

Jewish Nonprofit Professional Development Workshops



Our workshops offer a meld of leadership and organizational literature, case studies, and personal reflection. All are framed within Jewish texts and values. Each offering will be customized to the needs of your organization, and each workshop below can be a self-contained unit. We recommend, however, that in order to introduce, integrate and evaluate the impact of any workshop professional development, you consider a three or five-part series on a given topic.

Board Development – Discuss the composition, responsibilities and relationships that constitute successful boards and how to run one with a focus on building a cohesive team. We will also discuss how board members can be better organizational advocates by helping them construct a compelling case based on the mission of your agency.

Lay/Professional Relations – Explore the roles and responsibilities of this unique partnership, its limitations and its opportunities. Included in our discussion will be suggestions on how to build a web of relationships to help support your institution and advance your mission.

Effective Communication Skills – Learn to speak so others listen and listen so others respond. Together we will focus on how to create and deliver clear and impactful presentations and then apply some successful presentation techniques in thinking about what does and does not work in a variety of settings. We will also consider how to structure meetings and set meeting agendas to engage more participation and achieve optimal results.

Motivating and Inspiring Others – This session will explore traditional Jewish texts and popular leadership literature as a platform for thinking about what inspires us in the non-profit work that we do. We will then practice using personal stories connected to our organization as sources of inspiration to re-energize ourselves, our volunteers and our professional staff.

Dealing with Difficult People – One of the hardest management skills is dealing with difficult people. In this seminar will discover how diverse our notions are of what constitutes a difficult person and examine very personally how we navigate these murky waters. We'll conclude with lots of tips, techniques and strategies to help you grow this aspect of your leadership.

Enhanced Succession Planning – We don't always consider future leadership until the last moment. This seminar will examine structures and mechanisms for identifying and mentoring future lay or professional leaders so that the goals and implementation of a leader or leadership team can continue when transitioning to another.

Change, Vision and the Growth Mindset – Delve into research that explores success and its correlation with the capacity for open-mindedness. How open-minded are you, really? How does your state of mind contribute to your ability to envision a different future as a leader and to mentor others to transformative and sustainable change?

Supervision and Mentoring – What makes a great supervisor or mentor? We will look at some definitions from the world of business and education and then do some hands-on training to make supervision and mentoring better and more consistent throughout your organization.

Conflict Resolution – How do you identify a problem and manage resistance to its solution? Using business literature, this session will look at how participants currently manage conflict and complaints and share techniques and solutions to handling challenging situations with great clarity, confidence and optimism.

Becoming an Effective Ambassador for Your Organization – This intensive training prepares volunteers and professionals to take the positive message of your organization to their constituency and the public. Exercises in commanding presence, messaging and public speaking build an awareness of what it takes to be an effective ambassador.

The Art of Fund-Raising – Don't be afraid to fund-raise. You're doing people a favor. Using Jewish sources and professional business literature we will see how fund-raising provides the opportunity to do a mitzvah. Through exercises in this workshop you will hone the skills to fundraise effectively and guilt-free.

Making Meetings Matter - This seminar explores the art of running meetings that are intentional, productive and valuable from start to finish. Learn to set an effective agenda and stick to it. Master facilitation skills to generate meaningful conversation and resolve conflict.

An Attitude of Gratitude – Most volunteers and professionals feel overworked and undervalued. This workshop will focus on how to motivate people by making them feel appreciated and offer practical techniques for appreciating the people who make our organizations thrive. Sincere appreciation inspires productivity, good will and loyalty and is critical to retaining professionals and growing lay leaders.

Innovate!– How well does your organization manage change and stimulate creativity? This workshop will inspire you and your organization to think outside of the box and inside the heads of leaders who harness innovation to stay relevant. Learn to introduce and integrate change so that it is sustainable.

Evaluation and Assessment – This workshop focuses on writing and using surveys and evaluation forms to understand the impact of the work you do. Learn to make evaluation part of the culture of your organization and see enhanced and measurable results.

Time Management - Help your professionals and lay leaders use time well to get better results. Whether you're a procrastinator or a workaholic, learn to think differently about time and enhance your productivity.

Team-Building: How are teams forged without being forced? In this workshop, we ask discuss setting expectations, creating good intentions and focusing on honesty and trust to consider how people of different temperaments complicate and complement one another. Good teams make us wiser as individuals and more nimble and strategic as organizations.

Interfaith Relationships and the Future of the Jewish Community: What impact do interfaith relationships have on today's American Jewish community? This session will explore the explosion of contemporary literature and research on the topic and also use a film clip of an important documentary on the topic to discuss how this impacts us personally and professionally.

Diversity and Inclusion: Sometimes our work culture can feel exclusive and alienating to outsiders and insiders alike. This seminar will explore some of the sensitive issues around diversity in our own organizations. What is it like to be a non-Jew working in a "Jewish" building or a non-Jewish board member? How do professionals or lay leaders who keep kosher feel at a lunch in a non-kosher restaurant? We'll explore some of the subtle tensions of diversity and what we can do to create a more open, tolerant spaces for ourselves and our colleagues.

Public Speaking: Tongue-tied and nervous every time you approach a podium? Does your professional represent you with sophistication and ease and can your lay leader make a compelling case in front of a mike? This interactive workshop will allow participants to practice and get critiqued in a safe and nurturing space.

Organizational Writing with Impact: From e-mails to direct mailers, from speeches to thank you notes, writing is an essential skill in professional and lay leadership development. With hands-on writing exercises and immediate feedback, participants in this workshop will learn how to write to be remembered.

For more information, visit go.gwu.edu/Mayberg

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