

TJC Board Retreat
Thursday, October 27
6-10pm
Social Hall

Objective: clarifying and Broadening the impact the Board needs to have as we move make the huge cultural shift from a Transactional to a Covenantal Community

Objective: Building relationships within the board

Objective: gaining clearer insight into board member responsibilities (including Philanthropic priorities/Annual Fund)

Materials:

Building blocks with removable labels, sharpies

Post-its- five on each book with nametags to hand out in lobby at start

Video set up with computer

Found objects

Building Sacred Communities book

Printouts of Discussion Guide

Giant Whiteboard with whiteboard markers

Easel stand

Large posterboard

Pads of paper and pens for each pair

Dinner from Lox Stock

Water, herbal tea,, iced tea, wine, nuts/grapes in lobby

Agenda:

I. Welcome

A. Libations and nibbles in lobby 6 pm - 6:10

1. Welcome each guest as they come in and give them with five post-its; instruct them to write five different notes in answer to "What is the role of a TJC board member?"
2. Instruct them to select one "Found Object" from the table. This will determine groups.
3. Before moving to Social Hall, give them exactly one minute to find logical partner that goes with chosen object

B. ABC Intro to evening (objectives, tie to KN address)

Welcome and Todah Rabah for making time to be here this evening. I know it isn't easy. This has been a year of calendrical conflicts but I firmly believe in the the value of Board Training. We are going to have a fun and illuminating night together!

From the bimah at KN I spoke about a huge cultural shift we as a community must make in order to continue to thrive and provide continuity of vibrant Jewish life for our children and our children's children.

The old school, last century model of synagogue life is transactional. It is based mostly on a COMMERCIAL relationship.

I pay dues.

I get access to programming.

I've got a rabbi for life events, good and bad.

I get tickets for high holidays.

I get bar-mitzvah training and Jewish education for my kids.

But as soon as I don't need all that, I'm done.

I can quit my synagogue like I can quit my gym. Services rendered, relationships not required.

But the reality is, a transactional model will not serve us now that Jewish content can be streamed from anywhere in the world.

The key to the success of our community is being COVENANTAL, not transactional.

Covenantal is about what we get to do as part of our Jewish Center community rather than what we get in exchange for our dues. It is about being better because we know each other better.

We are here tonight for three reasons 1) create relationships within the board - a connected and covenantal community starts with a connected and effective leadership team.

2) Clarify and boarden the impact we have as board members as we make this huge cultural shift from transactional to covenantal- think about what I messaged to the Congregation at KN about wolves and trophic cascades - how we we board members, what we do, what we say, how we interact, have an outsized impact.

3) Lastly, we are hear to get clearer insight into board member responsibilities. We have a a Board Covenant. It's in the ebinder. But tonight we will really begin to flesh out these concepts so that we can inhabit and own the role.

B. Rabbi - Blessing

II. My Role as Synagogue Board Member (see Discussion guide) 6:30-7:30 pm

A. In pairs, discuss: who or what encouraged me to join the synagogue board? What

motivates/inspires me to continue serving on the board?(5 mins)

B. Share with quartets (5mins) then larger group (5 mins)

C. Read the text from Norm Levine (handout) as a group (5 mins)

D. In found object pairs, discuss guide questions (10 minutes)

E. Pairs find another pair and share (15mins)

F. Quartets find another quarter and share with entire group (15 mins)

G. Make sure to have a notetaker for the questions and collect them at the end.

III. Dinner 7:30 - 8 pm

A. Sit with someone you do not know well and is not your found object partner to discuss the following:

- B. What is the most covenantal thing you have done recently? What is one thing you have done within a group/organization that was not covenantal? How could you change that?
- IV. Our Roles as the Synagogue Board 8:00 - 8:30 pm
- A. Read the text (handout and on screen) from Janice Kamenir-Reznik, co-founder of Jewish World
 - B. Discuss:
 1. What are our strengths in working together as a board? In what areas can we grow together as a board?
 2. Janice says, "Bringing in new blood all the time is critical and challenging." How are we doing in terms of bringing new people into our conversations and into synagogue leadership?
 - C. Discuss in pairs, then larger, then whole group (5mins, 10 mins, 15 mins)
 - D. Type takeaways on large projected screen
- V. Board Role in Development 8:30 pm
- A. What is the Board's Role in Development?
 - B. Why is the Annual Fund so important?
 - C. Why is it so hard to ask for donations? Write on the whiteboard.
 - D. Girl scout parent Center AF as covenantal
 - E. Use whiteboard comments to provide solutions, concrete steps
 - F. Role Play?
- VI. Reflection (9:15)
- A. are you in a different place than you were at 6pm? Take-aways: What are you taking away from this discussion? Find someone you have yet to have connected with?
 - B. Have small colorful building blocks and sharpies. Ask board members to write what they plan to do between now and the next Board meeting. If time, they can one by one come up, say it aloud, have a photo taken, then place it on a surface so that all together we "build" a mini block community on our way out. Ask the board members not in attendance to email us their pledges. Add them to the "community." Take a photo of it and share with the entire board, perhaps with the congregation at some point. (
 - C. Explain that our responsibilities as Board members go beyond specific committee or project responsibilities. Although as messaged to the congregation at Kol Nidre we all create our community by engaging, board members can have an outsized impact - trophic cascade. As such,
 1. We will be using Creating Sacred Communities by Ron Wolfson - hand out books individually to each person and thank them for coming - Lew, Joel, Rabbi, Susan, me should try to really thank each person for their time and efforts and connect as we give them their book.

2. Reiterate that they make every effort to log into the Ron Wolfson webinar. Have a signup sheet for those who have yet to specify which viewing party they wish to join.
3. Signup sheet with script for bimah gifts on hand so board members can sign up for at least one.
4. Susan will contact each person and speak with them about their names.