

Sharing Best Practices

The Eighth Annual Nonprofit Governance Symposium

Recently, the Jewish Community Foundation participated in the University of San Diego's Eighth Annual Nonprofit Governance Symposium held at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace. More than 150 leaders in the nonprofit sector came together to share new thinking and best practices with the goal of strengthening community organizations countywide.

Foundation President and CEO, Marjory Kaplan, and Vice President of Endowments and Communications, Gail Littman, were featured speakers at the well-attended event.



John Ohanian and Marjory Kaplan

Paul Van Dolah, principal of Van Dolah & Associates, titled, "Making in Meaningful: Board Engagement Strategies" was a lively discussion focused on the critical fiduciary role of the board and the importance of keeping board members engaged in the mission of the organization. Both shared their vast experience working with national and local nonprofit boards.

The annual Symposium brought together board members and professionals from a wide cross-section of the nonprofit sector in San Diego County. Representatives from San Diego Hospice, the San Diego Symphony, YMCA, Surfrider Foundation and Jewish Family Service were among the dozens of organizations that attended the two-day seminar.

"The Jewish Community Foundation is pleased to partner with the University of San Diego for this important gathering of nonprofit organizations," said Marjory. "From the beginning, it's been an important resource for our Governance Leadership Institute."

Marjory led an engaging session with John Ohanian, CEO of 211 San Diego, titled, "Creating Energy: Positive Organizational Structures" where they discussed how to create trust and confidence within their teams. Both organizations share a philosophy of promoting a high energy environment for their staff and boards to create positive change in the philanthropic sector.

"This conference is an excellent way for us to be a part of the larger nonprofit community," said Gail. "I think we have a lot to add to the conversation and it is essential to hear from organizational leaders in San Diego about their latest developments."

Gail's session with well-known nonprofit governance expert



Paul Van Dolah and Gail Littman