Valued Leadership Cohort

JCC Association of North America's inaugural Valued Leadership Cohort will bring together Ambassador-level JCC and independent JCC Camp executives to explore what it means to lead Jewishly. From Mifgash 2027 through Mifgash 2028, they will participate in online learning, peer dialogue, and in-person gatherings focused on using Jewish values as leadership tools.

The Valued Leadership Cohort is offered by JCC Association in partnership with M^2: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education.

Meet the Cohort



ZACK BODNER
Oshman Family JCC
Palo Alto, CA



STEPHANIE CHAUSS
Minnesota JCC
Minneapolis



SAM FRIEDMAN
Jewish Educational Alliance
Savannah, GA



PAUL GEDULDIG
JCC of
San Francisco, CA



SUE GELSEY
Kaplen JCC on the Palisades
Tenafly, NJ



ADDIE GOODMAN
JCC Chicago, IL



MARTY HABERER
Adolph & Rose Levis JCC
Boca Raton, FL



DAVID JACOBS
Mandell JCC of

Greater Hartford, CT



MIKE KLAPPER
JCC of
Greater Columbus, OH



JASON KUNZMAN
JCC of
Greater Pittsburgh, PA



ASHLEY LASHER
Asheville JCC
NC



PAUL LURIE
JCC of
Greater Baltimore, MD



BETZY LYNCH
Lawrence Family JCC
San Diego, CA



LEONARD PETLAKH
Kings Bay Y
Brooklyn, NY



TODD ROCKOFF
Tucson J
AZ



JESSE ROSEN
Mandel JCC of
Cleveland, OH



HEATHER ROSENBLATT
Merage JCC
Irvine, CA



LARRY SKOLNICK
Evelyn Rubenstein
JCC of Houston, TX



JASON VASQUEZ
Louis S. Wolk JCC of
Greater Rochester, NY



SARA KLEIN WAGNER
Trager Family JCC
Louisville, KY



RABBI JEREMY WEISBLATT
Marjorie & Lewis Katz JCC
Margate, NJ



TOM WISSINGER

Trager Family JCC
Louisville, KY



HOLLY WOLFSON
Mayerson JCC
Cincinnati, OH

Why Lead With Values?

The strongest JCCs bring Jewish life into everything they do, including how they hire, lead, communicate, make decisions, allocate resources, and build community. We know that this process starts at the top, because CEOs set the tone, culture, and priorities of their organizations. This cohort invests in those leaders, so Jewish life can thrive throughout their JCCs and JCC Camps.

The program welcomes CEOs at every point in their Jewish learning, with or without formal Jewish education.

What Participants Will Gain

By the close of the program, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the values that guide their leadership
- Navigate values in tension with a thoughtful, both/and approach
- Apply a values lens to real-world leadership challenges using case studies
- Engage confidently with Jewish texts as a source of insight—individually and with their teams

Program Components

The Valued Leadership Cohort will include:

- **Opening Gathering:** Monday, January 18, from 10 a.m. through dinner and breakfast on Tuesday, January 19, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the conference hotel in greater San Diego
- **Online Learning:** Three online sessions during 2027 (spring, summer, and fall), each with a leading teacher of Jewish thought and a focus on specific case studies
- **Peer Study:** Three text-study sessions with a partner, held between the online learning sessions
- **Closing Gathering:** At Mifgash 2028, dates and location to be announced

Questions? Email Rabbi David Kessel, senior vice president, Mandel Center for Jewish Education

QUESTIONS?
Check out the FAQ. Still have questions?
Email mifgash@jcca.org and we'll get back to you soon.

Last Modified on 11/22/2026 8:38 am EST