

Jewish Leaders Peulat Shabbat 8/6

Goal: To teach chanichim about Jewish leaders (which coincides with this week's theme of leadership), as well as, what it takes to be a leader.

Location: Moadon Ilanot/tennis courts

Introduction: Four counselors will dress up like the following Jewish leaders and read a description about them and their Jewish philosophies. (10 minutes)

Abraham Joshua Heschel (Jake)

David Ben Gurion (Zev)

Theodore Hertzfel (Aaron)

Yonaton Netanyahu (Edan)

The edah will then split up into four groups (listed below). Each group will be given descriptions, names and pictures of the previous four individuals, which they will have to match up with quotes that have been said by these Jewish leaders. Counselors in each group will verify their group's progress by referring to an answer sheet. (10-15 minutes)

The edah will then gather back in the moadon to discuss what they think makes a good leader. After a few people have shared, each chanich/a will be asked to decide which leadership quality they can most identify with and/or seem to exhibit the most, and will go stand in the corner of the room labeled with that particular trait. The categories are as follows: Good listener, initiative, responsible, able to lead a group. (5-10 minutes)

Once everyone has chosen a corner, the groups will be asked to discuss why that particular quality is necessary for a leader to possess. One person from each group will then share their thoughts with the edah. (5 minutes)

Groups are as follows:

- 1) Top bunks of 11/12 and bottom bunks of 17 (Merissa)
- 2) Top bunks of 17 and bottom bunks of 13 (Ariel)
- 3) Top bunks of 13 and bottom bunks of 19 (Yaara)
- 4) Top bunks of 19 and bottom bunks of 11/12 (Dana)

Conclusion: Let them know that all of the people they learned about today are leaders they can look up to. Explain that it's important to recognize your leadership-quality strengths and use them in your everyday lives as much as possible. (Zev may also ask the edah what they took away from the activity/one fact they learned about any of the aforementioned Jewish leaders.) (5 minutes)

Supplies: 4 envelopes, quotes, 4 signs with qualities written on them hung around the room

Abraham Joshua Heschel

I am Abraham Joshua Heschel, born on January 11, 1907 into a polish-Jewish family. I am an American theologian, educator, and philosopher who seeks to build a modern philosophy of religion on the basis of ancient Jewish tradition. As a young man, I wrote poetry and a collection of Yiddish verse was published years later. I studied at the university in Berlin and taught Talmud. I published several works that established me as a scholar such as: Maimonides, and Die Prophetie (which is on Hebrew prophecy. I moved to London in 1938 where I founded the Institute for Jewish learning. Soon after I moved to the

United States, where I joined the faculty of Hebrew Union College. I became an American citizen in 1945, when I married Sylvia Straus.

I wish to construct a modern philosophy of religion on the basis of ancient Jewish tradition and teachings. A famous quote of mine is, "the Jew is never alone in the face of God, for the Torah is always with him." I became involved with the civil rights demonstrations of the 1960's and early 1970's to end discrimination against blacks in America. I was one of the first religious leaders in the United States to speak out against the escalating war in Vietnam. I am an activist for civil rights. The main issues I am concerned with are race and peace. I worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., in the protest march in Alabama.

I view prayer not as an encounter with God, but as an event of being encountered by God. I teach that religion begins with a question and that theology begins with a problem. My teachings are directed at resolving our problems as much as provoking our questions.

Yonatan Netanyahu

I was the eldest son of Cela and Benzion Netanyahu, a professor emeritus of history at Cornell University. I married Tuti on August 17, 1967. Shortly after our wedding, we flew to the U.S., where I enrolled at Harvard University. I took classes in philosophy and mathematics, excelling in both (Hastings, 1979). I later transferred to Jerusalem's Hebrew University in 1968. In early 1969, I left my studies and returned to the army.

In June 1975 I left the Armored Corps and returned to Sayeret Matkal as unit commander. I was killed in action on July 4, 1976, while commanding Operation Entebbe, my first big operation since returning to the unit. I was the only Israeli soldier killed during the raid (along with three hostages). I was shot outside the building being stormed. The operation itself was considered a success by Israel, and was posthumously renamed *Mivtsa Yonatan* (Operation Yonatan) in honor of me.

David Ben Gurion

I was born on October 16, 1886, I was the first Prime Minister of Israel. My passion for Zionism, which began early in my life, led me to become a major Zionist leader and Executive Head of the World Zionist Organization in 1946. As head of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and later president of the Jewish Agency Executive, I became the *de facto* leader of the Jewish community in Palestine, and largely led the struggle for an independent Jewish state in Palestine. In 1948, I formally proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel, and was the first to sign the Israeli Declaration of Independence. Following the war, I served as Israel's first Prime Minister. As Prime Minister, I helped build the state institutions, presiding over various national projects aimed at the development of the country. I also oversaw the absorption of vast numbers of Jews from all over the world. In 1954, I resigned and served as Defense Minister, before returning to office in 1955. I stepped down from office in 1963, and retired from political life in 1970.

Theodore Herzl

I was born on May 2, 1860, in Budapest, Hungary. I was a Hungarian Zionist leader. Growing up Jewish in Hungary, I believed that assimilation was the best strategy to deal with the anti-Semitism I encountered. I became a Zionist while covering the Alfred Dreyfus affair as a journalist in Paris. In 1897

I organized a world congress of Zionism, which was attended by about 200 delegates, and I became the first president of the World Zionist Organization. Though I died more than 40 years before the establishment of the state of Israel, my remains were moved to Jerusalem in 1949 and entombed on a hill now known as Mount Herzl.

Quote Answer Key

Abraham Joshua Heschel

"[There is] a grain of prophet in every person."

"Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy."

"A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair."

"All it takes is one person... and another... and another... and another... to start a movement"

Yonatan Netanyahu

"On me, on us, the young men of Israel, rests the duty of keeping our country safe. This is a heavy responsibility, which matures us early... I do not regret what I have done and what I'm about to do. I'm convinced that what I am doing is right. I believe in myself, in my country and in my future."

"We're preparing for war, and it's hard to know what to expect. What I'm positive of is that there will be a next round, and others after that. But I would rather opt for living here in continual battle than

for becoming part of the wandering Jewish people. Any compromise will simply hasten the end. As I don't intend to tell my grandchildren about the Jewish State in the twentieth century as a mere brief and transient episode in thousands of years of wandering, I intend to hold on here with all my might."

"I don't have time to run around anyway, it looks as if I'll remain on my own for the time being. . . On the whole, I've nothing to complain of. I'm up to my neck in my army work, and during leaves I move about a lot in our lovely land."

David ben Gurion

"Suffering makes a people greater, and we have suffered much. We had a message to give the world, but we were overwhelmed, and the message was cut off in the middle. In time there will be millions of us - becoming stronger and stronger - and we will complete the message."

"Ours is a country built more on people than on territory. The Jews will come from everywhere: from France, from Russia, from America, from Yemen... Their faith is their passport."

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"In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles."

Theodore Herzl

"But we wish to give the Jews a Homeland. Not by dragging them ruthlessly out of their sustaining soil, but rather by removing them carefully, roots and all, to a better terrain."

"It is true that we aspire to our ancient land. But what we want in that ancient land is a new blossoming of the Jewish spirit."

"Zionism demands a publicly recognized and legally secured homeland in Palestine for the Jewish people. This platform is unchangeable."

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