

Strengthening Communities Initiatives

Congregational Renewal & Leadership Development Course
Shabbat-Sunday 17–18 September 2016

Tikkun Olam Community Organising
Engagement Conflict Resolution
Power Leadership Negotiation
Building Relationships Empowerment

CITIZENS_{UK}

REFORM JUDAISM

This is a course for people who want their synagogues or communities to be both vibrant and powerful: not made up of atomised individuals paying a fee for service; not one where people sit back and expect their leadership to “do Jewish” for them; and not one where the same old members get more and more burnt out all the while complaining about those who haven’t got involved.

It is also for those people who are motivated, or who can see other members of their communities motivated, by the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam* – that it is our responsibility to partner with God in repairing the world. It is for those who maybe already have been involved in service projects such as night shelters and drop in centres that many synagogues are running, and who want to think about how synagogues can do and be more of a force for good in the local community – and how *tikkun olam* can be a greater role in their community’s Judaism. It is for people who want to go beyond good intentions to really make an impact.

On this course we will look at how to build communities where:

- People have real **relationships**, where we know not only what others do but who they are and who they strive to be; where we share our stories with each other and work together to construct a communal narrative;
- Our communal narratives present people with a **common mission**, a common purpose, and a shared set of values and interests;
- Rather than waiting for others to do for them, people step up and take **leadership**;
- The community comes together to build the **power** needed to realize that vision and takes collective **action** to be the community that we dream of and to create a more just world that reflects our common values.

Saturday morning

9am	Shabbat Shacharit (optional)	
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Compulsory sessions begin here:

10am	Welcome *Rounds *Expectations and what we hope to build this weekend *Housekeeping	
11.15	Synagogue Culture *How do we create synagogues with cultures of participation, knowing each other, stepping up to take on leadership roles, and meaning? *What is organising, and what does organising do to build this?	
12	Power Part I *Athenian – Melian dialogue *What are our attitudes to winning our goals and power?	
1.30	Lunch	
14.15	Power Part II *Running away from and running to power (Pesachim 39b) *Jewish views on the world as it is/world as it should be *What is power and why is it so important?	
15.00	Self interest aka getting your community to act by building on what they care about – not what you think they should care about *why do people come to event x but not event y *how to understand your own self interest and that of your community *text study: Genesis 19	
16.15	Break	
16.45	Telling our stories (aka how to not learn about a member's life for the first time during their hesped) *Torah and stories *How to tell your own story in a way that feels appropriate in a synagogue	
17.30	Individual Conversations and running a listening campaign aka how to actually get to know your community, discover talent, and build leadership	
18.30	Dinner with local Citizens UK leaders	

	*Shared buffet meal *Stories from other communities who have used organizing to transform their organisations and neighbourhoods	
19.30	Havdalah	
19.45	Home!	

Sunday

8.30am	Breakfast	
9am	Recap and reactions	
9.30	Cycle of Action *how can communities plan effective campaigns or projects	
10.30	How to identify leaders and build teams *what is leadership? *how do we develop leadership?	
11.15	Break	
11.30	How can I use community organizing for congregational development? *How can I not rely on the same people for everything? *How do we move our communities from activity to action? *How do we not let committees drain our energy? *How can we build new members' involvement in our community?	
12.00	Power Analysis aka how do I get things done and/or deal with difficult people or fiefdoms who have been running committees forever	
1pm	Lunch	
1.45pm	House meetings and what this looks like in practice – creating a common narrative of the synagogue and what we want to do together, and looking at examples of putting this into practice	
2.15pm	Broad based organising – what is Citizens UK?	
2.45pm	Creating plans – how do I use what I've learnt this weekend?	
3.30pm	Sharing plans	
4pm	Where to from here? How the MRJ is supporting	
4.30-5pm	Closing rounds and evaluation	