

Professional Development

Helping Jewish professionals enhance and deepen their impact

It's my honor to provide professional development in support of the educators and clergy doing amazing work in our Jewish communities. Sessions are interactive, engaging, and insightful, balancing big ideas with *tachlis* take-aways, including resources to take home. Virtual or in person, small group or large gathering, a one-off or a series; There are so many possibilities! Below is a list of workshops I've offered for organizations and at conferences. Starred sessions have been given as keynote addresses.

Early Childhood

Jewish Tools for the Spiritual Core

How can we put the science of spirituality into practice for our early childhood students? Judaism has baked into it a shared spiritual language through ritual, liturgy, and g?d-concepts. Building on the work of Dr. Lisa Miller, let's explore this language; what it is, how to use it with kiddos, and how to connect ourselves no matter our background.

A Sense of Wonder: Cultivating Spirituality in our Children*

Jewish life seeks to cultivate a sense of wonder at the world, something children already have in spades. How does spirituality manifest in our youngest children? And what does this mean for how we engage in Jewish ritual, and talk about g?d? Together we'll dive into the spiritual lives of our youngest children, and learn developmentally appropriate songs, tools, and techniques to plant the seeds and help them grow.

Music in the Classroom (for All Teachers!)

Music- it's not just for music teachers! Together we'll explore the why, what, and how of music as a tool for learning, emotional engagement, spiritual growth, functionality, and fun. You'll leave with new resources, perspectives, and melodies that get stuck in your head!

School-Age Students

Getting at the Core: The "Why" of t'fillah*

We take it for granted that it's important to do t'fillah with our young people- but why? Looking at the science of spirituality, we'll explore how t'fillah has the incredible, counter-cultural potential to strengthen the spiritual core of our students. Why does this matter, and how can we make it happen? We'll ask questions, go deep, and dream big about the potential for t'fillah transformation.

The g?d Gap: Why (not) Talking About g?d Matters*

God is the central character of the Torah and the subject of our prayers, yet we don't often talk about what God is or how we relate to the Divine. Why does it matter, and where can we start? Together we'll explore songs, texts, stories, and strategies for engaging with the idea of God in a healthy way with students of all ages. We'll put the "?" in g?d, expanding a limiting word and making room for our beliefs, struggles, and questions.

Singing with Kids: What, How, and WHY*

Why sing with kids? What power does music have, and how can we harness it to craft experiences full of content, fun, empathy, and love? Together we'll explore guiding questions and techniques for singing with various ages of kids, with a focus on tools for engagement, online and in person.

Sing Around the Calendar

Want to add some awesome new holiday songs to your toolkit for school-age kids? Want to explore music as a powerful tool to teach content, engage emotions, move the body, and inspire the spirit? Want to have a lot of fun singing together? Come sing around the calendar!

Let's Sing (About Jewish Things!) Songs About Ritual Objects

Tallit and Kippah, yad, feather, candle, and spoon... Jewish life is filled with "things," ritual objects that help us celebrate, commemorate, and connect. Come learn new, interactive, content-rich songs that introduce the idea of ritual, and particular ritual objects, to students from 6-10 years old. You will leave with chords, lyrics, program ideas, and tunes you won't be able to get out of your head!

Shiru L'adonai: Prayer Melodies for Kids

How can we introduce the ideas of *t'fillah*, God, and specific prayers to children in a fun and meaningful way? Through song! Together we'll experience prayer melodies that engage students on multiple levels, and discuss how you can make them work in your setting.

Jewish Education in the 21st Century*

What are best practices in secular education, and how can Jewish education meet those goals? And what does Jewish education have to offer that is unique, meaningful, and necessary? Let's explore how an integrated and countercultural Jewish education mindset can help us prepare our students for the world.



Families and Everyone

The Magic of Family Prayer*

Family *t'fillah* is a sacred time- how can we make the most of it? How do we craft spaces for adults and children of any and all ages? Together, we'll dive into the opportunities and wonders of family *t'fillah*, along with techniques to make it meaningful online and in person.

High Holiday Family T'fillah

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer beautiful opportunities for families to share sacred time together. Through repertoire, techniques, and asking the big “why,” we'll explore how to craft services for all ages of children and their grown-ups that look backwards, forwards, and inwards.

Tot Shabbat 101

Family services are an opportunity to create meaningful moments that are shared between parents and kids. This session will lay out some best practices, from room set up and logistics, to repertoire and transitions. We'll cover Friday night, Saturday morning, and maybe even holidays!

Making Services Spiritual: Crafting Communal Prayer

What if synagogues were places of deep spirit? Through intentionally crafting prayer experiences to fit our goals, we can help the most people access our tradition and spark something meaningful. In this session, we'll experience and explore what choices, questions, and skills can elevate your prayer services, share tools to bring back to communities of all kinds, and maybe even tap into spirit ourselves.