

Renewal Workshop Tracks

Tuesday, February 28, 3:15 – 5:15 PM

***Services of the Heart and Mind – Rabbi Edward Feld & Hazzan Joanna Dulkan**

An opportunity to share our experiences with prayer leadership. How might we view ourselves as curators or architects of tefilah, rather than performers or presenters? What do our congregations look like these days, and what do they seek in prayer? What are our goals and objectives as prayer leaders? How do new models of cantorial and rabbinic leadership reflect this thought process? How can the words of the Siddur and our framing of the tefilah experience itself work in concert to create meaningful connection and engaged conversation? Together, we will explore the possibilities for innovation and experimentation along with a return to forgotten traditions within the framework of our davening.

***Renewing Our Pastoral Approach – Dr. Michelle Friedman**

Rabbis are first responders who are called upon for guidance and wisdom through mundane issues, normative life cycle events, challenging turbulence and utter catastrophe. How has your listening changed over the course of your rabbinate? How do you structure time, place, and questions? What matters to you in terms of boundaries and borders? How do you decide what to prioritize, when to refer and how to follow up as a supportive and caring rabbi? Using clinical vignettes submitted by conference participants, I will review core concepts of pastoral counseling with the goal of helping participants find more joy and satisfaction in this key aspect of their rabbinic vocation.

***What's the Cure for an Immunity to Change? – Rabbi Joshua Rabin**

Creating a culture of continuous improvement requires that leaders understand manage personal and institutional change. The greatest obstacles to change come from within, a result of deep commitments we make to ourselves that impede the very changes we claim we want to make. [Immunity to Change](#) is a methodology developed by researchers at Harvard University that helps us identify the hidden commitments that impede us making transformative change as leaders. Participate in an interactive workshop that asks you to put yourself under the microscope and better understand how each of us can be a part of the improvement equation.

***Creating Your Rabbinic Brand – Rabbi Elliot Salo Schoenberg**

Should rabbis have a personal brand? Perhaps we should call it "our rabbinic voice." Self-reflection is of significant value when assessing one's career. We also know it can be hard. Using three objective career tools - Meyers-Briggs, StrengthFinder from the Gallup Organization, our own RA Career Inventory - and one intuitive tool, we will explore our own rabbinic voices. Who are you? Who do you want to be? How are you different from your colleagues? What is special about your rabbinate? How do you translate these discoveries into a successful rabbinate? The final exercise will be to craft your new elevator speech.

***Seeding Change from Within: How the Theory of Disruptive Innovation Can Be Applied to Jewish Organizations – Rabbi Michael Uram**

Why is it so hard for established organizations to innovate and change? After we do all the work we're expected to do and serve all the core constituencies, there is no time left to focus on the big, innovative and potentially impactful ideas we might have. This dynamic is called "the innovator's dilemma". In this session, we will explore models from the business world and the Jewish organizational world to identify tangible tools to help us overcome these challenges and build a bridge between the organizations we have today and the ones we might need for the future. One key idea is exploring ways to run two different "operating-systems" for Jewish life at the same time: one to sustain and enhance our current work and another to stoke the fires of disruptive innovation, finding new models for Jewish engagement and radically expanding the reach and impact of our organization.