don't treat singleness as a flaw. Don't act like adult life isn't entered into until marriage. If your adult and family (community) programming isn't welcoming to singles, rethink why.
- Recognize people as people, not as parts of a family unit. So offer shiurim or programs for men, women, etc., regardless of marital status.
- Provide places singles can get together where they do not feel like they are incomplete without a partner or family.
- More opportunities to mingle
- be more involved in programming to red shidduchim
- Include them in communal life. Don't work under the assumption that one must be married to be a valued member of The community. Allow them to meet each other at your events and institutions.
- Couples counselors/ life coaches to give advice
- social events for young people
- depends on the city and its orthodox structure, the more orthodox structured the city, i.e yeshivish etc, the more 'awkward' it is to be a single
- Since singles in each community tend to know each other, what about connecting a group of rabbis (or rebetzins, married congregant maybe) from a number of communities who could share names and make shidduchim?
- I have no suggestions except that the more people interact within the community the greater the probability is that they will find a life partner within the community.
- I am so far from being single (17 years) that I don't feel qualified to answer this question anymore
- more programming
- shidduch meetings
- Have consistent and varied programming
- It would be nice if there were some way for them to help LGBTQ singles.

- get matchmakers from the community (people could volunteer to be matchmakers) and have appropriate people meet one on one through set-up dates
- More fun programming and events
- I am going to be subversive here and say, mixed dancing.
- mixed singles events
- There should be more programs where singles can go out for entertainment and to meet members of the opposite sex
- People do not invite singles to their home for seudas.
- Include single folks. If your hosting a Shabbat meal, don't have all the single people together and then another meal for your married friends. We are ok with being at a table with couples. Offer programming open to everyone. Treat single folks as you would anyone else. Marital status does not define us.
- To include them as regular people and not charge them more for an event or advertise events for "families" and to invite them and allow them to be full members of a community.
- I think it is very hard for shuls to have "programs specifically for singles"...especially shuls in smaller Jewish communities...so I think we have to have families inviting singles and couples without kids and couples inviting singlescreating "community"
- Provide opportunities for interaction without judgment.
- Treat singles as a complete part of the community and ignore their marital status. Classes don't need to be specifically geared towards parents unless they are actually talking about raising children. Don't assume singles have a ton of free time just because they aren't driving carpool, or a ton of extra income just because they aren't paying tuition. Maybe ask the singles what kind of programs they'd like instead of just assuming you know. Make it acceptable for singles to take breaks from dating as needed, and have someone (or many someones) available for dating shailas as they come up. Don't assume that single women have a father at home who can include her in a mitzvah; not everyone has an available father to do so. Allow us to sit on shul and community board and committees so our voices are heard.
- For various reasons, the "Jewish home" is no longer always a married man and woman with their own children. The Orthodox community needs to decide whether it wants to exclude/lose anyone who doesn't fit in that box - appropriate actions and programs will come from the response to that question (which could be different for each organization).
- host events that would attract singles where they could meet on their own
- Clergy need to be more involved.
- Singles of all ages need to have regular activities/groups/events/trips/shabbat meals/shabbatonim--not just the 20s-30s.
- Acknowledge LBGTQ+ people and their families. Connect them to programs if they want.
- If they all make even a little bit of effort in this space, it will result in hundreds more shidduchim. Imagine if they make it a priority.
- Think about LBGTQ singles also
- More singles activities where eligible people can meet and mingle
- Stop putting so much pressure on everyone to say it's a "problem"
- focus groups have events with other synagogues or organizations in the area
- Give them leadership positions whenever possible. Make them feel like full congregants regardless of marital status.
- Singles events and shabbatonim

- Where I live there are two almost completely separate communities; the orthodox families and the orthodox singles. It's awful and needs to change. Simply encouraging people to invite singles to meals would be a good start.
- To make sure the women's section is truly welcoming.
- Monthly events: movies, Shabbaton, speed dating, A young adult and an older mid-30s - 50s group and a senior/widow group. Allow the lay leaders to come up with programming and events: hiking, outings, shared meals,
- have dedicated shadchanim include singles in social fabric of the community
- have programs that include people from other communities - networking is important
- Emphasize the need to find Jewish spouses and help connect people of similar levels of observance
- I think that singles over 30 often feel excluded as they are no longer part of the young professionals/recent college grads singles.
- Needs to be community-wide more than shul specific. Support for singles includes both making them feel comfortable with current situation/not assuming changes are desired and creating opportunities for new social connections.
- just have more programs, through which singles can meet each other. they do not need to be specifically focused on matchmaking
- Our young Chabad rebbetzin has started doing young professionals gatherings at local homes
- Have some casual events? Not everything has to be foremost a "mixer." A movie night, trivia night, crafts night, etc.
- Don't look for the superficial
- There are many dating programs and shadchanim available. It would be nice to see singles invited into leadership roles within the community.
- Single events. Shabbatons
- Host singles events but make it clear - NO SHADCHANIM ADMITTED. Just let men and women meet each other. And make sure that when sitting down to eat, a man will have to sit next to a woman. This can be done by having different colored napkins - one color for men, another for women. I went away to a hotel one weekend where a single's event was taking place. I noticed that where they had round robin seating, there were several tables that had all men and others with all women!
- More single events across communities
- More relaxed, more contact between men and women including in learning
- Facilitating potluck Shabbat meals among singles
- they need to be more engaging the young adults of the community and need to be respectful to singles. there needs to be more inclusion. because someone is single doesn't mean they are less smart or less valuable
- sport for match makers
- Have activities for both young adults and also older adults that are not "couples" or "family" events. Ensure they have a way for singles to be invited to shabbos and chag meals.
- one can't have everything in one person
- I think programs where single people have the opportunity to meet other single people in a low-stress (i.e. not explicitly about dating) and preferably where meeting others is facilitated by the program (e.g. some sort of team-based activity).
- Think positive especially when asked for information!
- Different events for singles of different ages.
- Stop making singles feel excluded. Everyone knows someone, and can be a "matchmaker." Yes, it is nice to go to a

catered dinner or a charity event. Speak to us because we matter, not as an "other." Many have extenuating circumstances.

- There are no programs to begin with, no one is helping the singles community in anyway shape or form.
- Orthodox shuls are naturally oriented around the family. But because singles are becoming increasingly common, it is crucial that shuls take a more proactive effort to include them in the community. It could be especially helpful for national organizations to create more of a framework for shuls to follow to include singles more.
- Facilitate more events at lower or no cost. When every single event costs \$36-\$50 it is draining and impossible to keep up.
- Create places and environments/socials for singles to meet up without the expense of dinner/dating. There is also a stigma of singles weekends. People who attend are leftovers and losers.
- Provide multiple options for meeting people and allow people who are dating to be involved in the planning and execution
- Make sure they are noticed, from simple "good shabbos" to invitations to people thinking of them.
- I think shul events should do more to emphasize that people shouldn't focus on finding the ideal spouse on the spot but is a process of encounters that appear to kindle further dialogue and engagement following orthodox/rabbinic precepts.
- I have more needs than simply dating. I am interesting in a robust social and religious life even though I'm not interested in dating at the moment, and the community should be able to accommodate that.
- More NCSY type events for frum singles. Many couples meet through that but they were former public school kids. Why is the more rightwing community separating the sexes to the point where so many don't have normal social skills? More co-ed activities

needed. Co-ed trips, co-ed volunteer opportunities. Modern groups already do this but it has to be destigmatized in the rightwing groups too.

- Fund the Shidch App! (I'm not affiliated, but am a big fan of the concept.) Shidch.app
- I am married now but I got married at age 43. What I most wanted from my shul was more non-demographically segregated events. I was too old for 'singles dinners' and family programming wasn't relevant. When I asked the shul about this I kept hearing that they'd consider programming for 'older singles'. But that wasn't what I wanted! I just wanted shul dinners that were open to anyone who wanted to go, not just a specific demographic. Funnily enough, I ended up meeting my husband at shul, even though there was no particular designated event to bring people like us together. We just talked at kiddush, which was one place I could go that wasn't demographically segregated.
- They should reach out and find programs for singles as often as possible. Not necessarily matchmaking sessions, though that could be good too, but just opportunities for people to get together to get to know one another.
- The problems are so many and so dramatic and intertwined I wouldn't even know where to start.
- Our Rebbi has offered a substantial monetary bonus for each shidduch idea brought to fruition for singles over 21. It is Boruch HaShem quite a successful program.
- Have more events where singles can meet
- Offer support for hosting shabbos meals- those environments are generally the preferred place to meet people.
- Ensure people are looking after them, for chavrusas and most importantly shabbos and Yom tov seudos
- Evening programs, inclusivity
- Acknowledge them & make an effort to include them.

- Check up on a singles every two weeks to see where they are holding dating-wise.
- Programming for young people is key because that's what will keep them in the Jewish community. Otherwise they'll turn to the secular world
- I deeply resent that this survey equates being single with actively looking for a spouse. The Orthodox community needs to support and include single individuals as they are, complete people, complete households. We are not broken and waiting to be fixed. We want to be included and appreciated as the full individuals we are. However, we do need more socialization opportunities, more inclusion in shabbat and chag meals, etc. Shabbatot and chagim alone are hard. More communal meals would be appreciated.
- I don't know. Again, it depends on the age.
- Have shadchans
- More events and activities. Invite singles for meals.
- The activities should be geared towards individuals and interests, learning, happiness, not on socializing and matchmaking - you'll find people when you're both there doing something you love, not when you're trying to force it.
- I like the Orthodox-based online dating groups mostly because, almost by definition, anyone who identifies as Orthodox has to be connected to a rabbi. Before the relationship leaves the website, I think it's a good idea if the fellow's rabbi and the woman's rabbi talk: a) to make sure the other is not a maniac and b) to ascertain if someone who knows the person thinks they might be compatible.
- Stop treating singles like children.
- End the resume hypocrisy, stop ascribing greatness to what brand of orange juice the grandmother used on alternate Tuesdays in August, Å¶
- We need more fun activities for singles.
- Make them feel welcome to all events.
- Singles come in all ages and needs; one size does NOT fit all
- More single shabbatons
- There are good people out there who truly want to help. However, to truly be successful, a lot of effort and time is required. Most people are busy with their own lives and don't have that kind of time. There should be a few individuals dedicated to singles in every shul. That includes meals for Shabbos, or just a friend to talk to. In addition, there should be a infrastructure of professionals trained to assist singles as needed. Some singles might need assistance adjusting in their 1st year of marriage, so this is a long term project. There are underlying issues as to why there are so many singles. The Jewish world has increased it's very high standard of living in the last 15 years. In modern orthodoxy- its education for the kids/ and a nice house with vacations a few times a year; in yeshivish/chassidish it's material things (food, clothing, etc) and difficulties providing for a high number of children. Not everyone can meet those standards so they are left in the dark- in the yeshivish world its girls who don't have degrees, in the modern world it's men. Chassidish are the most realistic of the bunch in this case.) Besides the financials, there is less resiliency in the overall population. People really don't handle stress well, and don't know how to support others who are stressed. They are not realistic about life and dealing with people (emotional intelligence.) In general, the community can't be supportive because they are dealing with their own issues and too busy to think. Not everyone can work a full day and come home to a second shift with no time to breathe. Every single has a specific reason things are not working out, but it isn't addressed properly. The single (either they are aware of it or not) might need help (which might take a year) to address whatever is holding them back.

There is no infrastructure for that. However, I do know of cases where singles have gotten married once they have worked things out.

- The board should decide that they want to make this a priority, and then the rabbi should have conversations with individuals to solicit their thoughts. Some people might want invitations to meals with families, while others might want programs that allow them to meet other singles. It may depend on whether there's a large pool where a person might not have already met everybody.
- Making a conscious, continual effort to talk to and listen to single members, taking time to get to know them, their interests and concerns, and foster new connections and friendships, for instance, offering to introduce even two single of the same sex so that networks of natural friendship develop.
- mixed seating at events and programming
- To take reach out to local singles and include them in planning events. Also to have more events for slightly older crowds (35+) who are single
- I don't think there is one answer that will be effective for every community. However, I think that having events geared to singles, whether speeches or holiday/community programs run by community members including, but not limited to, singles in the community may create opportunities for social networking within communities.
- Host some adult events that aren't focused on couples/families/children.
- Recognize that singles are an important part of the community Don't assume that people 'grow out' of being single Recognize that being single has many different implications vs. divorced/widowed Ensure that singles are included in all programming (if programming is primarily targeted at families, find ways to adapt it) Take care around language concerning communal matters Do not have age cut-offs for events. 'Young Professional' groups often have

these, which isolate singles unnecessarily Connect singles in the community--not necessarily for dating

- Orthodox organizations should have many more programs and Shabbatons. They are few and far in between. Orthodox organizations should fund other people who want to host Shabbatons but do not have the financial resources to do so on their own.
- For those of us who are BTs and don't have big networks based on previous schools, camps, family contacts, etc, checking references can be an exercise in futility.
- in Israel, younger singles need more permitted (by the community) places to mingle
- Finding ways to engage singles in workshops, events, etc. related to healthy relationships, importance of compromise, how to communicate and set boundaries, and encourage people to be more open and put less need on a certain age group, religious level, and exact match on hobbies and interests.
- Be more proactive about giving them appropriate kibbudim and respect
- In a lot of communities there is a sense of invisibility if you're not part of a couple. Honestly I'm not sure what actions or programs single people want but I think asking them is the first step, which I suppose this survey is doing.
- Create more programming that is geared towards or welcoming to singles. Singles are part of the community as well but oftentimes feel left out
- Make sure that singles are actively included in the regular things at shuls - social events, shabat meals etc. For example, if us singles show up to kiddush, but nobody talks to us and nobody cares that we go home alone for a Shabat meal afterward, then nobody cares that we're around.

- Create more of a space for them. Invite them for Shabbat meals
- Programming that encourages young adults to interact / mingle. Community service activities (repair the world), group activities to prepare for Shabbat (work together to cook / prepare Shabbat meal and set tables). and so on.
- Make sure the single person is not the only one who is single in the room
- Having a committee of ppl to help with introductions may be helpful. But there are plenty of match makers out there and websites and I don't think its a shul's responsibility to help picky older singles. More helpful would be for singles to take responsibility and hire dating coaches/therapist who can assist singles on how to deal with their feelings and help facilitate moving a first date to a second, third, etc.
- Plan activities that are fun and engaging and meaningful to bring people together
- Certified shadchanim who train in interpersonal skills and dating, and who will register and follow up on complaints made by women of unacceptable behavior.
- Give put periodic questionnaires and listen to the needs of singles. Discuss this in shul, and urge the community to host men and women on Shabbos at meals..
- Weekly co-ed chesed activities 2. Weekly co-ed learning programs 3. Shul Rabbeim continually encouraging their community members to set up singles and invite them for shabbos meals. 4. Community appointing a mentor who will be there for singles when asked. 5. Shuls of a community working together to do above recommendations 5. Asking singles what they want from their community 6. Shuls appointing singles to various positions in the shul.
- treat singles with the same respect as married people.
- Include singles on boards and as program chairs
- I think there needs to be much more support and acceptance of singles as full fledged members of the community. So many of us feel marginalized and jaded.
- No photos or body descriptions on resumes. Warmer acceptance of matches that happen naturally - the shidduch system should not be the only acceptable path. Mixed community events which are open to all from age 21 (Not just singles or couples. That line needs to be blurred in order to fight stigma and infantilization of singles and to normaliz/facilitate their full engagement in the community).
- Weekly shiur with refreshments after for socializing and spiritual growth
- More social events that are not explicitly singles/dating focused is probably the most important thing.
- I think people should "adopt" as a project of really getting to know and introduce singles appropriately.
- Have a larger role for women
- Stop the pressure to get married young. There needs to be a cultural shift away from this. It's unfair to our kids and their kids. There also need to be more resources for older single people.
- Help the singles feel part of the community
- Set up events, and get out of the way
- STOP TREATING SINGLE WOMEN OF ANY AGE AS INVISIBLE. Do not assume they will pick up the phone and invite themselves, don't assume you don't have anything in common, be a human being and invite them for a Shabbos meal.
- Have Shabbat lunches & dinners Let singles plan activities
- People are people before they are married too. Life doesn't begin at marriage.

- This will sound terrible but singles need to be more proactive. Marrieds can't do it all for them
- Don't ignore us or give us less value than others. Also, we need more support as individuals not just singles that's not the only facet Of who we are.
- Perhaps host regional shabbos where singles from other cities can meet each other.
- Live events (in person or virtual) where people can meet Community focus groups to assess interests and plan events around those interests Let singles take the lead rather than deciding from the top down what we need
- Make more events and have someone in the community taken charge of setting singles up to make sure they meet each other
- We need to re-think the degree of separation. From pretty much the age of 5 until they're old enough to date, boys and girls (unless and sometimes even if they are siblings) are kept so completely separate that when the time comes to date, they barely know how to say hello to each other. When my daughter was in seminary, she couldn't ever go to the home of the married daughter of a friend of mine, because the girl's husband wanted to always be free to bring home bochurim from yeshiva. By the time they're that old, it should be ok for them to it at the same Shabbos table. My daughter has 3 older brothers who always had friends in the house. She was permitted to talk to them, and when the time came for her to date, it was much less awkward for her than for some of her friends.
- Stop having so many separate events for men and women! How are people supposed to meet?
- Address the importance of all members of frum community's responsibility in setting up singles. Running singles programming. Designating shul space to be allocated as set meeting points for singles to meet in out of town communities and encouraging out of town singles to join as well. Reducing the supreme importance of moving to the NYC area to date by offering mingling opportunities elsewhere. Offering Shiurim and mentorship opportunities for singles to engage with a Rebbetzin/Rabbi in the community to ask questions to.
- Don't assume someone is looking?
- Consider them in their needs, and not as an afterthought. Specifically include them. Ensure they are getting invited out and have somewhere to be for shabbos and yom tov
- They could more actively invite singles to be a part of the community. Some shuls are great at this, but some won't really give an aliya or committee position to a single unless they aggressively pursue it.
- Need to make singles feel included and not like second class citizens to married couples. Singles need to be included on shul boards, programming committees etc
- Encourage activities that organically involve interactions between the sexes. Not everyone thrives on formal dates and singles events.
- make them feel welcome ie less focus on family programming; ensure every single is invited out for every shabbat meal
- Again maybe a community dinner. Or a game night. Even a movie night in the shul, do activities that would draw young people in a non threatening environment. Speed dating round table again?
- Find ways to mix communities. Start with teenagers by finding ways to engage them.
- The singles should be able to contact the shadchan with a SAAS service. Things should not be completely in the hands of the shadchan because many people are shy.
- No idea, not my specific issue, but I know it's a major problem.
- Care about them as people, integrate and respect them. Don't just look at them as incomplete children in need of a missing half.

- Don't ignore us
- Actually have singles events and set people up on shidduchim instead of leaving baalei teshuva or divorcees on their own.
- volunteer activities that interest and include both singles and married individuals. Inviting singles to join the Board and committees within the organizations.
- Shabbatonim for singles where singles from other communities are invited to participate
- More singles events for older people (40+)
- Don't just cater to the younger singles. There are older singles in our community who need an outlet, too. Stop making these events for ages 20-30 only. We have singles over 30, and singles over 40, and, in some cases, singles older than that who might want to remarry, or who may never have married for various reasons. Make events for them, too.
- Dating events for singles that are open to queer frum Jews.
- More events that aren't labeled as single events, but rather, young professionals. And it's okay if couples come too
- Don't just advertise events for families, it hurts single people as well as married people with no children.
- Maybe if an organization hosts an "event" at a shul, have the singles stay and eat at married people's houses at different stages (newly married, married 10+ yrs, married 20+ years etc) and engage in questions on why they got married and what makes a marriage last.
- I think more derashot and lectures from leadership about how to be more inclusive and supportive of singles is a good place to start. I think it's partly generational - expectations of marriage were different even outside the Jewish world - so 'older' generations may not understand why there is a struggle to begin with, making them more likely to pity singles, whether never married, divorced, widowed, etc. Debunk

singleness from being a scary, stigmatized status through discussion. Also, encourage people to get to know other communities b'chlal, having nothing to do with marital status through community meals, events, clubs, etc. My community does that well thank G-d! Changing people's perspectives on singles won't happen over night but it can happen over time with effort.

- Host events. Have matchmakers available.
- Normalize and integrate single individuals into the community/shul as full-fledged, equally respected and valued participants. Encourage the community to acknowledge extended singlehood as a valid option. Just like in many other interpersonal situations, chilling out about something clears out unnecessary anxiety and often unlocks opportunities previously unseen. I am satisfied and proud of my contributions of assorted household support and childcare that I provided to large Jewish families over the years. I think that an individual's voluntary prioritizing the wellbeing of Jewish progeny in general over their specific genes can be a positive phenomenon. If utilized and organized inventively, a lower child-adult ratio in the community can help improve overall well-adjustment, reduce substance use, and promote mental health among children, thus creating stronger and healthier communities in the future.
- singles parties are to meet someone, not to gather as friends, those are regular parties. Have a married person handle it, not singles that just want parties and aren't really looking to be married
- The only role should be to make introductions. If a pair meets and like each other, then the organization should stay out of it. The pair should go out and get to know each other without any pressure/input from a matchmaker or other organization to decide whether to go out again.
- Have age appropriate single events. Treat people who are single as people and not as

their own special category. Be inclusive. Do not patronize or extort money from single People. It's hurtful. Listen.

- Integrate singles into regular shul programs. For example, don't just have a singles event, but have interesting speakers/dinners/fun events that appeal both to young married couples and singles. This creates healthy social events where singles can interact with married friends as equals, and not feel judged for being single, while also providing opportunities to meet potential dates without the pressure of dating events which can feel like opportunities to simply size each other up. We need to facilitate low pressure ways for singles to meet each other, and give them opportunities to form healthy friendships that could develop into romance.
- Acceptance of single people so they aren't ostracized by the community or made to feel alone because of single status.
- To reach out to the singles individually and ask them what they feel is lacking or how they could be better supported.
- In my day there were many events/weekends/ organizations that offered opportunities to meet potential spouses- it seems like there is hardly anything going on these days and singles have to play the awful game of cruising after shul or relying on J swipe or matchmakers.. There needs to be more organized fun get aways!
- If they viewed singles as part of the solution and not the problem things would move in a more positive direction, although I don't see that happening. Individuals have the ability to facilitate the needs of singles by inviting them to Shabbos meals, family simchas and other social activities that revolve around families.
- Get involved. Recognize singles in shul & speak to them
- Do more single events
- Create opportunities where meetings can occur naturally as opposed to labeling something a "singles event" with all the pressures that come with it.
- Seriously dismantle focus on superficialities (appearance!), labels, and ridiculous lists of requirements and credentials. Focus on two only: halachically Jewish and superior character.
- More mixers, more ways to introduce people to each other
- Small social groups within the shul that have non-family related content. Singles (and everyone) would also benefit from being part of a specific shul with a rav they can respect and connect to.
- Treat singles like full participants in the community. Enable singles to develop activities that they want within the community. Include singles in leadership roles.
- Events that promote general socialization among community members and do not place explicit emphasis on dating. Having babysitting/child care available at events so that people with children can attend these events.
- Encourage families to reach out, invite for meals, etc
- We need more opportunities for guys and girls to meet organically. As a community, we've trended towards separating more and more that there's no opportunity for different genders to meet - and then we wonder why we have a shidduch crisis. Having more events for young people that are coed and not treating those as something "wrong", or an attitude that say, it's okay for coed groups to hang out, socialize without assuming it's "not kosher". We need to stop making it impossible for people to meet in a way that isn't forced
- Listen and try to build individual connections to singles

- I have no idea. In my shul, all the young ones seem to meet each other just fine. They talk enough in shul, and the guys cross over to the women's side of the mechitza enough that...they sure seem like they are fine. That's the heterosexuals, anyway.
- More structured, substantive events.
- Single men often have more of a space in the singles community than women, and women who are single are in a much different position than men. People don't look down on men who are single in the same way they do with women. The community is also extremely judgemental and gossip-y.
- Be flexible, knowing that some Jews are more stringent than others. But after meeting, it's quite possible less-observant Jews will become more frum.
- More vocal about singles events
Announcements and stronger marketing efforts
- We need networks going beyond the boundaries of a single shul or community, and we need more for different subsegments of the community. Sometimes it feels like the events are only for the singles to the left of you.
- Be comfortable with the fact that people can be pretty religious but not want to be shomer negiah.
- create an open space for singles to mingle as part of a community ... no need for formal activities that are tinged with shame
- allow singles to meet in groups
- in a town with few orthodox jewish singles, the most obvious suggestion is to get more of them to move here!
- I am attending a get together with experienced schadchanim tomorrow night. They are going to talk about their experiences. I hope to learn. At the very least, shuls need to make a list of singles (who want to marry), vet them and try to arrange meetings. The "singles" event is so 1970's.
- Be aware that we exist, and don't fall neatly into the boxes of Avreichim and Bochorim.
- I think Shuls ignore divorced individuals, and that they feel much more uncomfortable than never married singles. Have appropriate mixed events for all singles
- host non-traditional social events for singles
- opportunities to meet without the BS of frumkeit
- Create more shabbos meal opportunities. Shabbos and yomtov are the loneliest times to be single.
- Make singles events, singles shabbos meals
- Rabbis to invite singles sometimes or encourage events where singles welcome
- Not all single people live on their own; those singles who live with their parents are also in need of invitations to Shabbos meals. Don't think of an invitation to a single as preventing them from being alone for Shabbos; think of it as giving them an opportunity to meet people.
- Social events of interest
- More meals in the shul and also being sure that event logistics don't call out singles (i.e. couples pricing, etc.).
- Stop being patronizing to singles. Value the opinions and shabbos meals of singles the same way you would singles.
- grant equal respect and value to their presence and membership - not skip the women - keep in mind almost every religious ritual and practice is limited (in orthodox practice) to men, and automatically shut out women, so single women (never married or no longer married) may feel valued zero and involved zero, so treated as non-existent
- Weddings should go back to COVID 19 protocols in terms of expense and ostentation. Men and women must be allowed to meet and talk under generally supervised settings. Single men and women should be encouraged to talk or arrangements should be made that those in

attendance can be introduced at their friends' weddings.

- Organise social happenings and let nature do the rest. Do not push in any direction. Let them be
- Have more opportunities for singles to meet in a group setting.
- Education on meaningful relationships, less focusing on superficiality
- More singles mixers
- Attractive adult education events with an options to meet and mingle singles (and non-singles) before or after
- There is too much emphasis on marriage equals success. So many marriages are bad, or spouses die young. Shuls and Orthodox Judaism need to reframe what it means to be successful.
- Singles should be incorporated into everyday shul life, not just in singles life. Having programs where singles and couples and families are mixed together (like progressive dinners) allows singles to just be a part of the community and form closer relationships rather than only being remembered at singles shabbatons
- Have get togethers and shiurim for high school and post high school girls and boys are generally in Yeshiva so... There should still be Shabbatons (with Rabbanim) for older singles once a year. Boys ages 22-25 can fall through the cracks before they are married. Girls get embarrassed to be involved if they are not yet married so have evenings just for them, like for the married women.
- -Don't constantly separate out "young professionals" from community events/services. Allow us to be regular members of the congregation, regardless of our age. Only in the context of a "young professionals" minyan/event does one's singlehood status come to the fore. I get it for social events, but I don't see why late-20's adults should pray separately from

everyone else. -I'm not sure how this can be done at the organizational level, but I think it's important to stop pressuring young people, especially women, to marry the second they graduate college. Some of this comes from parents, some is just general social pressure. Ex. Young women (22-23) have told me about parents warning that they'll "expire" soon if they don't find someone. It's wrong and untruthful, but also implies that one's self-worth is determined entirely by their relationship status.

- Programming that is not just "singles" programming or "family oriented". You need to have programming that is interesting and open to all adults. Example; communal seders. Make community announcements about achievements in lives of single folks like graduations, work promotions, founding of business ventures, shows of their artwork, etc. Too rarely are these things mentioned alongside weddings, bar mitzvas, and kids school events.
- I don't think they need to
- Since I have not been single for almost 50 years, I do not think that I am qualified to know what singles need.
- Ask singles what types of programming they would like. Actively reach out to them.
- Set up singles events as well as communal events that welcome families and singles. Celebrate Shabbat and holidays in a welcoming manner.
- All members of the shul should add people they know that are single to a list marking along (only) the basic qualities, outlook and circumstances of the individual. Afterwards, the Rav together with the person who marked on a name can discuss matching it to another name on the list (including the one who marked on the ((second)) suggested matching name in the conversation as well). A monthly checkup and update should take place.
- Ditch the mechitza

- Singles Shabbatons or social activities geared to singles and promoted widely throughout the Orthodox community.
- More shabatons or get together s
- Have single people pay to come to weddings even if they aren't friends of the couple. It's a kosher way to be seen.
- More social events not designed for singles that are about niche interests. These will help people of similar outlook to know each other in social settings without the pressure of "matchmaking"
- Everyone should be more active inn shidduchim. Do not rely on the Rabbi or Rebbitzen.
- For orgs/schools: Offer subsidized housing to single professionals, not just married couples
- Events with multiple communities.
- "Branch out" Shabbat as an opportunity to make connections with people you wouldn't otherwise know. Activities at shul parties & things with teams of more than 2 people, so unmarrieds end up on teams with singles.
- Incorporate singles in family events. they should not be excluded. I would enjoy more interaction across demographics.
- Lectures or events for singles once a month
- Need more programs targeting this demographic
- Stop resumes
- Stop using the categories "couples" or "young couples" More opportunities for volunteering with members of other Shuls or communities
- Have mixed singles events, and encourage the mixing
- Normalize dating events at younger age
- More actual modern orthodox shadchanim who are normal
- Please pay more attention to those who come from atypical backgrounds, and don't treat us as less than. People who aren't "your kids" often need extra help forming social connections and finding (good) spouses.
- Lower membership prices for single individuals. Singles may not be able to join the local shuls for financial reasons. Invite singles for shabbos meals, not "singles meals", just have singles at your shabbos table. Not as setups. Many singles are along on shabbos and would like not to be. Have non-family based social programming. Singles events are almost always awful, so have more social events where people can meet in more casual non-pressured environments. Treat singles like the adults they are- they have lives, hobbies, jobs, families too. Do not talk down to them.
- While this survey is, by design, geared toward singles, I think that many shuls take for granted the older members and forget to plan for them, especially given the pandemic. This would include both older singles and married individuals.
- Include them (I hear many feel left out, not invited to meals, events).
- Teach classes on how to build a healthy relationship
- Think outside the box. Not everything we need seems directly related to dating. For example, just being a friend can really help someone in their dating life even if you never set them up or give dating advice. Or inviting someone for shabbos might allow them to expand their social circles which might eventually lead to meeting someone. See us as individuals and community members, not just as "singles." Think of our needs and also what we can give beyond just things that relate to singlehood or dating. Include us , always. Be aware that some , or even many , shadchanim can be truly abusive and have terrible middos. There needs to be some kind of oversight not allowing these people to have power just because they have made a lot of shidduchim

- Stop making events for only married women or only single women. Allow people to mingle.
- Do more (!) in general. More events, more outreach, and more social get-togethers. And follow-up, that's pretty key.
- Host singles for shabbat. Find ways of making suburban communities more of an option and more inclusive for single individuals.
- Single oriented events, shiurim that include, but need not be exclusively for, singles.
- more mixed social events, i met my husband on a coed bus trip of israel in high school- i think coed events are important starting in high school and college, it should be a social norm
- Take more of an individualized approach and an interest in your congregants individually.
- Have events that are about interests, not about age-group singles.
- Have coed get togethers.
- Create more events that cater and appeal to all individuals, not only couples or families. Cover more broad range of topics.
- Don't make assumptions. Not everyone is straight, cis, wants to get married, etc.
- Try to maintain a balance of events for single people, couples, families, and the community at large. Consider pricing models that accommodate for different situations. Include people from different demographics on committees to hear their voices, then listen. Have joint events with other organizations in town or with organizations in other towns.
- Get them more involved with community events. Integrate them more into shuls. Singled need to want to be involved. We can force them to do things.
- Singles events for the middle age (>35, < 55) would be great! Otherwise, I'm fine because many are kid/family oriented and I have my kids.
- More young adult events
- Instead of awkward social events, maybe single men and women can do volunteer work together.
- The seminaries and Yeshivas are passing wrong messages on to young people. They are telling girls to only look for guys who learn. Girls are being discouraged from learner- earners. Boys have false expectations/ skinny, beautiful girls
- More speed dating stuff. I just need greater quantity at this point to be honest. Connect with other communities, neighboring shuls, cities, states, religious communities. I don't need to remeet the same fifteen people milling around at every singles event in the city. Talk to us like we're people of value and involve us in shul shit? I thought I was getting there but the pandemic kind of proved that I'm out of sight out of mind. I haven't been to my old shul's neighborhood for Shabbos since before the pandemic, when I attended nearly weekly. Granted, there are of course MANY other factors there, but like, it's been two years. It's pretty f***ing sad that the families I thought considered me part of their community have not reached out (even in some cases where I have) and I'm just so tired. So it's Shabbat by myself for the foreseeable future and I'm so angry and tired and sad I'm frankly fine with that for the time being.
- offer programming and volunteer opportunities that are not based around families with young children
- Clearly label programming that is meant for singles, families, or everyone. Make membership dues the same for singles and couples. In speeches, posts, bulletins, use language that acknowledges that not everyone is married (ie don't use an example of "when your spouse/child does this"). Invite singles to your home and accept invitations from singles. Overall, treat singles

like humans and normalize their lives instead of erasing them.

- Don't patronize single people or treat them like there's something wrong with them for being single.
- They need to take the time to listen to the needs of their single population, which are often not the same as the married/family population, and attempt some kind of programming targeted at what feedback they get, not what they think we want/need.
- just organize social activities for singles, no pressure just a place for single people who enjoy an activity to participate, have fun and meet others who like the same activities.
- Get more involved
- Honestly? Just try. At all. Just caring for the singles in your own shuls isn't cutting it so maybe try inviting singles from other shuls or even those who don't have a specific shul they go to. It doesn't even feel like most shuls or organizations are trying when it comes to singles who live outside of dense populations of frum communities.
- Have social events that aren't for singles to meet each other but just to be part of the community
- Make sure there are more events available for everyone, regardless of family or relationship status. Having singles events doesn't make people feel included in the community when those are done directly in contrast to events for couples and families, there should be events where everyone can participate equally.
- Stop encouraging total separation of genders
- Stop offering family discounts. If you are going to offer a discount, offer it to everyone. 2. Run events for singles that are not only about dating/marriage. 3. Form a committee of singles and ask them what they see and what they want. 4. Don't have a form where singles can sign up for Shabbat meals. Have a form where community

members can see who is single and personally ask them to join them for shabbat meals as they would a couple or family. Don't place the burden of action on singles. Place it on the community. But also be sensitive about how you create this list and gather that information. You don't have to send out an email blast asking for singles to send their information and if they want to be hosted for shabbat meals. You can send out an email blast asking everyone for their information and if they want to be hosted for shabbat meals and use that information to figure out who is single.

- Host young professional events that aren't explicitly singles events
- Mixed weddings? I don't know
- Have more coed group activities, informal, where people can talk.
- Options for LGBTQ folks
- Host more single events.
- Coed social events with mixed seating for those who are comfy with that.
- Encourage people to invite singles to Shabbat lunch.
- More working together to bring different people into others circles, reducing stigma of being single, creating relaxed environment around dating
- I think singles (and a lot of Jews) tend to be pretty disengaged, so whatever you can do engage them and strengthen their Jewishness and their personal growth. But I really don't know how to do that.
- Make single individuals feel welcome and full participants in all organizational or shul activities.
- Honestly, I'm sick of feeling like I'm in a meat market at shul. I don't know how to fix that though.
- Make sure that young LGBT Orthodox Jews can envision a place for themselves as adults in the community

- Run great events for everyone but with singles in mind.
- Offer programs where they can meet on their own. I used to attend lectures that would have light snacks at the end so you could talk the people who attended.
- Allow boys and girls to meet in social settings.
- Don't create programming that is "for singles only" - it feels very much like singling us out and also alienates those who are single and older because they will not fit in. Instead, organize around interests, age, etc. And things will naturally flow from there. Also, if you are a shul that only sometimes does coed programming but not always, then that coed programming will innately turn into a sexually charged dating scene. Normalize coed environments so men and women interact in a healthy and not only in a hypersexualized way.
- Have mixers and social events for the LGBTQ+ members of the community.
- Shuls need to be more inclusive , and proactive in terms of not leaving out or casting aside singles .
- Offer more unstructured, low key opportunities
- Guide, don't push.
- For each age group get people involved of those ages. Sometimes activities for older people are incredibly boring. Do more to network with other Schuls or organizations so there's a wider group of people to select from
- Be sensitive to the needs of singles
- To have many more single events, mixers etc
- Hold more social events in schuls so that people can meet like minded people.
- Create more single programming. Provide resources for single people to suggest their programming-activities requests and the shul will need to act on them
- Ask the singles themselves what their needs are and the kinds of programs they would participate in.
- Treat them as full members of the community and ask them what they want. Don't assume marrieds know better.
- Acknowledge the community, offer singles programming to encourage meeting and remind families to host singles for shabbat etc
- Have programming for singles 35 and up.
- Finding out if the person is interested in meeting and keeping them in mind. Introducing singles in more subtle ways.
- Not stigmatizing singles in the community. Finding ways to include them during holidays and community events. If a shul or organization is running programs for children, consider running parallel programs for adults who may not have children. When a rabbi is addressing a congregation, he shouldn't assume during his talk that everyone has a spouse and/or children. Families should try to include singles at their shabbat meals, and invite multiple singles at one time so that one person is not singled out at the table as the only unmarried adult. Shuls and organizations should also start committees or task forces where singles can gather as a group to form recommendations on how the community leadership can better address their needs.
- Have more shul-based events to bring singles together.
- I know from my own experience, singles are not embraced. Perhaps widows are given more attention for the rachmanut aspect, but divorcees and singles are kicked to the curb. I am not shocked about this. There is so much weight on marriage, that even someone who is a known child abuser, pedophile, adulterer will get an aliya over a divorcee. In every shul they have had problems with this, only in the last few years have SOME rabbanim kicked them out. And as we know, women are not included in any

of the prayer aspects of shul. So why should we go? To sit behind a mechitza and say things by rote? But where else can us orthos meet people? Some come just for the kiddush. But that's frowned upon too. I'm not a lonely or lonesome person but others are. So, sadly a lot of us singles go OTD. Why bother? If shuls were going to adequately deal with singles, they would be all inclusive for the men and have the women, when they come, be somewhat a part of the communal aspects.

- Singles events and Shabbat dinners
- Create events 30-60 regularly in one place, switch people around a few times in one evening and have one per table or area that keeps everyone talking about themselves In front of all present. Encourage interaction between everyone. This is how connections are discovered