



Si Schwartz Leadership Development Institute Bibliography

Aron, I. *A Congregation of Learners*, 1995, UAHC Press, NY. A compilation of case studies describing how different congregations succeeded or failed at transforming themselves into the communities that they had envisioned.

Aron, I. *Becoming a Congregation of Learners*, 2000, Jewish Lights, Woodstock. Aron provides a road map for benchmarking the current climate with your congregation, developing a plan for envisioning the congregation's future, and moving towards that vision.

Bookman, T. and W. Kahn, *This House We Build: Lessons for Healthy Synagogues and the People Who Dwell There*, 2006, The Alban Institute, Herndon (www.alban.org). This guide to healthy congregation demonstrates the power of positive relationships and shows how to avoid some of the common traps that can lead to serious conflict. The book gives vital lessons for congregations on how to be a health community of believers. Each chapter integrates organizational theory and faith values in the pursuit of deeper understanding of synagogue life and a richer life together.

Dorff, E. *Conservative Judaism: Our Ancestors to our Descendants*, 1977, USCJ, New York.

Dorff, E. *Willing Learning and Striving, a Course Guide to Emet Ve' Emunah*, 1988, JTSA, NY. This is a facilitator's guide to help discussion leaders engage in exploring the Conservative Movement's statement of principles (Emet Ve' Emunah) that was published in 1988.

Gillman, N., *Conservative Judaism*, 1993, Behrman House, NY. A very readable, concise history of our movement that provides excellent insights about how we arrived at our movement as it exists today.

Friedman Fixler, J., E. Eichberg and G. Lorenz., *Boomer Volunteer Engagement: Collaborate Today, Thrive Tomorrow*, 2008, Authorhouse. This innovative book provides a step-by-step guide for engaging Boomers as volunteers to build organizational capacity. This book contains everything nonprofits need to engage skilled Boomer volunteers; Boomer research that is current, relevant, and applicable to volunteer engagement, 14 downloadable PDF worksheets, including work plan and progress report templates, and a proven process for building organizational capacity.

Heller, Z.I. *Re-envisioning the Synagogue*, 2005, Hollis Publishing, Hollis. Based on research and pilot programs of the STAR (Synagogues for Transformation and

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Renewal) project, this book is a compilation of essays and case studies addressing the process of envisioning and developing the synagogue leaders of tomorrow.

Hoffman, L.A. *Re-thinking Synagogues: A New Vocabulary for Congregational Life*, 2006, Jewish Lights, Woodstock. A very readable prescription for building true communities from congregation's membership. Rabbi Hoffman discusses how to recognize and effectively communicate norms, and how to build sacred communities based on shared visions.

Hoffman, L. A. *The Art of Public Prayer; Not for Clergy Only*, 1999, Skylight Paths, Woodstock. A thoughtful discussion of the congregational community and the dynamics that often prevent that community from achieving its potential as a spiritually fulfilling Kollel.

Leventhal, R., *Stepping Forward: Synagogue Visioning and Planning*, 2007, The Alban Institute, Herndon (www.alban.org). The author presents his Synagogue Visioning and Planning model which combines organizational leadership principles and core Jewish values to recruit, focus, and energize the congregation and the community so that work can be shared and productive.

Mallory, S. and B. Smith, *The Equipping Church Guidebook*, 2001, Zondervan, Grand Rapids. This guidebook from the church world is a comprehensive approach to developing sustainable congregational engagement programs. From vision to implementation the book includes charts, graphs, worksheets and assessment forms along with practical suggestions and checklists. While developed for the churches and based on Christian theology, this book has a great deal to offer synagogues as they begin to develop more ways to engage congregants as volunteers.

Schwarz, S., *Finding a Spiritual Home: How a Congregation of Jews can Transform the American Synagogue*, 2003, Jewish Lights, Woodstock. Rabbi Schwarz profiles four synagogues who have successfully transformed themselves into vital, dynamic Jewish communities. This book has many creative ideas for empowering congregations' general membership to build true communities.

Snow, L. K., *The Power of Asset Mapping: How your Congregation Can Act on its Gifts*, 2006, The Alban Institute, Herndon (www.alban.org). This book from the Lutheran Church explores ways to determine the assets within the membership of a congregation and provides steps to utilize these "assets" for further development of the congregation. It starts with the interests of congregants and moves the reader through a process to create action. Luther Snow offers a clear, easy to understand way to mobilize all of the resources within a congregation.

Waxman, M., *Tradition and Change; the Development of Conservative Judaism*, 1958, Burning Book Press, New York.

Wolfson, R., *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform your Congregation into a Sacred Community*, 2006, Jewish Lights, Woodstock. Dr. Wolfson makes a compelling

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argument that the path to people's wallets is through their hearts (e.g.: people will give if they feel connected; won't if they don't). The fee for service strategy of many congregations distances many congregants. He recommends focusing on identifying and cultivating each individual's passion, and thereby create a strong, meaningful bond between the individual and the community.

Additionally, we will be distributing several STAR Maps through the course of the year. Each STAR Map provides insights and exercises to help synagogue leaders succeed. Go to www.synaplex.org for a complete list of the currently available STAR Maps.