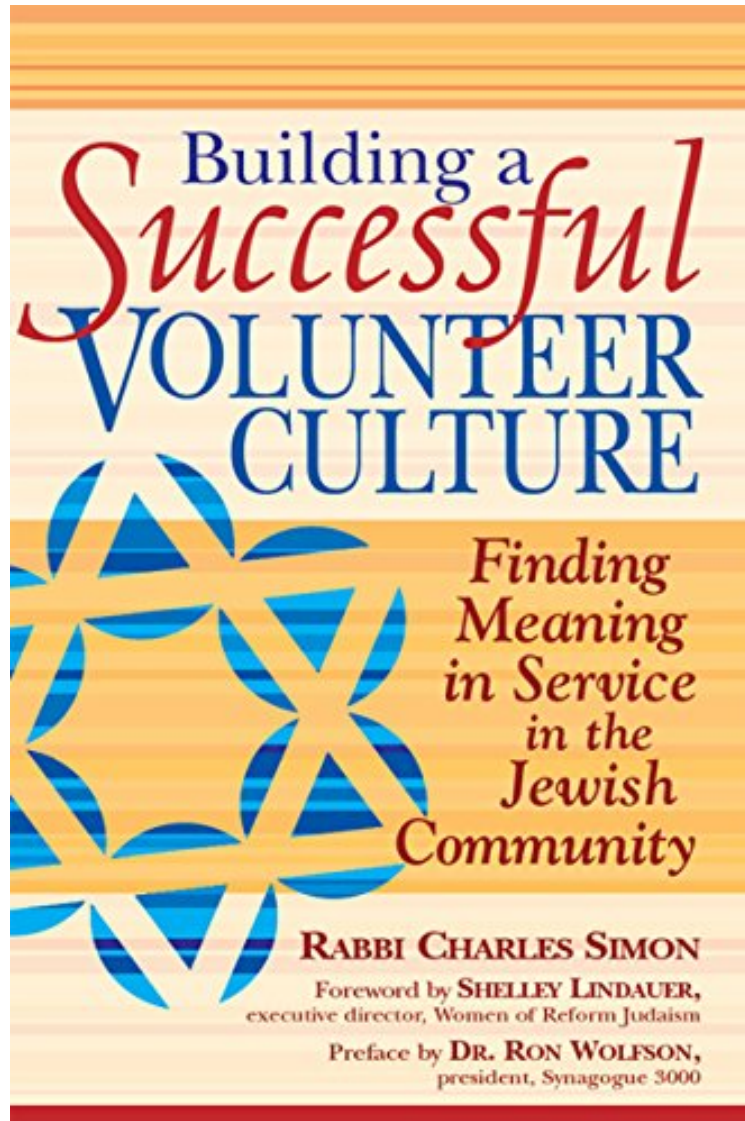


Building a Successful Volunteer Culture: Finding Meaning in Service in the Jewish Community

Charles Simon

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Charles Simon : Building a Successful Volunteer Culture: Finding Meaning in Service in the Jewish Community before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building a Successful Volunteer Culture: Finding Meaning in Service in the Jewish Community:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Both sides of the aisle"By Jane R. RosenAs someone who for years has worked both sides of the aisle, both as professional staff in Jewish institutions and communal service organizations and as an active volunteer and lay leader in my synagogue in Northern New Jersey, I fully appreciate the multi-faceted

perspective Rabbi Simon brings to this topic. I found valuable insights into how to navigate the sometimes challenging landscape of staff versus laity, as well as new understanding about how to effectively cultivate volunteer commitment. Thank you, Rabbi Simon, for all your practical advice and inspiration.

Jane Calem Rosen
Director of Communications,
Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MUST READ

By Susan Spenser
This is a MUST READ for any volunteer (or group of volunteers). You'll learn a lot that will increase your effectiveness.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Successful Building A Corps of Volunteers in the Jewish Community

By e-rav
Rabbi Chuck Simon deals in a clear and reader-friendly fashion with a number of challenges we regularly face in most organizations but especially our non-profit organizations: the "care and feeding" of volunteers; organizational myths and over-coming the unproductive self-fulfilling prophecies; planning our programs for in-reach to our membership and/or out-reach to the community; and the how-to format to promote a renaissance of men as leaders and eager followers. He demonstrates that the first step is to analyze the "culture" in which we live, what they share in common and how we distinguish the general community culture from that of the particular - our synagogue organizations on the local, regional and national arenas. He finds that the language of "relationships" is critical to the volunteer organization, supporting the key principle(s) and how we act to promote the values which concretize them. He is amazingly honest in describing his own growth over time as a Rabbi, as a leader, and as a professional. He is candid in his criticisms and generous in his portrayal of those who have mentored him over the years. Simon describes how the values of caring, compassion, engagement must become the visible characteristics of the organizational leadership if that is what they are promoting, and he personally has modeled those qualities in his professional role in developing an organization that has emerged as the sponsor not just programs but essential campaigns. He proposes - to the careful reader - that embedded in his work is an implied scorecard for those who are leading organizations today or hope to emerge as leaders. He asks us in subtle fashion whether we consciously work to manifest the values we preach; do we consistently publicly and privately demonstrate our appreciation of our volunteers - at all levels of effort and participation; are we careful to support current leadership even as we take care to mentor those who may lead the group in the future; rather than quick-and-dirty activities - even if popular for the moment - do we envision long-range campaigns with long-term consequences of changing lives for the better, of enriching and deepening the search for community and meaning within the Jewish community. It is the latter that Simon holds out to us as a promise that can be achieved.

A step-by-step guide to cultivating volunteers who thrive within the Jewish community. We can never forget that volunteering is a two-way street. Volunteers must be motivated, but volunteer organizations also need to maximize volunteer satisfaction. Blaming one or the other for the failures prevalent today in the world of Jewish volunteering helps no one. The search is for a win-win strategy.

from the Introduction
Cultivating successful volunteers in the twenty-first century is increasingly more challenging. Budgets are tight, hands are few, and competition for a person's discretionary time is severe. How do you develop and maintain the volunteers who are essential to the vitality of your organization and community? What can you do to avoid volunteer burnout? Rabbi Charles Simon draws on over thirty years of professional experience to provide you with the resources you need to build and retain a thriving volunteer culture for your organization regardless of size or complexity. In a straightforward, accessible style, Simon provides you with:

- Methods for analyzing your organization's needs
- Innovative ways for creating an environment that strengthens volunteer involvement and satisfaction while increasing your organization's effectiveness
- Plans for developing or modifying your leadership framework, positions and styles
- The groundwork for creating a language of inclusion that will motivate and inspire your volunteers
- Practical tips for establishing healthy, meaningful interpersonal relationships with and among your volunteers