

Weekend Scholar-in-Residence Programs

Rabbi Sid Schwarz

*Bring one of
American Jewry's
most creative and
dynamic figures into
your community.*



Covenant Award winner

*“One of America’s 50
most influential rabbis”
Newsweek*

Two thematic topics to choose from. It is possible to mix and match.

I. Judaism and Justice

Friday night – Judaism, Justice and Holiness

What is the purpose of Judaism? We often focus on the “how to” of Judaism, but very rarely on the “why?” This talk suggest ways that our lives can be enriched through engagement with Judaism’s core mission.

Shabbat morning – Can Social Justice Save American Jewry’s Soul?

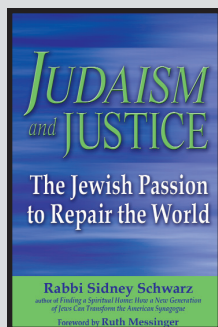
Over the past two decades, the Jewish communal agenda has become increasingly parochial. Concurrently, social justice has emerged as one of several pockets of Jewish renaissance around the country. This talk will explore how these trends might be reconciled.

Third Session- Text Study

An exploration of classical texts on *tzedek* and *kedusha*.

Fourth Session – Israel: Strengthening the Fraying Thread

Surveys tell us that Israel has become less and less central to Jewish identity, especially among young people. In many quarters of the Jewish community, Israel has a polarizing effect, with some Jews fervently involved in advocacy efforts while other Jews challenge the very validity of the Jewish state. This session will explore the important connection between Israel and diaspora Jewry and help to make the case for why Jews can and should seek out stronger bonds to Israel.



II. Re-visioning the American Synagogue

Friday night - Re-imagining the American Synagogue

The last decade has witnessed much new thinking and innovation around transforming the American synagogue. This presentation, from one of the leaders in the field, will explore some exciting ideas worthy of consideration.

Shabbat morning - Davenning “Out of the Box”

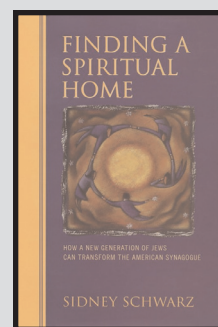
A prayer experience unlike any other. Through discussion, song, movement and sharing, participants, young and old, will walk away with a new appreciation for the Shabbat liturgy and the transformative power of prayer.

Shabbat afternoon - Text Study

Text study with classical rabbinic sources on *keva* and *kavvanah* (fixed liturgy vs. spiritually spontaneous prayer), leading into a discussion of and reaction to the morning davenning experience.

Sunday morning - Board Workshop (optional)

A session designed to unleash new energy and creativity in the leadership of the congregation, leading to a more empowered membership and a higher level of commitment to the synagogue and Jewish living.



Reviews

“Rabbi Sid Schwarz moved every demographic cohort of our congregation closer to prayer and closer to finding their spiritual home in the congregation where they already belong. Over the course of one Shabbat, Rabbi Schwarz connected with our eight year olds and our eighty year olds, our teenagers, our parents and grandparents as well as our singles, and in turn connected them to one another, to our community and to God. Remarkably, Sid found a way to, simultaneously, connect with our Classical Reformers, our New Agers, our Hasids, our Litvaks, and even our Apikorases. I never dreamed that so much could be accomplished in one weekend by one teacher.”

Rabbi Mark Mahler, Temple Emanuel, Pittsburgh, PA

“Your visit was the embodiment of all that is positive in the transformation process.”

Rabbi Alan Cohen, Beth Shalom Congregation, Kansas City, MO

“Your Shabbat morning ‘Davenning Out of the Box’ was nothing short of revolutionary for the members of our congregation. You challenged our old attitudes toward prayer in a most positive way.”

Rabbi Mark Greenspan, Oceanside Jewish Center, Oceanside, NY

“Sid’s three presentations during his scholar-in-residence weekend with us were each deeply thought-provoking, well-crafted, and engaging. He has a wealth of information at his fingertips, marvelous anecdotes, passionate commitments, and a sparkling sense of humor. He had everyone on the edge of their seats!”

Rabbi Steve Cohen, Congregation B’nai B’rith, Santa Barbara, CA

“Rabbi Sid Schwarz’ life and career embody a unique mix of religious vision and an ability to implement that vision in the real world. Not only does Judaism and Justice provide an original analysis of the contemporary Jewish condition, but, even more importantly, it provides an exciting prescription for Judaism that combines a commitment to justice and righteousness with kedusha ‘holy apartness.’”

Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, author, communal leader

Rabbi Sidney Schwarz, Ph.D. founded and served as president of PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years. Dr. Schwarz previously served as the executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, D.C. He is the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD. Dr. Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish History and is the author of *Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue* (2000). His newest book is entitled *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World* (Jewish Lights, 2006). He has also contributed more than 100 articles to journals such as *Moment*, *Sh’ma* and the *Reconstructionist*, and is a frequent lecturer on Judaism, the American Jewish community, and contemporary Jewish affairs. In 2002 Rabbi Schwarz was the recipient of the Covenant Award for his singular contributions to Jewish education. In 2007 *Newsweek* named Sid as one of the 50 most influential rabbis in America. Rabbi Schwarz is now a senior fellow with Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

For more detailed information about the Weekend Scholar program, costs or to schedule a visit, call 301-984-9220, or email rabbisid2@gmail.com.