

MAY 2021 | NISAN - IYAR



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION



In this month's issue,
we're covering:

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

DEAR RABBI

YAHRZEITS

DONATIONS

SCHOOL UPDATE

UPCOMING

PROGRAMS





Birthdays

Mark Belfeld
Nancy Belfeld
Lenore Faulhaber
Michael Ganson
Marcia Gerstein
Carol Ruth Hershenson
Katherine Karmel
Tamar Meyer
Angelique Rubin
Judith Workman

Anniversaries

Benjamin & Rachel Azriel
Cheryl & David Bernstein
Arnold & Beatrice Horowitz
Brian & Kathy Roth
Karen & Craig Schlesinger
Robert & Geraldine Ann Shokler
Phyllis & Gerald Shubs

Dear Rabbi,

My young child wants to know if the stories in the Hebrew Bible are true. Another adult (a Christian friend) said something the other day that has started a longer discussion within our family. (*see next page*)

So far, I've told him that we don't know which biblical stories are completely true and which ones aren't, but we still believe in them, and we tell them over and over because they matter to us.

I said that they help us to understand who we are as a people, and they are part of our holidays and our traditions.

But it feels like this is a cop-out. My kid wants to know what's true and what's false, and I don't really have the language for answering this question. Do you?

- Baffled by the Bible

Dear Baffled,

This is a thorny issue. You're absolutely right: your child wants to know about what's true and what's false.

First, try to remember that he is in a particular developmental stage right now, which is almost certainly part of the reason why he is looking for solid answers about these topics. It's normal for kids to spend their preschool to early elementary years trying to get a better handle on the difference between truth and lies, as well as the bigger nuances there.

But there's also more going on here, because this is an interfaith discussion.

When we try to talk with non-Jewish friends or family members about ideas like the authority of written scripture, we often find ourselves "speaking different languages," because our cultural and religious backgrounds tend to lead us to make different assumptions. It's possible that your friend's background means that they believe that the divine authority of the biblical text is supposed to be absolute or unquestionable, whereas Jewish tradition understands that human interpretation and argument are necessary for bringing the text to life and making it relevant. In a few cases, the rabbinic tradition even radically reinterprets a written text, making it say something quite different from what we read on the surface. For some people who highly revere the written text, and are concerned about human reinterpretation and its motives, this sort of behavior might appear irreverent or sinful.

To religious Jews, however, study and interpretation are understood as pious acts of love and devotion, both to God and to the Torah. Through the chain of Torah study and transmission, we join together across generations to study sacred texts with those who came before us. (see next page)

We must not hold ourselves back from that task or become mere consumers. Listening to God is important, and listening for God is also important. God's voice doesn't speak only through sacred texts, but also through the human conscience, our interpersonal relationships, and unexpected moments in our lives. If we believe that all things ultimately derive from God's activity in our world, then anything can become a divine message helping us better relate to scripture, to God, and to our own inner spiritual dimension.

As a final note: You may also want to consider the purpose that reading the Bible serves for your friend. It sounds like they have placed an emphasis on truth, faith, and belief, with the Bible as a source for these things.

But a traditional Jewish response to sacred texts like the Torah and the rest of the Hebrew Bible is concerned above all with acts. These include internal acts of professing faith and putting trust in God, but we emphasize external acts: ritual behaviors, cultural practices, and ethical and moral conduct.

I like to say (to the grown-ups!) that Judaism does not provide us with answers so much as responses. We should not look to God to tell us the whole, unvarnished truth, so that we will know all the answers; rather, if we attune our hearts and our senses, God offers us a message we need at a particular moment, so that we will respond appropriately and with wisdom. In this way, when we find contradictions or inconsistencies within our texts, we need not ignore them, but we need not let them detract from the wisdom of the message either.

So, how should you respond?

This can be a good opportunity for you to talk about faith and scripture, both with your child and with your friend. It may not be possible to have both conversations at the same time, and certainly not at the same level. But your primary duty is to your child, to help him understand how to grow in faith and how to understand the soul-deep responsibility that Jews have to engage honestly and relentlessly with words of Torah.

So I suggest you begin by asking him to hone his question. Perhaps he's saying: "Look, either the Hebrew Bible is the truth, or it's a lie; which one?" If that's the case, you can tell him with confidence that it's not a lie. It may be a complicated kind of Truth (note the capital "T"), and it may be true in a different way than your friend may think, but you don't have to feel dishonest telling your child this. As he gets older, try to help him understand both that sacred literature is indeed sacred and that we get to work together with one another to figure out what it should mean.

- **Rabbi Noah S. Ferro**

YAHRZEITS

5/1/21	Bertha Flignor	19 Iyyar 5781
5/1/21	Eddy Hair	19 Iyyar 5781
5/1/21	David Hinitz	19 Iyyar 5781
5/1/21	Blanche Wise	19 Iyyar 5781
5/3/21	Flora Schwartz	21 Iyyar 5781
5/4/21	Ruth Goller	22 Iyar 5781
5/4/21	Dennis Saymen	22 Iyar 5781
5/4/21	Albert Sharpe	22 Iyar 5781
5/6/21	Leonard M. Bleier	24 Iyyar 5781
5/6/21	Jack Brand	24 Iyyar 5781
5/6/21	Harry Levey	24 Iyyar 5781
5/7/21	Sara Lee Arnovitz	25 Iyyar 5781
5/7/21	Edith Barnard	25 Iyyar 5781
5/7/21	Hiram Effron	25 Iyyar 5781
5/7/21	Pearl Fitter	25 Iyyar 5781
5/8/21	Harry R. Cohen	26 Iyyar 5781
5/9/21	Frank Gottesman	27 Iyyar 5781
5/9/21	Sarah R. Gottesman	27 Iyyar 5781
5/9/21	Gertrude Knapp	27 Iyyar 5781
5/10/21	Hilda Leopold	28 Iyyar 5781
5/10/21	Ida B. Shokler	28 Iyyar 5781
5/10/21	Louis Singer	28 Iyyar 5781
5/10/21	Nancy Zorndorf	28 Iyyar 5781
5/11/21	Ken Lee	29 Iyyar 5781
5/12/21	Bessie Krasnitzke	1 Sivan 5781
5/12/21	Stanley Schwartz	1 Sivan 5781
5/12/21	Joseph Weinstein	1 Sivan 5781
5/13/21	Peppy Brenner	2 Sivan 5781
5/13/21	Deborah Epstein Kiner	2 Sivan 5781
5/13/21	Karen Schwartz	2 Sivan 5781
5/14/21	Clara W. Bergstein	3 Sivan 5781
5/14/21	Annette Cohan	3 Sivan 5781
5/14/21	Sylvia Litwin	3 Sivan 5781
5/15/21	Florence L. Cohen	4 Sivan 5781
5/15/21	Dorothy Freedman	4 Sivan 5781
5/16/21	Allan Schnur	5 Sivan 5781
5/17/21	Morris Aron	6 Sivan 5781
5/17/21	Edith Carter	6 Sivan 5781
5/18/21	Edward Arnold	7 Sivan 5781

5/18/21	Rubin Karlsberg	7 Sivan 5781
5/18/21	Sarah Levine	7 Sivan 5781
5/18/21	James Winger	7 Sivan 5781
5/19/21	Harry Goller	8 Sivan 5781
5/19/21	Ruth Randolph	8 Sivan 5781
5/20/21	Sylvia Bleier	9 Sivan 5781
5/20/21	Joyce Ferreiro	9 Sivan 5781
5/20/21	Philip Zupinsky	9 Sivan 5781
5/21/21	Chester Kaplan	10 Sivan 5781
5/21/21	Abraham Warm	10 Sivan 5781
5/22/21	Mae Ackerman	11 Sivan 5781
5/22/21	Benjamin M. Cohan	11 Sivan 5781
5/22/21	Louis Gup	11 Sivan 5781
5/22/21	Irving Pentelnik	11 Sivan 5781
5/22/21	Selma Shenker	11 Sivan 5781
5/23/21	J. Leon Lichtin	12 Sivan 5781
5/23/21	Charles Winston	12 Sivan 5781
5/24/21	Lillie Handwerger	13 Sivan 5781
5/24/21	Arthur Kaufman	13 Sivan 5781
5/24/21	Harry Solomon	13 Sivan 5781
5/25/21	Betty Ann Aron	14 Sivan 5781
5/25/21	Louis Blaker	14 Sivan 5781
5/26/21	Anna Bonner	15 Sivan 5781
5/26/21	Lee Davidson	15 Sivan 5781
5/26/21	Philip Wolfson	15 Sivan 5781
5/27/21	Ida S. Wolf	16 Sivan 5781
5/28/21	Eileen Rosenbloom	17 Sivan 5781
5/29/21	Samuel Zukor	18 Sivan 5781
5/31/21	Aaron Levine	20 Sivan 5781
5/31/21	Samuel Rapaport	20 Sivan 5781

Donations

Simcha Tree

in honor of

Alex Gellen's significant birthday, from Barry Belinky, Raye & Herb Brass, Henry & Diana Fenichel, Jeri & Myron Fish, Don & Elaine Hordes, Grace Lehrer, Lois Pornoy, Phil Schwartz and Pam Simowitz.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in appreciation of

- our Alyiaot from Marci & Frank Kearly
- Rabbi Noah Ferro from Michael & Betsy Scheffler

in honor of

- the birth of Chana Wolfson & Scott Smith's son from Gail Stern
- Rabbi Noah Ferro from Stanley Freeman & Cecelia Parajon
- Passover from Judy & Larry Knapp

in memory of

- Bernie Kiewe from Gail Stern
- the yahrzeit of Eileen Dennis Stern Keller from Gail Stern
- the yahrzeit of Joyce Stern Apseloff Ferreiro from Gail Stern
- Amy Perlman from Neil & Laurie Dubin
- Irwin Kugelman from Ruth Kugelman
- Steven Bleier from Susan Bleier

Richards Social Action Fund

in honor of

- the birth of Barry & Laurel Wolfson's son from Lois Pornoy

in memory of

- departed family members from George Barnard

NHS-CBA Fund

in memory of

- Fred Zorndorf from Amos & Laine Barash

in honor of

- Sarah Barnard and her teaching of Hebrew from Bill & Harriet Freedman
- the birth Chana Wolfson & Scott Smith's son from Bill & Harriet Freedman
- the birth of Laurel & Barry Wolfson's grandson from Steve Selss
- the birth of Laurel & Barry Wolfson's grandson from Steve Perlman

wishing a speedy recovery to

- Stan Shulman from Steve Seless

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT.
WE APPRECIATE YOU.**

Thank you

Religious School Update

Idit Moss

Yom Haatzmaut - Team work

On Sunday, April 18th, our NHS school celebrated Israel's 73 years of Independence. The weather cooperated and we had a beautiful sunny day. Our students and families enjoyed an Israeli style lunch which, included falafel and borekas (puff pastry filled with cheese).

The students made their own pita bread and decorated cupcakes! The celebration continued with Israeli music, fun art and gaga (an Israeli ball game). In addition to the great weather and the fun activities, our families enjoyed seeing each other in person (while still following the health department guidelines.)

It was amazing to see how all the pieces came together after such hard work! From setting up the tables and chairs, hanging the flags and balloons, to setting up our new outdoors sound system, and serving the delicious food to each table-none of which would have happened without the HNS volunteers and teachers!

Thank you Harriet Freedman and to the kitchen volunteers: Bev Shapero, Sarah Barnard, Paula Nevins, Edie Neusner, Etti Scheier, Karen Moss

Thank you to Henry Fenichel and the Men's club: Steve Pentelnik, Bob Stayton, Bill Freedman, Vic Amster, Herb Brass, Larry knap, Matt Lee

THANR YOU!





Programs & Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EXCITING ACTIVITIES!

JFS Food Drive

Until Friday, May 7

Hebrew in Depth with Adam Ganson

Mondays at 8pm

The Talmud's Greatest Hits with Rabbi Ferro

Wednesdays at 8:30pm (**no class on 05/12**)

Recipe Sharing Program - Favorite Dessert

Thursday, May 6 at 7:00pm

Coffee Chat with Sandy Spitz

Thursdays at 5:00pm

Rummikub Member Chat

Monday, May 10 at 4:00pm

Intro to Prayer with the Ritual Committee

Tuesdays starting May 11

Rosh Hodesh Program - Favorite Book

Thursday, May 13 at 7:00pm

Shavuot Study Program

Sunday, May 16, time TBD

Apex of the Gilded Age with Jim Friedman

Thursday, May 20 at 7:30pm

OTR Soup Kitchen Drop Off

Sunday, May 23

Intro to Judaism Class

Sunday, May 23 10:15 AM

Torah on Tap

Thursday, May 27 at 8:30pm

Looking for more ways to be involved? Visit our calendar!

<https://nhs.shulcloud.com/calendar>

Programs & Events

ENJOY THESE PHOTOS FROM OUR RECENT EVENTS

NHS
FOOD
DRIVE



LAG B'OMER
KABBALAT
SHABBAT

