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## Danny Siegel

Danny Siegel is a well-known author, lecturer, and poet who has spoken in more than 300 North American Jewish communities, to synagogues, JCC's, Federations, and other communal organizations on Tzedakah and Jewish values, besides reading from his own poetry. He is the author of 28 1/2 books on such topics as Mitzvah heroes and practical and personalized Tzedakah, and has produced an anthology of 500 selections of Talmudic quotes about living the Jewish life well called *Where Heaven and Earth Touch*.

Siegel is sometimes referred to as The Most Famous Unknown Jewish Poet in America — among his not-well-enough-known poetry books are *A Hearing Heart* and *Unlocked Doors* — as well as, *Mitzvah Maniac*, *The World's Greatest Expert on Personalized Tzedakah*, *The Feeling Person's Thinker*, and *the Pied Piper of Tzedakah*. His volume *Healing: Readings and Meditations* combines poetry and prose and classical Jewish texts for those in need of healing words.

His books in prose include *1 + 1 = 3 and 37 Other Mitzvah Principles For a Meaningful Life*, *Heroes and Miracle Workers*, and *Good People*, collections of essays about everyday people who are Mitzvah heroes and great Menschen, *Tell Me a Mitzvah*, Tzedakah stories for children ages 7-12, *The Humongous Pushka in the Sky*, a story book for little children, and *From the Heart — Love Poetry*.

In 2020, The Jewish Publication Society published *Radiance - Creative Mitzvah Living, The Selected Prose and Poetry of Danny Siegel*.

Ziv Tzedakah Fund, the non-profit Mitzvah organization he founded in 1981, distributed more than \$13,750,000 to worthy individuals and projects during its 27 years of activity.

Danny was International President of United Synagogue Youth in 1962. He served as the Tzedakah Resource Person on the USY Israel Pilgrimage for the past 44 years.

Danny has a B.S. in Comparative Literature from Columbia University's School of General Studies, and a Bachelor's and Master's of Hebrew Literature Degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

He is one of three recipients of the prestigious 1993 Covenant Award for Exceptional Jewish Educators.

# LECTURE TOPICS & TYPES OF PROGRAMS

## ***MITZVAH POWER***

### ***Mitzvah Power***

There's No Such Thing As a Small Mitzvah: More Than 36 (2 X Chai) Easy Ways To Make a BIG Difference With Just a Little Tzedakah Money And/or a Minimum of Time, Effort, Stamina, Talents and Personal Strengths and Preferences

Mitzvahs and The Cycle of Life

The Therapeutic and Psychotherapeutic Benefits of Doing Mitzvahs and Working to Make Tikkun Olam Happen

What Can Bruce Springsteen, Steven Spielberg, David Copperfield, Ben & Jerry, and The Late Paul Newman and Liz Taylor Teach Us About Mitzvot That We Don't Know? — How To Be a Mitzvah Hero

Where, When, Why, and How You Can Do Your Own Best Tikkun Olam

How to choose the Kind of Tikkun Olam that Is the *Very* Best for You

Kid Mitzvah Power: Amazing Tikkun Olam Done By Our Young, Medium-Young and Very Young Kinderlach

Everyday Miracles: Using Your Mitzvah Power

How To Solve All the World's Problems by Making Just One Phone Call, Sending One E-mail, Or Surfing One Website

116 Practical Mitzvah Suggestions: Variety in Your Personal Mitzvah Work

### ***Tikkun Olam and Life***

1 + 1 = 3 and Many Other Mitzvah Principles For a Meaningful Jewish Life

Mitzvahs Are Real Life: Near-Life and Real-Life Experiences

It Works Both Ways: Besides the Recipient of a Giver's Kind Deed, What Benefits Does the Giver Receive By Doing Mitzvahs

### ***Mitzvah Heroes and You***

Mitzvah DVD Extravaganza: DVD's and Discussions about Mitzvah Heroes and What We Have in Common with Them

Women Mitzvah Heroes: One From The Old Old Days and A Few

From Nowadays (Some of Whom You Might Have Wanted as a

Grandmother-Mother-Sister-Aunt-Daughter): The Great Ones-It Would Be good, Wise, Useful, and Uplifting to Know About

The (Unknown) Famous Five-Minute Speech That Changed Thousands of Lives

### ***Parents and Children***

My Parents Say They Want Me To Be Happy, Healthy, a Mensch, and a Jew,

But All They Really Want From Me Is For Me to Get Good Grades

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah Project: How Your Glorious 13-Year-Old Kinderlach Have Changed (And Continue to Change) Millions of People's Lives For the Better

Mitzvah Man and Mitzvah Woman: Every Possible Thing You Need to Know

About to Make a Bar or Bat Mitzvah A True and Meaningful Mitzvah Event.

Just Exactly What Do We [Our Kids and Ourselves] Want to Be When We Grow Up?

## ***Your Tzedakah Money***

Giving Your Money Away — How Much, How to, Why, When, and to Whom  
Is It Enough That They Are Doing Good Things? — What You Need to Know  
Before You Donate to Any Tzedakah Organization.

What It Feels Like to Have \$6,543.99/Day to Give Away to Tzedakah  
For Fund Raisers: What's Jewish About Jewish Giving?

## ***Torah Study and Jewish Values***

*Jewish* Jewish Values for Ourselves, Our Families, and Our Communities

**So You Fell Asleep During Services — Do You Still Count For a Minyan?  
(And Other Little-Studied Jewish Laws and Customs)**

Even More Unusual Texts: Judaism with Emotion, Yiddishkeit from the Gut —  
Rarely Taught, Often Ignored, Often Distinctly Off-beat Torah  
From the Great Rabbis

Nu? Feed the Cat and *Then* Enjoy Your Waffles

The Angels Every Moment in Our lives

Practical Menschlichkeit: Jewish Values and Character Education

1. The Awesomeness of Being Human: Where Heaven and Earth Touch
2. Menschlichkeit, Edelkeit, Ziesskeit, Shaynkeit, Feinkeit, and  
Ehrlichkeit: Human Qualities in Jewish Tradition
3. Gutsy Torah (2-hour, 4-hour, 6-hour seminars)

## ***TYPES OF PROGRAMS***

### ***FORUMS/AUDIENCES:***

synagogues, JCC's, Federations (either fundraising and education events),  
dayschools, afternoon schools, pre- and post- Bar and Bat Mitzvah groups,  
adult and family education groups

lay and/or Jewish professional leaders

Jewish educators

secular high schools

### ***Formats:***

Individual, lectures, seminars, lecture series

- A. Week-ends (4 talks between Friday night and Sunday noon or so)
- B. Mid-week
- C. Kick-off events (e.g., for Mitzvah Day)

### ***BOOKS***

1. **Radiance - Creative Mitzvah Living, The Selected Prose and Poetry  
of Danny Siegel (The Jewish Publication Society, 2020)**
2. *From the Heart – Love Poems (2012)*
3. *1 + 1 = 3 and 37 Other Mitzvah Principles For a Meaningful Life (2000)*
4. *Healing: Readings and Meditations (1999)*
5. *Heroes and Miracle Workers (1997)*
6. *The Humongous Pushka in the Sky (Children's Story, 1993)*
7. *After the Rain (Children's Story for Adults), 1993*

8. *Tell Me a Mitzvah* (Children's stories, Kar-Ben Copies, Inc., 1993)
9. *A Hearing Heart* (poetry, 1992)
10. *The Meadow Beyond the Meadow* (poetry, 1991)
11. *Mitzvahs*, (1990)
12. *Family Reunion: Making Peace in the Jewish Community*, (1989)
13. *Munbaz II and Other Mitzvah Heroes*, (1988)
14. *Gym Shoes and Irises: Personalized Tzedakah*, (1981)  
*Book Two*, (1987)
15. *Angels* (essays), (1980)
16. *Where Heaven and Earth Touch: An Anthology of Midrash and Halachah*  
*Book One*, (1983); *Large Print Edition*, (1985), *Book Two*, (1984),  
*Book Three*, (1985), *Combined Books One-Three*, (1988),  
*Hardback edition*, (1989); *Soft cover*, (1995) (Jason Aronson publishers),  
*Source Book: Selected Hebrew and Aramaic Sources*, (1985)
17. *The Unorthodox Book of Jewish Records and Lists* (humor, co-authored  
with Allan Gould), (1982)
18. *The Lord Is A Whisper at Midnight: Psalms and Prayers*, (1985)
19. *The Garden, Where Wolves and Lions Do No Harm to the Sheep and Deer*  
(poetry), (1985)
20. *Unlocked Doors: The Selected Poems of Danny Siegel 1969-1983*, (1983)
21. *Before Our Very Eyes: Readings for a Journey Through Israel*, (1986)
22. *Nine Entered Paradise Alive* (poetry), (1980)
23. *Between Dust and Dance* (poetry and prose), (1978)
24. *And God Braided Eve's Hair* (poetry), (1976)
25. *Soulstoned* (poetry), (1969)

### ***TZEDAKAH WORK***

1. Founder and chairman of Ziv Tzedakah Fund (U.S.) (1981-2008) and Ziv Tzedakah Foundation (Canada) (1981-2020)
2. Tzedakah Resource Person, United Synagogue Youth Israel Pilgrimage, 1976-2019

### ***EDUCATION***

1. Bachelor of Science in Comparative Literature, Columbia University School of General Studies, 1967
2. Bachelor of Hebrew Literature in Bible and Talmud, Teacher's Institute, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1967
3. Masters of Hebrew Literature, Rabbinical School, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1969

### ***TEACHING, LECTURING, LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE***

1. Recipient of the 1993 Covenant Award for Exceptional Jewish Educators
2. Lecturing, teaching, giving poetry readings at retreats, synagogue week-ends, seminars, teacher seminars, Federation/UJA retreats, JCC staff and lay leadership seminars, Jewish communal professionals seminars, campus programs in 300+ communities, 1962-2016