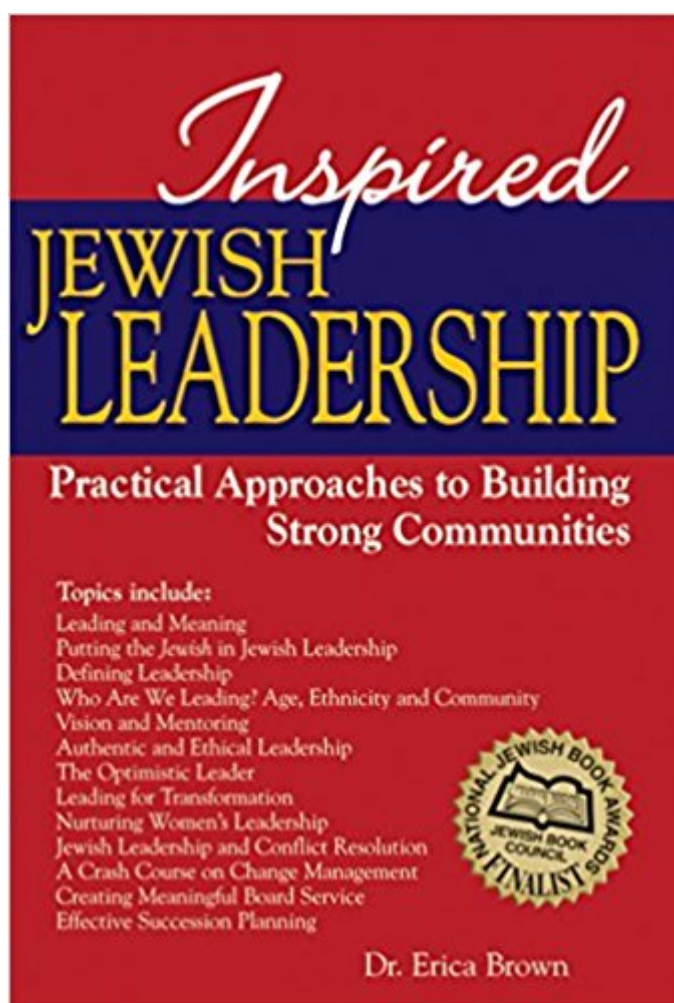


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# Inspired Jewish Leadership: Practical Approaches To Building Strong Communities



## Synopsis

Help sustain the Jewish tradition's legacy of community leadership by building strong leaders today. "Great Jewish leadership has helped us survive slavery, guided us to the Promised Land, given us hope through exile and oppression, helped us enjoy membership in a nation of overachievers and given birth to the State of Israel. Great Jewish leadership generates vision and, as a result, followers. It inspires us and helps us to stretch higher, see farther and reach deeper." — from the Introduction

Drawing on the past and looking to the future, this practical guide provides the tools you need to work through important contemporary leadership issues. It takes a broad look at positions of leadership in the modern Jewish community and the qualities and skills you need in order to succeed in these positions. Real-life anecdotes, interviews and dialogue stimulate thinking about board development, ethical leadership, conflict resolution, change management and effective succession planning. Whether you are a professional or a volunteer, are looking to develop your own personal leadership skills or are part of a group, this inspiring book provides information, interactive exercises and questions for reflection to help you define leadership styles and theories, expose common myths and coach others on the importance of leading with meaning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Insists that our community can nurture leaders for this generation and beyond; practical, grounded insights inspire hope and confidence that we need not despair of infinite and endless wandering in the midbar of modern living." — Jeff Swartz, CEO, Timberland Company

Passionate and inspired ... takes the choicest wisdom from Jewish and business texts, and applies it to the day-to-day

challenges of Jewish organizational life. Everyone in Jewish leadership—professionals, students, and volunteers—should read and master this volume. —Jonathan D. Sarna, director, Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, Brandeis University —Lucid, appealing, brilliant — should be required reading for those concerned with Jewish communal life today and tomorrow — Touches the heart as well as the mind. — Sylvia Barack Fishman, professor of contemporary Jewish life, Brandeis University; author, *The Way Into the Varieties of Jewishness* — Deeply rooted in Jewish vision and dreams, learning and literature, optimism and the possibility of transformational leadership. This book will become the basic textbook on leadership training in the Jewish community. — Barry Shrage, president, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston — Accessible — Offers a range of helpful ideas about leading Jewish organizations today. — Shulamit Reinharz, Jacob Potofsky Professor of Sociology, Brandeis University; founding director, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute

Learn the skills you need to be a great leader-- a must-have for all levels of Jewish community involvement. Given the challenges facing the Jewish community in Israel and the United States today, we need leaders of great wisdom, understanding, and vision to communicate hope and purpose, and to inspire mutual responsibility, particularly at times of crisis and vulnerability. Drawing from ancient models of Jewish leadership, contemporary professional business literature, and Jewish texts, Dr. Erica Brown lays the framework for working through important leadership issues and illustrates how great leadership can be learned when you are equipped with resources, reflective training, and a helpful network of mentors. Full of personal anecdotes from experienced Jewish leaders, questions for reflection, and easy-to-do exercises, this valuable sourcebook is ideal for professionals and volunteers who want to hone their own skills as well as facilitate group leadership development. It will help you and your organization understand how successful institutions operate and give you the resources you need to implement change in your own community. "Eloquent insight into how Jewish history and ideals cultivate a positive foundation for the kind of leadership that inspires others to excellence." --Senator Joseph I. Lieberman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I confess that I haven't read this yet. I'm on this page so I can order this book! I'm writing a preliminary review because I know what an outstanding writer & speaker Erica Brown is. I'll be back with an update...

Dr. Brown has brilliantly integrated psychology, sociology, history, the Talmud, and the Bible. As an industrial psychologist, I have read hundreds of studies of leadership, and none of them integrated materials from such a wide range of sources..Because Dr. Brown's target audience is current and future leaders of Jewish non-profit organizations, she discusses tasks that are generally neglected, such as building a sense of community, selecting and developing a successor, and enhancing spiritual principles. To help her readers to perform these tasks she discusses a wider range of subjects than I have ever seen in this type of book: vision, mentoring, authenticity, optimism, transformation, developing women leaders, conflict resolution, ethics, and the relationship between changing oneself and changing others.My only criticism is the title. It suggests that the book will help only leaders of Jewish non-profit organizations, but it has valuable lessons for nearly all leaders and wannabes. If I were still teaching in a business school, I would certainly have my students read it.If you want to become a better leader, my advice is very simple: Buy it.Alan N. Schoonmaker, Ph.D.

I am a long time professional in the Jewish community and have worked extensively with committees. I was thrilled with this book as it is the first one I have read that combines all of these qualities - 1. Offers straight, honest talk about our challenges right now 2. Is written in a very accessible style (like she's talking directly to you) - some books are so intellectual that it is hard to make them practical 3. Integrates inspiring Jewish learning - relevant to those with both strong Jewish backgrounds as well as those with just basic Jewish knowledge 4. Integrates solid leadership research (both social science research and contemporary authors) 5. Is positive about our opportunities - despite our present realities 6. Offers concrete examples and discussions from her workshops, including options for leadership exercises to use in different organizations. I have never met the author before, but I hope I will be able to meet her in the future. I have already suggested this book to my colleagues and several lay leaders who I know are interested in this topic.

This is a must read for all those involved in Jewish leadership. Practical, educational AND entertaining. Anyone looking for guidance and fortitude in facing a community that is reluctant to be led by anyone will find company and strength in this book. As a wonderful combination of Jewish literacy and leadership development, you come away with many new ways of looking at the challenges you face. I only wish it was longer and more in-depth. Maybe there will be a part 2!

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