

# The GroundWork Fellowship



Just a few weeks after returning from Israel, I attended another fellowship retreat, where my assignment was to prepare a short lesson for a “PowerPoint Party.”



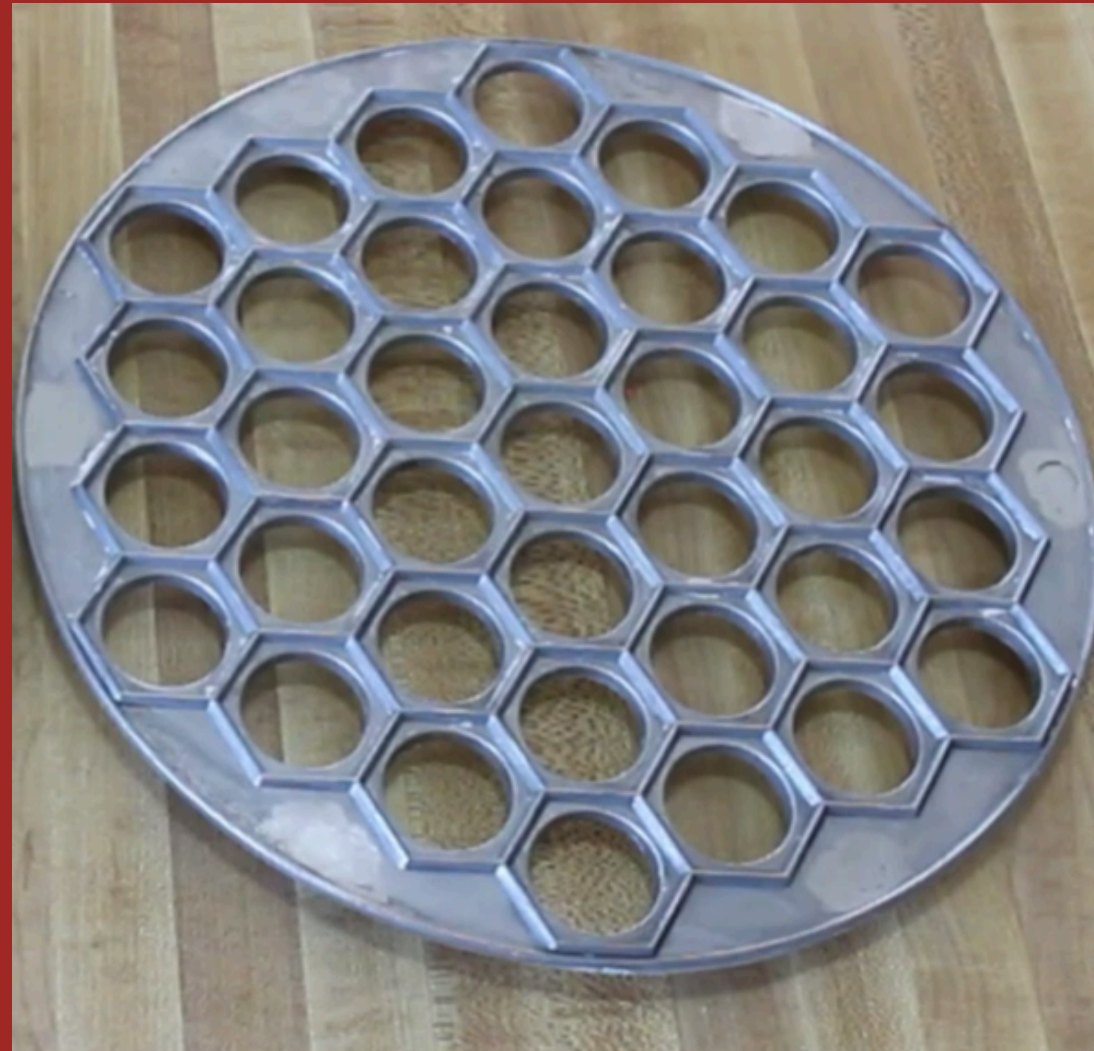
I immediately thought about Israel.

There was so much I wanted to teach!

But I only had 4 minutes, and I knew that beyond being informative, my presentation also needed to be engaging and humorous.

# WHEN A MUSEUM EXHIBIT LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE YOUR GRANDMA'S KITCHEN

A SMALL CULTURAL MYSTERY  
DISCOVERED DURING MY TRIP TO ISRAEL



DURING MY RECENT TRIP TO ISRAEL, I VISITED A MUSEUM WITH A WALL OF MYSTERIOUS HISTORICAL OBJECTS.

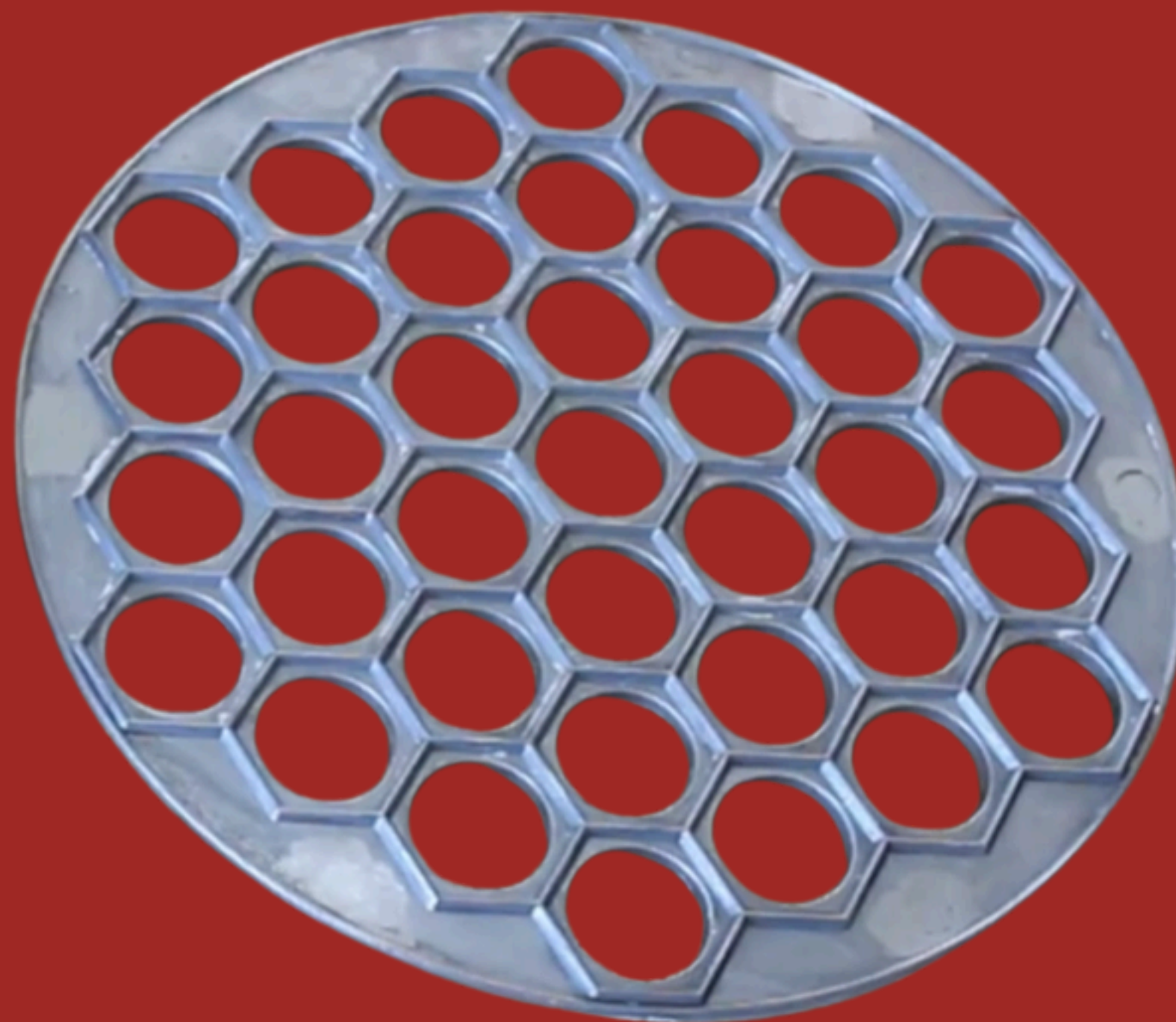
THE IDEA WAS THAT MODERN PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE THINGS ARE ANYMORE.

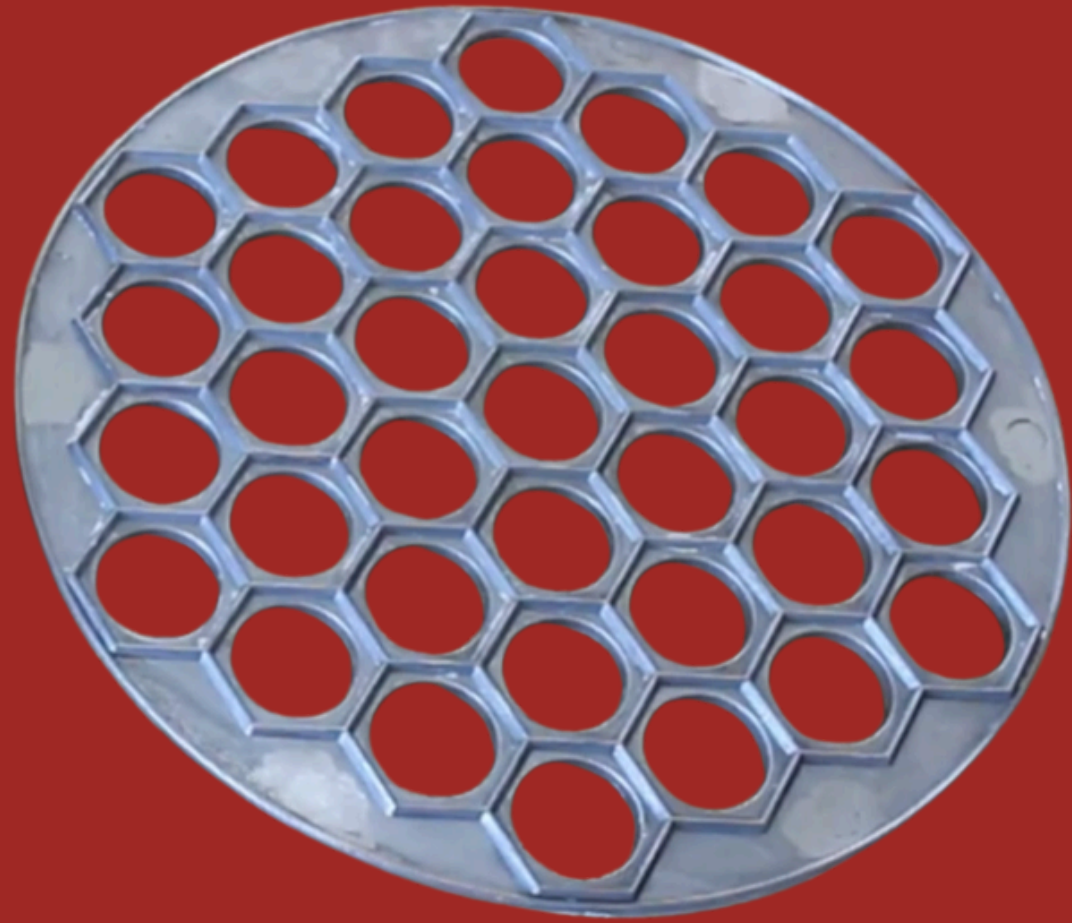
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE MUSEUM... I GREW UP RUSSIAN (RUSSIAN-JEWISH).





**DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THIS IS?**

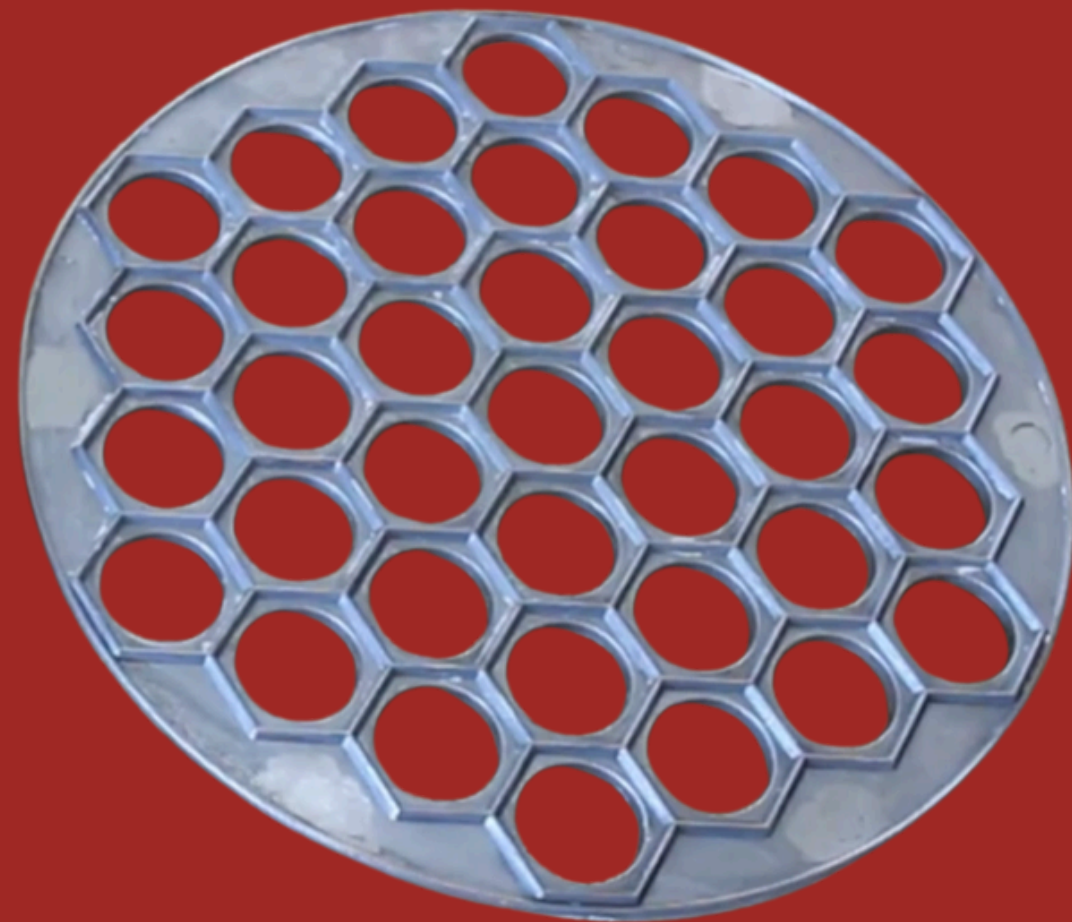




THIS IS A SOVIET PELMENI MOLD.  
YOU ROLL DOUGH, PUT IT OVER THE  
PLATE, ADD MEAT, COVER WITH  
ANOTHER DOUGH LAYER, ROLL IT —  
AND SUDDENLY YOU HAVE 37  
DUMPLINGS AT ONCE.



THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN YOU  
REALIZE:  
WHAT MUSEUMS CALL  
“HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS”...



RUSSIAN FAMILIES STILL KEEP  
IN THE KITCHEN.

EVEN WITH MY RUSSIAN-JEWISH BACKGROUND...  
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THIS ONE WAS.

Can you guess?  
The right guess  
will earn a  
candy!





## **Magen Tzitzit - Fringe Guard Laundry Protector**

Instructions: (printed on the box as well) 1. Position the four Tzitzit in the slot at the base of the Magen 2. Wrap the Tzitzit around the Magen 3. Lock the cover in place with a half turn and place in the washing machine \*Not suitable for use in the dryer

# SO TODAY WE LEARNED A FEW THINGS:

- RUSSIAN KITCHENS ARE BASICALLY MUSEUMS.
- IF CIVILIZATION COLLAPSES, RUSSIANS WILL STILL KNOW HOW TO MAKE DUMPLINGS.
- MUSEUMS PRESERVE OBJECTS FROM THE PAST.
- JEWISH PEOPLE PRESERVE EACH OTHER THROUGH STORIES, FOOD, AND COMMUNITY.



And just like that, a simple moment turned into the beginning of a conversation—one that carried through the entire retreat and continued afterward in our WhatsApp chat. One small lesson opened the door to deep, meaningful dialogue.

That's how I teach in my community—seamlessly and naturally, weaving Jewish values into everyday life.

From there, I decided to create a blog series as part of the GroundWork Fellowship assignment: open-ended reflections that invite people to pause and rethink.

Because Israel is far more than it appears at first glance.



