

Rabbi Sid Schwarz

Rabbi Sid's new book, *Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Community* (Jewish Lights) has become one of the most talked about and commented upon books of the year. Gary Rosenblatt devoted an entire column to the book in the *New York Jewish Week* in which he said: "(Jewish Megatrends is) a compelling overview of the stand-out successes and major challenges in confronting a generation many believe is moving away from its parents' and grandparents' ways of identifying Jewishly, and in charting a course for engaging it in ways it can relate to, authentically" (5/22/13).

Rabbi Sid is now working with Federations and Jewish communities throughout North America to help them better navigate the changing landscape of Jewish communal life. His background makes him adept at working with a wide range of audiences. Here is a menu of what he has done and is prepared to do in your community.

Keynote Address on *Jewish Megatrends*-This presentation has been done at national conventions, Federation annual meetings, organizational board meetings and gatherings of major donors and foundations that invest in the Jewish community. The minimum time frame is one hour which allows 15 minutes for Q and A. For an evening program, 90 minutes would allow for a more robust Q and A session followed by a book signing.

Dor le'Dor Facilitated Conversation- One of the arguments that is made in *Jewish Megatrends* is that this moment in Jewish communal life requires a pro-active bridging of the divide between legacy sector Jewish leadership and innovation sector emerging leaders. While this is partly a conversation between generations, it is even moreso a conversation across worldviews that reflect dramatically different understandings of Jewish identity; Israel and the Jewish people; social responsibility; and Jewish faith and spirituality. Rabbi Sid will work with your community to plan such a gathering which he will then facilitate in a way that may open up new ways to think about the Jewish communal future. (90 minutes)

Re-Imagining the American Synagogue- Rabbi Sid's 2000 book, *Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews can Transform the American Synagogue* (Jewish Lights) continues to be one of the seminal works in the field of synagogue transformation. He now directs Clal's Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI), a national program for early career rabbis designed to train visionary spiritual leaders for the Jewish community. This presentation is ideal for congregational rabbis, cantors and synagogue lay leadership. (60-90 minutes)

Educating the Children of Prophets- Rabbi Sid spent over 20 years building PANIM, a national organization that trained leadership based on Jewish learning, values and social responsibility. The methodology that he developed had an ability to engage young people in ways that more conventional approaches to Jewish education fail to do. This presentation lays out this methodology and has been presented to national and community gatherings of Jewish formal and informal educators. (60 minutes)

Reaching the Jewish Community of the 21st Century- This is a highly interactive program and can be done with up to 60 people. It is an excellent tool to bring together leadership from different sectors of the community (e.g., synagogues, Jewish communal organizations, Federation, etc). After an opening framing presentation, each attendee chooses to "vote with their feet," going to a station that represents the most powerful driver to their personal Jewish identity. The stations are Israel and Jewish People; Social Action and Ethics; Faith and Spirituality; Ethnic Ties and Family; Learning and Jewish Culture. After some group work within each station, the group is engaged in a conversation about how the Jewish community needs to go about engaging Jews more effectively than it currently does. (Two hours)

Staff Professional Development- This training session combines Jewish learning with some of the everyday challenges of keeping Jewish communal professionals well motivated. (60-90 minutes)



Rabbi Sid Schwarz has been a congregational rabbi, a social entrepreneur, an author and a political activist. He founded and led PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years, an organization dedicated to inspiring, training and empowering Jewish youth to a life of leadership, activism and service. Dr. Schwarz previously served as the executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington D.C. (JCRC) where he oversaw the public affairs and community relations work for the Jewish community. He is the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD where he continues to teach and lead services. Dr. Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history and is the author of over 100 articles and two groundbreaking books--*Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue* (Jossey-Bass, 2000) and *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World* (Jewish Lights, 2006).

Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, founder of CLAL and one of American Jewry's most notable leaders, has written about Sid: "Rabbi Sid Schwarz' life and career embody a unique mix of religious vision and an ability to implement that vision in the real world".

In 2002 Sid was awarded the prestigious Covenant Award for his pioneering work in the field of Jewish education. In 2007 Sid was named by *Newsweek* one of the 50 most influential rabbis in North America. Currently, Sid serves as a senior fellow at Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership where he trains rabbis to be visionary spiritual leaders. His consulting work with synagogues and Jewish organizations around the United States included serving as the original project director for the Jewish Journey Project in Manhattan, an initiative to revolutionize supplementary Jewish education for children.

Sid's latest book is *Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future* (Jewish Lights).