

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## THE LEADERSHIP OF TORAH

November 11, 2021 | Erica Brown | Preserving or Initiating?

Angie Atkins: Erica's source sheet for today is accessible here:

[https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/11-11\\_Gen.-26-Preserving-or-Initiating.pdf](https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/11-11_Gen.-26-Preserving-or-Initiating.pdf)

Angie Atkins: Chessed on the right, gevurah on the left?

Angie Atkins: The ongoing Beit Midrash document can be accessed here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CKXtpqyYC1qzx0x65iHCzxONiPlgcMVzE9vhXk8uYHk/edit?usp=sharing>

Melissa Patack: An act of aggression

Jacqueline Shelton: Yet Isaac is one of our patriarchs and perhaps is an example of a different kind of leader, just as there are many different kinds of leaders today we reflect that as well.

Lisa Lisser: People call the developments in boca - kibbutzim

Rhona Fink: Many of the streets in Jerusalem are named for events in the wars eg Haportzim, Kaf Tet b'November

Jacqueline Shelton: I am thinking of the renaming of many places right now in the USA - renaming of a Dixie School district in CA. Big move to renaming here - more about people but also places and what happened there.

Caryn Rosen Adelman: choices for children's Hebrew names

Carrie: We name streets in NY after famous people who lived on them

Reisa's iPhone: When I was president of a day school and convinced the entire community to build a high school.

Martine Fleishman: Currently doing that. Leading a legacy local NY organization through national expansion

Jon Cardin: This is the story of my professional life. Both politics with family legacy and law. With family legacy.

Shelly Kupfer: Chairing NWP during the pandemic made us totally start programming in a new way and we ended up engaging so many more people.

Judy Shanks: I inherited a commentator on Jonah YK afternoon. He became increasingly political and divisive year by year. I had to take away his legacy position.

Susan Borison: Is the question about ego or need?

Lisa Lisser: Funding priorities for partnership 2000 P2G - we had to figure out how to maintain partnership and redefine it which led to a transformation in funding priorities to focus on living bridge - partnership must benefit both communities.

Josh Weinberg: We live in a world of "Cava" Judaism

Jacqueline Shelton: I think people want to order "off the menu" entirely

Lena Katsnelson: Starting their own pop-up experiences too

Michelle Anfang: we are merging our conservative and reform Hebrew schools - and there is much upset over the loss of the legacy names and the decoupling from the synagogues.

Angie Atkins: Wow @Michelle — good luck!

Lisa Lisser: It occurs to me that sometimes if you re-dig the same well - do contaminants get in - does that teach us that we need to do it differently in each generation

Alicia Chandler (she/her): I am on the board of a 171 year old synagogue. We have members still mad about decisions made 50 years ago. The current Executive Committee has to honor our history without making it so sacred that it inhibits our ability to meet the spiritual needs of today's congregation.

Sonia: It's a huge balancing act to integrate/maintain legacy and the views of new generations who have no connections to the past and even successful models ... change is the hard to embrace but common new shared experiences can strengthen boards

Susie's phone: We can also think about the dirt we've dug up - can we use that also? In light of sustainability - think of how the dirt dug up to create a supportive berm around Stanford stadium and the hole became the baseball sunken diamond.

Carrie: A commitment to diversity -- initially bringing women into leadership roles, different ethnic and racial groups, genders requires leaving behind previous values

Michelle Anfang: makom

Alicia Chandler (she/her): I was on the board of AJC Detroit when we "merged" with JCRC. The name is JCRC/AJC, which our Federation president jokes has the highest constant to vowel ratio of any agency. We talked about renaming but it just didn't fly.

Caryn Rosen Adelman: all women's division changing to women's philanthropy etc

Caryn Rosen Adelman: everything has changemaker or leadership

Angie Atkins: On one foot — Perhaps renaming “the matzav” the Israeli Palestinian conflict — rename it “catch and release”

Lisa Lisser: Lions leap

Caryn Rosen Adelman: What are we buying and selling

Sonia: Language is another challenge these days words are perceived differently, ie., cancel culture....

Josh Weinberg: Working with fellow Wexie Karen Herron on SEA Change - Study Engage Act - a group to look at issues of equity and inclusion in Mont Co. Maryland

Sheri Shapiro: Renaming/naming a capital campaign is important for sending a message of intent and value to the community for the future but also needs to honor the legacy

Rabbi Rebecca Rosenthal: We call our Hebrew School LCLJ. It does stand for something but 99% of the people have no idea

Angie Atkins: @Sonia — so true!! And look for our wexleads issue next week which is about the challenges exactly of cancel culture and to someone's earlier point, all the renaming of schools and monuments — pros and cons, hard to navigate ethically and as leaders

Melissa Patack: We changed calling our after school religious school - Hebrew school - to Jewish Learning Center - JLC

Carrie: Abraham did not train Isaac to be a leader. That's an important lesson for leaders - we need to train the next generation.

Angie Atkins: @Carrie - emmes!!