



# #KNOWLEDGE Workshops

*Each of these workshops, which will be offered on Saturday morning, have been designed to increase participant's Judaic knowledge; challenge them to think about how they can inspire others; and consider how they can create concrete experiences for others related to this new Judaic knowledge.*

*There are a variety of choices. Each one is connected to the overarching theme of Gender & Sexuality, Israel, Jewish Values, Mindfulness & Mussar, or Tikkun Olam and Community.*

## GENDER AND SEXUALITY

### JEWISH SEX? IS THAT A THING?

**Laura Hyman, Boston Director, and Nicole Nevarez, New York Director, Moving Traditions**

Judaism views sexuality as holy, healthy and informed by Jewish values. In fact, learning about sexuality has been called "Torah." But American culture today, is more sexualized than ever. Mixed messages surround us and there is an abundance of information and false information - much of which is not accurate or helpful. A lot of the time, we don't even know how much we are impacted by all of it. At Moving Traditions, we are committed to empowering Jewish teens to navigate sexuality with confidence so you can make healthy and authentic personal choices, informed by Jewish wisdom. Join Laura Hyman and Nicole Nevarez, Moving Traditions' Boston and New York Directors, as together, we creatively explore the ideas of consent, communication, decision-making and intimacy in an interactive, relaxed setting.

### BEYOND THE BINARY: GENDER & SEXUALITY IN JEWISH SOURCES

**Justin Rosen Smolen, National Director of Youth Programs, Keshet**

Though we are often prone to portraying sex and gender as a binary, ancient Jewish sources understood that these categories were more complex and diverse than we might expect as modern Jews. And while some biblical texts make sharp pronouncements on homosexuality, particularly in coercive contexts, others celebrate the intimacy between individuals of the same gender. Come explore some of these ancient texts and consider what they might mean for how we think about gender and sexuality today.

### FEMINISM & JEW: EXPLORING FEMINISM, JUDAISM AND IDENTITY

**Imogene Winkleman, NFTY-NAR Regional Advisor, Union for Reform Judaism**

What IS feminism? How do our Jewish values inform our feminist identities? What can we learn from the history of the feminist movement? How do you define feminism for yourself? In this session, we'll build and deepen our feminist knowledge, touching on history, theory, and Jewish values. Participants will explore their own identities and discuss how their feminism is comes alive in their lives.

## ISRAEL

### IDENTITIES IN CONFLICT - MAKING SENSE OF THE DUAL NARRATIVE OF ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

**Scott Brockman, Executive Director, American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam**

Come learn as we dive deep into the identities and stories of Israelis, Israeli Arabs, and Palestinians through the experiences of the only deliberate bi-national village in Israel, Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam - The Oasis of Peace. Neve Shalom was envisioned as a living example of how three religions and two peoples with distinct identities can co-exist. After close to 50 years, this small village of 60 families has created an incubator for peace activism and learning for all.

### WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT ISRAEL?

**Rabbi Josh Weinberg, President, ARZA**

This session will examine the basic relationship of Diaspora Jews to Israel and will challenge our participants to think about the place of Israel in Jewish identity. We will examine current controversial policies as well as employ the use of Jewish texts.

## JEWISH VALUES, MUSSAR, AND MINDFULNESS

### EATING JEWISH: A MODERN ETHIC OF FOOD

**Rabbi Andrew Goodman, Asst. Dir., Recruitment & Admissions, HUC-JIR**

Eating as a community is an integral part of every Jewish gathering. Food is a core way that Jews connect to heritage, culture, and religion. Our tradition guides us with laws on how to prepare and sanctify food which our people have kept over the past three millennia. In the 21st Century, in a world of industrial food and incredible inequality of resources, the ethical underpinning of the kashrut system is called into question. Also, as progressive Jews, we call into question the inherent meaning of traditional food laws. In this session, we will explore the traditional Jewish ethical



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framing for food. Then, we will challenge ourselves to create a modern food ethic which makes space for our heritage and the contemporary world in which we live.

#### **GIVING ON PURPOSE**

***Alana Hollander, Program Associate, and Laura Schultze, Communications Associate, Jewish Teen Funders Network***

Jewish philanthropy is based in Jewish values – but what does that mean? Join the Jewish Teen Funders Network for a workshop on how to give with purpose. Solidify your values, explore your giving priorities, and learn how to come to a consensus amongst your peers.

#### **THE JEWISH ROAD TO CHARACTER**

***Rabbi Eric Gurvis***

The Jewish spiritual practice known as Mussar has been brought back from its near extinction as a result of the Holocaust. Recent decades have seen a dramatic increase in interest and practice of Mussar. In this session we will dip into the waters to learn how this Jewish path can enrich our lives in these challenging times.

#### **THE VALUES SHOWDOWN: WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT, REALLY?**

***Josh Satok, Senior Assistant Director, URJ Kutz Camp***

Loyalty or Integrity? Forgiveness or Justice? Confidence or Humility? In this workshop, we will delve into many of the core Jewish values that make us who we are- and ask the tough questions about which ones we actually value more than others. We may say that we know what we stand for, but what happens when we put one value in direct competition with another—which wins out? We will learn about some of the most important Jewish values and important Jewish figures who embody those values. And then we will put those values in direct conflict with each other, creating a "values bracket" with values competing against each other to see what emerges as our ultimate Jewish values. If you want to think about what you stand for and what you believe in in a fun, interactive way, this is the workshop for you.

## **TIKKUN OLAM AND COMMUNITY**

#### **ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: AHAVAT YISRAEL AND THE POWER OF PLURALIST THINKING**

***Eric Maurer, Executive Director, Jewish Teen Learning Connection (JTConnect)***

Jewish communities are excellent at coming together in times of tragedy, but how can we educate ourselves to build connections and peoplehood in our everyday lives? In this workshop, we will explore the Jewish value of Ahavat Y'srael - love of your fellow Jew - and the power (and challenge!) pluralist thinking can have towards creating community. We will seek to cultivate a strategy of pluralist thinking that allows us to build community that stretches across personal, political, religious and other divides.

#### **ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE SYMBOLS OF HATE IN THE TRUMP ERA**

***Robert Trestan, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League New England***

We see symbols every day in all aspects of our lives. Symbols are used to convey ideas, qualities, emotions, material objects/products, opinions and beliefs. Using current events and images we will explore and discuss how symbols, language and political acts are sometimes used to convey hate and target people. Specifically, this workshop will review this history of anti-Semitism and the ways in which it has manifested itself in America and around the world. The focus of our discussion will include the factors that led up to the surge in hate and bigotry that the country has experienced in the past year.

#### **CONSTELLATIONS OF IDENTITY: EXPLORING POWER AND PRIVILEGE IN RELATION TO SERVICE**

***Rebecca Katz, Training and Education Manager, Repair the World***

Power! Privilege! Identity! These are often buzzwords in social justice conversations that can mobilize people into action...or completely shut them down. Let's define these terms and explore how they relate to our own experiences. How can engaging with concepts of power, privilege, and identity deepen our approach to volunteering and help us build relationships with diverse communities?

#### **HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, AND YOU; WHAT'S BEING JEWISH GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

***Steve Eisenbach-Budner, Executive Director, Tivnu: Building Justice***

What is the connection between affordable housing, homelessness, food justice, environmental, and gender issues? How do the recent campaigns for a living wage (\$15/hr. minimum) figure in the mix? What unique perspectives do Judaism and our experiences as Jews and/or as immigrants bring to bear on the issue of shelter? Having a roof over one's head is one of the most basic human needs. Yet, more than half a million Americans, including 125,000 children, are homeless. Even for many who do have homes, the high cost of housing limits their ability to fulfill other critical needs. Come learn what Tivnu: Building Justice and others are doing about these essential issues, and what you can do to make a positive difference.

#### **GLOBAL JEWISH RESPONSIBILITY**

***Beckie Hamroff, Operations Coordinator, JDC Entwine***

"Wherever you go, there's always someone Jewish" is brought to life through an interactive workshop with JDC Entwine. We will begin with an opportunity to learn about global Jewish communities. We will then explore how this knowledge translates into global relationships based in



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mutual responsibility. This exploration will help those in attendance better understand our place in the global Jewish network. We will end with a problem solving brainstorm session- how can we infuse our Reform communities with a deeper knowledge of global Jewish life and diversity?

#### **RIGHTEOUS CONVERSATIONS**

##### ***Samara Hutman, Director, The Righteous Conversations Project***

This workshop distills the essence of the 10 day Righteous Conversations experience, offering participants the opportunity to consider the role of Holocaust narratives as they interconnect with their own personal narratives. The workshop will include a screening of award-winning PSA and Digital Animated Films followed by reflection and discussion, and group exploration of the role of media and communication to shape and influence culture. Participants will be asked to bring and share one object from their own lives that tells an important story of themselves and provides an opportunity for group meaning-making. Using the language of film, personal relationship and the lens of creativity, Jewish history, and contemporary modes of communication, participants will reflect, dialogue and problem solve as they brainstorm ways that individuals and groups can become actors to shape the contemporary conversation, the collective conscience and the moral landscape of their own time.