



Moving Traditions

Emboldening teens to thrive by fostering self-discovery, challenging sexism, and inspiring meaning and connection in Jewish life

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founded

2005

board chair

Hope Suttin

2017 expenses

\$3,071,623



Moving Traditions knows what it's like to be a teen. Remember all of the social and personal challenges: sexuality, gender roles, relationships with parents, depression, anxiety, and more. This organization is a leader in helping Jewish teens address these challenges within safe, Jewish communal spaces, so that they can thrive—growing up confident and compassionate, and finding meaning and connection in Jewish life. It trains Jewish educators to draw on ancient Jewish wisdom and the latest in adolescent psychosocial development to help teens explore their identities and ethics, communicate face-to-face, and build healthy relationships. To make sure it reaches teens wherever they are (even in the summer), Moving Traditions partners with congregations, camps, and other Jewish institutions to train staff and professionals. Their work emboldens teens by fostering self-discovery, challenging sexism, and inspiring a commitment to Jewish life and learning.

Teens who are connected to a “community of values,” with adult mentors and supportive peers, are more likely to flourish. For many teens Moving Traditions serves as this community, and the organization is not afraid to broach the difficult and awkward topics that come up at this life stage, including consent, pleasure, and sexual objectification. Moving Traditions launched the first Jewish online group for transgender and nonbinary teens and trained hundreds of Jewish educators to understand the issues these kids face. Separately, it conducted research on sexual harassment and peer pressure at Jewish summer camp, and trained counselors and other educators on issues of romance and sexuality. For eighth graders and older teens, Moving Traditions rebooted its **Rosh Hodesh** (for girls) and Shevet Achim (for boys) curricula and expanded programming to start earlier, at the critical transition from tween to teen. It's piloting a **b'nai mitzvah** program, connecting with sixth and seventh graders—and, for the first time, their parents—while the children are most active in Jewish life, honestly exploring the social-emotional challenges of becoming a teen. Moving Traditions is guiding Jewish teens on the pathway to adulthood, helping them to make lifelong connections to Judaism and its many traditions through self-discovery, mentorship, and positive peer-to-peer relationships, and that's a tradition that we hope continues for years to come.