

Maja Kazazic

Bosnian Genocide Survivor, Mental Health Advocate, Successful Entrepreneur, TEDx Presenter, Certified Amputee Peer Counselor.

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Change Management / Organizational Change
- Leadership
- Motivation
- Overcoming Adversity
- Personal Growth
- Sales



About Maja Kazazic

When she was 16 years old, Maja Kazazic's life changed forever. In the summer of 1993, two years into the Bosnian War – a genocide that killed 250,000 people and injured millions – a rocket propelled grenade exploded in her courtyard destroying her home and killing five of her friends. Her legs were shattered in the blast, and her face and arm were peppered with shrapnel.

Maja was treated in a local makeshift basement hospital that lacked medical supplies and antibiotics. Her left leg became infected and over the next couple of months flesh was cut from her leg until she eventually underwent an amputation – all without the benefit of anesthesia.

Kazazic lay close to death when she was selected to be one of three children evacuated for treatment. She left her home and her family with only a teddy bear, a t-shirt and a rock. As people in Maja's new hometown of Cumberland, Maryland learned of her story, the community volunteered their time, money, and effort to make her whole again.

Maja was determined to succeed; she had the will to overcome any obstacle. Despite the challenges presented to her as a below-the-knee amputee, she was able to build a new life beyond anyone's expectations. She learned how to walk again, finished high school and college, and eventually started a very successful software company whose clients included Fortune 100 companies. She has since learned to windsurf, play tennis and golf, and even run. She completed her first 5K in 2009.

As a result of the tragedy she endured, Maja was left with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder which left her living through constant panic attacks and night terrors, rendering her unable to function at times. On the recommendation of her clinician, Maja adopted Rosie, an amputee Great Dane, and they have been an inseparable pair ever since. With Rosie's help, Kazazic's PTSD symptoms have abated. Kazazic and Rosie have given hope and inspiration to countless people with limb loss and those struggling with the adjustment and depression.

Kazazic has been featured in *Reader's Digest*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Woman's World*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, as well as ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox News, CTV, BBC News, and on the Discovery Health Network.

A screenplay is currently being written about her remarkable journey.

Select Keynotes

- **Building Relationships, Presenting to Personalities, Capturing Your Own Confidence**

Gone are the old tips and tricks for manipulative salesmanship. Today's consumers expect and deserve sales professionals who have mastered more than just their craft. They are relationship builders, personality profilers, service superstars – and they have the confidence to do their jobs with pride.

Takeaways...

- Break through any OBSTACLE in your way
- Speed past the COMPETITION with a powerful commitment to service
- Recognize the WHO you're selling to for a more effective presentation

- ◊ Build a SUPPORT system that continuously challenges and cheers you
- ◊ Set and EXCEED seemingly impossible goals
- ◊ Head into your next sale with CONFIDENCE"

- **CHANGE: Breaking Free From the Fear, Embracing the Evolution**

They say the only constant in the world is change, but mastering it, embracing it, letting go of the fear of it is no simple task for most people. And that? Leaves them often stuck in ruts without direction or momentum.

In this empowering, life-changing topic, Keynote Speaker Maja Kazazic shares the strategies and mindsets anyone can use to...

Takeaways...

- ◊ Master the 7 building blocks to moving FORWARD
- ◊ Turn challenges and change into game-changing OPPORTUNITIES
- ◊ Turn fear into FOCUS
- ◊ Learn how to LET GO
- ◊ Harness the EXPONENTIAL potential that change can bring

- **LEADERSHIP: Mastering Big Picture Vision and Everyday Momentum**

In today's world? Leaders often feel they have to be all things to all people. They have to have the 30,000-foot scope of the organization's goals AND the skills to steer their teams to success in the day-to-day.

Takeaways...

With powerful, step-by-step strategies, Leadership Speaker Maja Kazazic teaches managers and leaders to...

- ◊ Unlock the FULL potential of themselves and their team
- ◊ Effectively break down BIG goals into manageable, actionable tasks
- ◊ Create COHESIVE, creativity-fueled teams
- ◊ Move themselves and their team members from FEAR to FOCUS
- ◊ Obliterate BARRIERS that keep them from the competitive edge

- **Pushing Yourself & Your Business Beyond Boundaries**

Change is one of the most resisted factors in human nature. We rail against it. Fear it. Close ourselves off to it. Yet, change, in all its resilience is the open door to new opportunities, big goal wins, and a more rewarding life.

Takeaways...

- ◊ TRAIN YOUR MIND TO HARNESS CHANGE LIKE A TOP ATHLETE
- ◊ REMOVE THE OBSTACLES AND DOUBT THAT KEEP YOU ROOTED IN OLD WAYS, HABITS, AND RESULTS
- ◊ GET 'HOOKED' ON REWARDS OF OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND REALIZING NEW GOALS
- ◊ LEARN TO FUTURE-PACE YOUR PERSONAL STORY SO THAT YOUR MIND DOES MOST OF THE WORK
- ◊ SUCCESSFULLY ADAPT TO ANY CHANGE THAT COMES YOUR WAY WITH CONFIDENCE

Select Testimonials

Maja is not only great at speaking but she is also a wonderful listener when it comes to preparing to speak to your group. She took the time to really understand my group and the message I wanted her to emphasize with them while telling her story. Her story was very down-to-earth, touching, and encouraging. I personally walked away with an inspirational message as well as a set of tools to follow in my own path to success.

— *Jessie Schneider – ABWA*

We can't thank you enough for sharing your story with our audience, and we want you to know what a great pleasure it was to have you at our event. We have received so much positive feedback from attendees, sponsors — and a lot of their praise was directed toward you and your compelling story. Your support of this event and the YMCA makes [this] uplifting and truly an enjoyable event.

— *Mary Roberts – YMCA District Vice President*

Thank you for sharing your story. I appreciate your willingness to join us for this special event. Your work to inspire people around the world is truly admirable. You should be very proud of all you have accomplished. Keep up the good work and know that we appreciate all that you do. Please let me know if there is ever anything I can do for you.

— *Mike Fasano – Florida State Senator*