

2012 SPEAKING TOPICS BY AMY LEDERMAN HIRSHBERG

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1. Money and Happiness: The Real Cost of Living a Meaningful Life

Money can't buy happiness...or can it? How does making money, having money, losing money and not having "enough" affect how we think about and value ourselves? Join Amy as she explores the **real value** of money and how Jewish thinking and texts can help us develop a healthy approach towards money.

2. Finding the Leader Within: A Spiritual Model of Leadership

Awareness of who we are as individuals and who we can become as leaders is essential in order to accomplish community or group objectives and goals. This interactive presentation explores Jewish models of leadership and how Jewish values like *Tikkun Olam* (repairing our world), *Tzedakah* (righteous deeds) and *Clal Israel* (communal responsibility) can affect our success as leaders.

This presentation provides an opportunity for self-awareness, group reflection and community-building. Participants will gain a better understanding of how their individual strengths and passions can be used to optimize their leadership potential. (Ideal for board retreats!)

3. That's Funny, You Don't LOOK Jewish: Being Jewish in America Today

What does it mean to be Jewish today? Is Judaism a religion? A culture? A tradition? A system of law and ethics? A way of being and relating to others and the world? The answers can be found in Jewish history, memory, people and texts. Join Amy in this compelling presentation as she explores the essence of Judaism and why it is not a "one size fits all" religion for Jews today.

4. My Grandmother's Candlesticks: Passing the Flame from One Generation to the Next

What are the values you hope to pass on to your children, grandchildren and those you love? What steps can you take to ensure that your values live on in your family and community? By sharing the creation of her story, "My Grandmother's Candlesticks," featured in *Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul*, Amy will help us explore the answer to these questions and understand how our role as Jewish philanthropists can make all the difference in the world.

5. Honor Your Parents, Teach Your Children: Building Healthier Jewish Families

The Jewish family is at greater risk today than at any time in our history. We struggle to balance the demands of family, work and community - in between soccer practice, Hebrew school and caring for our aging parents. How can Jewish wisdom help us build healthy and nurturing families?

Join award-winning author, syndicated columnist and attorney Amy Hirshberg Lederman as she explores how the richness of our tradition can help children, parents and grandparents create more loving Jewish families.

6. Living the “Good” Life: Jewish Ethics for Everyday Challenges

“Should I tell the truth if it will hurt someone? Do I have to give charity if I’ve had a bad year? Do I need to pay for my parents’ nursing home if they don’t have the resources? What is the Jewish view on issues like abortion, organ donation and assisted suicide?”

These presentations cover a wide range of contemporary topics from Jewish medical ethics to Jewish views on family relationships, business dealings and the environment. Many subjects are explored in Lederman’s books *“To Life! Jewish Reflections on Everyday Living”* and *“One God, Many Paths: Finding Meaning and Inspiration in Jewish Teachings.”*

7. Leaving a Legacy: It’s Not About What You Have in the Bank But What You Have in Your Heart!

What if you knew that you could do something today to ensure that what is most important to you will live on - even after you are gone? Would you do it? This presentation explores how easy, meaningful and empowering it can be to create a lasting legacy to ensure the organizations and passions you care deeply about.

8. Is Judaism “Green?”

We all have concerns about our environment and the impact that our actions will have on future generations. Threats of global warming, water and air pollution, destruction of ecosystems and dependency on oil are only some of the problems we face.

How do we balance the need for human survival, growth and independence against the tendency to overuse or abuse our resources? This presentation will help us appreciate what the Jewish tradition teaches us about how to live responsibly on our planet.

9. You Never Call, You Never Write! Living with (Jewish) Guilt

Most of us suffer from feelings of guilt. But what is guilt and is there a special type of guilt known only to Jews? Is “Jewish guilt” different from conventional, everyday “I shouldn’t have eaten that pint of Ben and Jerry’s” guilt?

In this presentation, we will explore the nature of guilt and how Jewish guilt can be a catalyst for positive change in our lives and inspire us to become better people and better Jews.

10. Putting God in your Briefcase: Jewish Views about Money and Business

Can I use the office phone for leisure calls during business hours? Can I use my sick days when I don’t want to take a vacation day? Can I advertise for a position before I’ve told my employee that I intend to let them go?

In this presentation, we will explore what Jewish wisdom has to say about how to act in the work place – with our employers, employees, co-workers and clients. By examining

difficult business situations and relationships, we will learn how to become better professionals and better Jews.

11. The Ethical Will: Leaving a Legacy of Love and Values

Many of us have a difficult time trying to write something as simple as a letter or birthday card. How much more difficult then, is it to write a statement to your son, daughter or grandchild about the values and life stories you hold most dear? In this presentation we will explore the lovely Jewish tradition of writing an ethical will and take the first steps in creating one of our own.

SPECIAL TOPICS RELATING TO JUDAISM AND THE LAW

Judaism and the Justices: The Lives and Legacies of Jewish Supreme Court Justices

From the appointment of Justice Louis Brandeis in 1916 to Justice Elana Kagan in 2010, these exceptional justices have impacted our legal system through a wide variety of decisions affecting our rights and responsibilities as Americans. This unique presentation examines the lives and worlds of the Jewish Justices and how their opinions affect our system of justice today.

The Ten Commandments and the Ten Amendments: Different Paths of Justice

How do the laws and principles in our Constitution compare to those established in the Torah? What are the similarities and differences between these two systems of justice and how do these distinctions affect us in our daily lives? This fascinating presentation explores the foundations of Jewish and American law and the evolution of legal rights and obligations throughout history.

Fascinating Jewish Trials that Changed History (Individual cases or series)

This unique series examines the historical, political, economic, and religious influences that affected the outcome of cases such as the Dreyfus affair, the Leo Frank case Rosenberg case, while exploring the interplay between history, politics and law.

By examining the role and impact of the media on each case, we are able to observe the public's developing perception of the Jew in the modern world. Some of the "macro-issues" explored in this series involve: the nature and power of anti-Semitism, the genesis of modern mass politics, freedom of the press, the emergence of Zionism, the impact of immigration on American society, the effect of the Red Scare and the Cold War on American politics, and the nature and scope of the First Amendment's freedom of religion clause