

▶ Do you experience Judaism as an action-based faith? What does that mean to you?

## PROUDLY JEWISH Activity Sheet #1

▶ What were some of the most significant leaps of action you took this past year?

LEGEND:

● zoom-in question ▶ reflection question

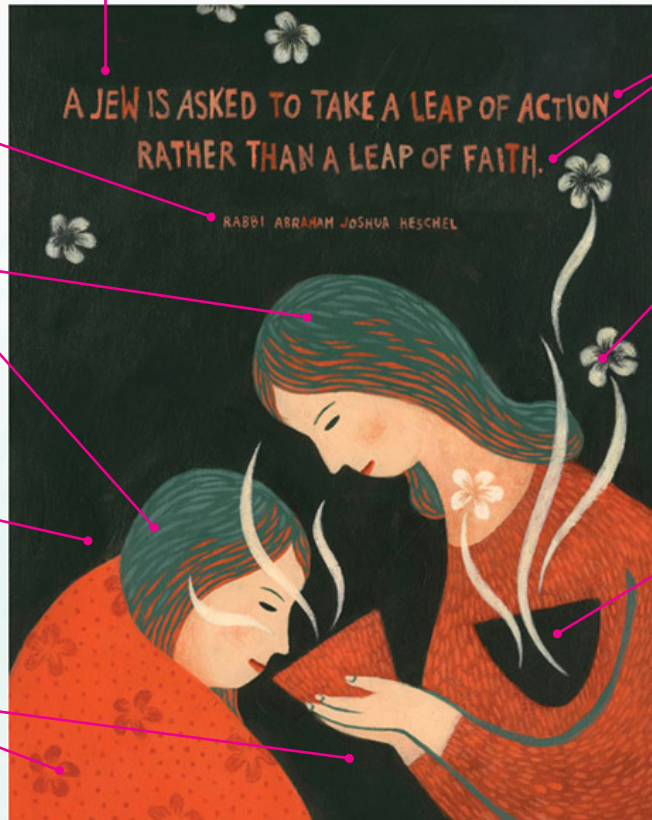
Rabbi Heschel walked with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1965 civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. Read more about him at [voices-visions.org](http://voices-visions.org) or on the back of the poster.

What are all the different visual cues that connect this woman and this girl?

There's a story here. Can you tease it out? Who do you imagine these two people are? What's their relationship? What's the background for this act? What happens next in the story?

Why red and black? What do these colors evoke in you?

"A Jew is asked..." In your mind, who or what is doing the asking?



"Leap of faith" is a common term—but not "leap of action." What do you think a "leap of action" is? Why a "leap"?

Flowers can represent giving with love—which, according to psychologist Erich Fromm, is the highest expression of our strength and aliveness. Think of a loving act you did for someone. What did you give? What did you receive?

The configuration of the two characters, the negative space between them, the color red, the woman's pocket, the shape of the bowl—all these might be suggestive of a heart. How does "heart" connect to the main idea on the poster?

▶ Here's the quote in its context:

*We do not have faith in deeds; we attain faith through deeds. When Moses recounted to the people the laws of the covenant with God, the people responded: "We will do and we will hear." This statement was interpreted to mean: In doing we perceive.*

*A Jew is asked to take a leap of action rather than a leap of faith ... In carrying out the words of the Torah one is ushered into the presence of spiritual meaning. Through the ecstasy of deeds one learns to be certain of the presence of God.*

Perhaps a leap of action **is** a leap of faith. What do you think?

How would you say action and faith are connected—if at all—in your life?

▶ **TRY THIS!** Smell is depicted vividly in this poster. (Our senses often create strong memories.)

Think of an act of good someone did for you that you're sometimes reminded of by a certain smell, sight, sound, taste, or touch.

Share your memory.

▶ Each of us has experienced events of the past year in our own way. How does your experience affect how you understand the idea on this poster?

► What's your vision of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)?

► What has given you faith this past year?

## PROUDLY JEWISH Activity Sheet #2

LEGEND:

● zoom-in question ► reflection question

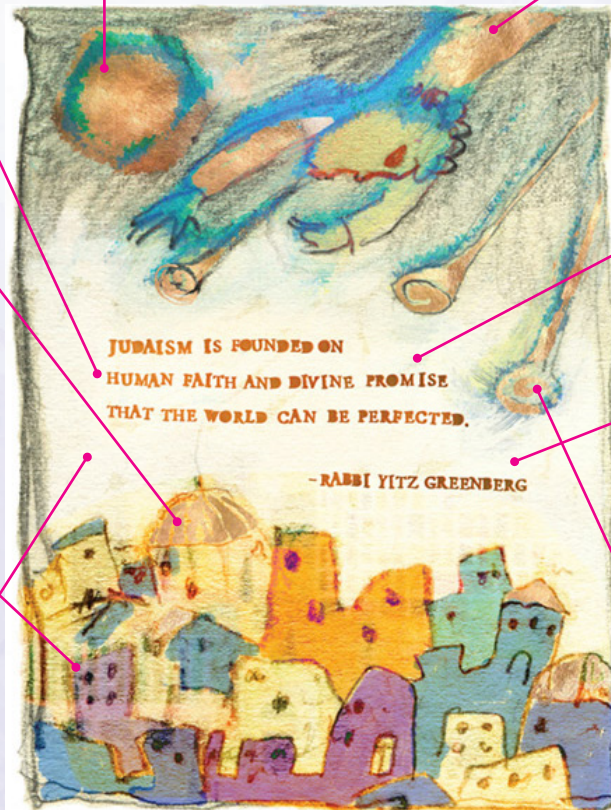
How do you define your faith? Where does it come from? How does it shape your view of the world?

The poster clearly represents two realms – higher and lower. In your thinking, what are these realms? Where and how could they meet? (For example, Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan wrote that Torah is our “best attempt to reach up toward heaven.” What do you think?)

The cityscape is composed of different colors. Its buildings slant and feel rough and unfinished. How might these qualities—and the overall style of the art—connect to the idea presented on the poster?

Is anything missing for you in this poster?

What do you think this object is?  
How does it connect to the quote?



Imagine that the figure on the poster (an angel? a prophet?) represents someone you've actually known, someone who—in your mind—connects with the idea on the poster. Who is this person, and how have they inspired you?

What Jewish idea of divine promise (if any) resonates with you? How do you maintain faith when the promise isn't fulfilled?

Rabbi Greenberg founded CLAL, an innovative pluralist center for Jewish learning and leadership. Read more about him at [voices-visions.org](http://voices-visions.org) or on the back of the poster.

The trumpets seem to be calling out to the city below, and some of the buildings seem to be responding. What might they be saying to each other?

► The quote is adapted from this excerpt:

*According to the Bible, the human being is created in the image of God. According to the Rabbis, this means that every single person is unique and equal, endowed with the dignity of infinite value. But in history most humans have been degraded or denied their due. Judaism affirms that this condition should never be accepted; it must and will be overcome.*

*The Jewish religion is founded on the divine assurance and human belief that the world will be perfected. ... Before we are done, humanity will achieve the fullest realization of the dignity of the human being.*

Do you agree?

► **TRY THIS!** If the trumpets on the poster were playing a song or musical piece—something that expresses the idea on the poster—what might they be playing? If you can, sing the song or hum the piece.

► Each of us has experienced events of the past year in our own way. How does your experience affect how you understand the idea on this poster?

► What role does Israel play in your Jewish pride?

## PROUDLY JEWISH Activity Sheet #3

► How do you think Israel can move from “hating war” to making peace?

LEGEND:

● zoom-in question ► reflection question

What Israeli achievements do you especially rejoice in? What aspects of Israel might cause you pain or disappointment?

Golda Meir served as Israel’s prime minister from 1969 to 1974. Read more about her at [voices-visions.org](http://voices-visions.org) or on the back of the poster.

What do you say to someone who opposes the existence of the State of Israel?

Golda Meir was excited about Israeli agricultural innovation in the 1950s and 1960s. That innovation continues today: between 2021 and 2022 cotton production tripled, and soon Israeli agronomists will have developed a strain of strawberry that grows all year round.

What feelings do the poster’s images of cotton and a giant strawberry evoke for you?

What do you think the rainbow represents in this poster?



Since its founding in 1948, Israel has fought in over a dozen wars and major operations. How do you think this reality has shaped Israeli society?

About the future prospect for peace in the Middle East, Meir once said: “I believe that my grandchildren will live in peace, because [Arab] grandmothers also have grandchildren and want them to live in peace too.”

In the wake of this past year, how do you react to this quote?

An array of different Israelis are portrayed here. What connects you most with Israel and Israelis. What responsibility do Diaspora Jews have to the Israeli people in its moment of pain and need?

Should we rejoice in victories? What do you think? In your opinion, what constitutes victory?

► Here’s the quote in its context:

*We owe a responsibility not only to those who are in Israel but also to those generations that are no more, to those millions who have died within our lifetime, to Jews all over the world, and to generations of Jews to come. We hate war. We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown, and when strawberries bloom in Israel.*

Do you agree? In what way is Israel responsible to those who perished in the Holocaust? In what way is Israel responsible to Jews around the world and to future Jewish generations?

► **TRY THIS!** This poster is driven by dynamic movement. Without saying a word, stand up and move in a way that best expresses for you the idea of this poster.

► Each of us has experienced events of the past year in our own way. How does your experience affect how you understand the idea on this poster?

► How do you serve others?

► Which acts of chesed that you performed this year stand out for you?

## PROUDLY JEWISH Activity Sheet #4

LEGEND:

● zoom-in question ► reflection question

In this poster three Hebrew letters - Het ם, Samech ס, and Dalet ד - are wrapped around a central pillar. They form the word Chesed םסד, kindness.

How do the shape and feel of these letters create a tone for the poster?

Contemporary Torah scholar Avivah Zornberg claims that the Jewish notion of chesed is more than just kindness. It's also courage and imagination.

Do you agree? Which acts of chesed that you know of have been especially courageous or creative? What other qualities do you associate with chesed?

This poster recalls a classic idea from *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Ancestors): "On three things the world stands: Torah, prayer, and acts of kindness." How do you understand these three things, and in your mind, how do they connect? On which pillars would you say your Judaism rests?

How do the colors on this poster make you feel? How do they connect to the idea of the poster?

Note that the colors found on the pillar itself are primary colors, which are then used to form the poster's background colors of green and purple. How might that fact connect to the idea on the poster?



There is a strong "wrapping motif" in this poster. There are many instances of "wrapping" in Jewish tradition—from *tefillin* (phylacteries) and *tallit* (prayer shawl) to the wrapping of newborn babies, Torah scrolls, and challah on Shabbat. What do you think is the power of wrapping?

Lynn Schusterman's charitable family foundation supports work in—among other things—justice, Jewish inclusion, and Israeli democracy. Read more about her at [voices-visions.org](http://voices-visions.org) or on the back of the poster.

► Here's the quote in its context:

*While some people say that service to others is the rent we pay for the space on this planet, I see service to others as the down payment we make to ensure a safe, secure home on earth for our children and our grandchildren. Either way, serving others is one of the pillars upon which Judaism rests and the future of all humanity depends.*

Do either of these metaphors—rent or down payment—resonate with you? What other metaphor would you propose for acts of chesed?

► **TRY THIS!** Using markers, colored pencils, or watercolor paints, draw on a blank page the three Hebrew letters that form the word chesed (kindness) – ם ד ן. Make them any size and style you like.

Now create your own poster around these letters – as simple or as elaborate as you want. Think about the images and colors you're choosing and how they connect to what chesed means to you.

► Each of us has experienced events of the past year in our own way. How does your experience affect how you understand the idea on this poster?

▶ In what ways has your Jewish experience felt like a “voyage”?

▶ What in this past year has made you feel like you were a Jewish voyager?

## PROUDLY JEWISH Activity Sheet #5

LEGEND:

● zoom-in question ▶ reflection question

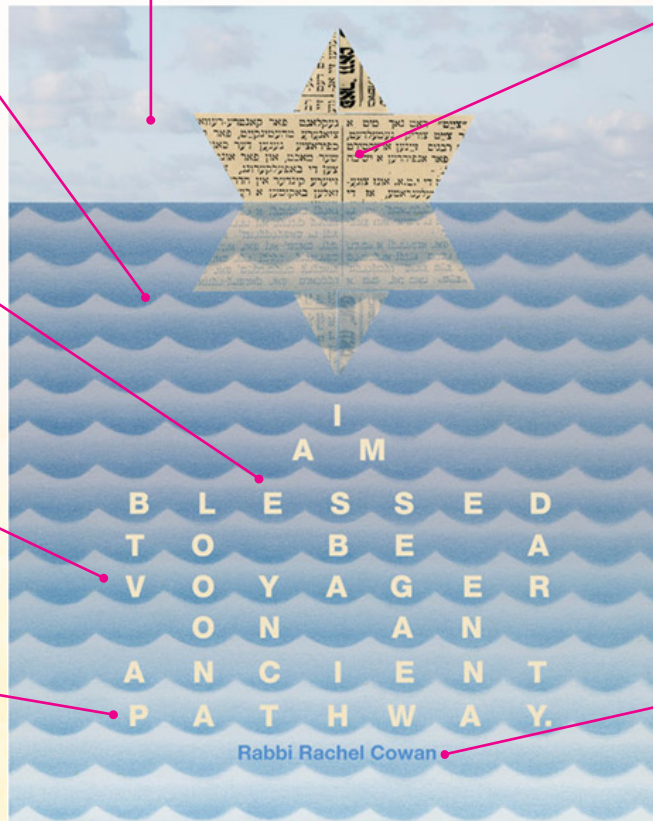
The motifs of waves, seas, and voyaging appear often in Jewish collective memory. What associations come up for you—from Jewish literature and history or from your own family story?

Do you feel blessed to be a Jewish voyager? Why? In your Jewish experience, what have you voyaged away from and what have you voyaged to?

Look at how the letters are placed and spaced on the background of the sea. How does this influence the way you experience the quote?

Which elements of this “ancient pathway” do you most connect with? Has this ancient pathway ever served for you as a source of change and innovation?

A cloud-filled blue sky—what tone does this set for the poster?



The text on the “boat” is from a Yiddish newspaper article describing the forced closing in 1929 of a yeshiva in the artist’s grandfather’s town in Belarus—an antisemitic act that still resonates generations later in the artist’s family.

Does knowing this background change how you experience the poster?

Are there encounters with antisemitism in your family story? Have you encountered it in your life?

How do you make sense of the current rise in antisemitism? How does it affect you, and how are you responding?

Rabbi Cowan was a director of the Institute of Jewish Spirituality. Read more about her at [voices-visions.org](http://voices-visions.org) or on the back of the poster.

▶ Here’s the quote in its context:

*I am blessed to be a voyager on an ancient pathway that continues to offer new insights and responses to new questions of meaning, ethics, and responsibility. It is rich with texts, teachers, and practices that help me cultivate the qualities of soul and character I need to live with greater humility, more courage, and deeper wisdom.*

Rabbi Cowan was a descendant of the Mayflower who became Jewish in her late 30s and was ordained in her late 40s. When she recognized gaps in Jewish life, she pushed for innovations—in helping interfaith couples, in bringing “healing services” and mindfulness into Jewish religious practice.

What forms of innovation and renewal would you most like to see incorporated into the “ancient pathway” of Judaism?

▶ **TRY THIS!** Inspired by this poster, you can create your own historical keepsake.

Pick a family story—some distinctive part of your family’s Jewish journey—that has been passed down to you. Write it down.

Now take this page and fold it like a Jewish star (or any other way you like). Have someone else unfold your page and read your story.

▶ Each of us has experienced events of the past year in our own way. How does your experience affect how you understand the idea on this poster?

▶ Do you feel Judaism helps you affirm and sanctify life? How?

▶ What does “sanctify” mean to you? What have you tried to sanctify in this past year?

## PROUDLY JEWISH Activity Sheet #6

LEGEND:

● zoom-in question ▶ reflection question

What associations do these figures and animals evoke for you? How do they connect to the idea of the poster?

The object in the center of the tree is a *mezuzah*, the ritual object Jews attach to the doorpost of their home. (The Hebrew letter Shin  $\psi$  stands for  $\text{ש-ד-י}$ , *Shaddai*, another name for God.) Inside a *mezuzah* is written on parchment:

*These words that I command you this day will be upon your heart. And you will teach them diligently to your children...*

In your mind, which Jewish values and commandments most sanctify or honor life? Are there ways in which you try to bring an awareness of holiness into your everyday life?

The roots of this tree are “planted” in water. What do the tree and the water represent to you?

A tree full of hands! What are the different hands doing? What do they express to you?

Rabbi Sacks served as chief rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth for over 20 years. Read more about him at [voices-visions.org](http://voices-visions.org) or on the back of the poster

When Rabbi Sacks was a university student, he met with the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who asked him: How many Jewish students are at Cambridge? How many attend Jewish programs? The Rebbe challenged Sacks to be a leader—to do something to make Jewish life better.

Sacks says: “The most transformative moments of your life happen when somebody else believes in you more than you believe in yourself.”

In your life, who has believed in you? What difference has that made?

If, in addition to all the various elements you find in this poster, you were to add one or two new ones, what would you add—and why?



▶ Here’s the quote in its context:

*If Jews and Judaism are to continue, the ambivalence many still feel about a faith and fate associated with suffering and persecution will have to be resolved. Jews will have to learn to walk tall; to recover the self-confidence, born of faith, that sustained Jews in the past; to remember that **Judaism is about sanctifying life**, not just commemorating death.*

In light of your experience of the past year, what does this passage mean to you?

▶ **TRY THIS!** There is something “fairy tale-ish” about this scene. Tell your own Jewish tale: “Once upon a time...” Make it up as you go along—Where is it set? Who are the characters? What happens, and how can you connect the story to the idea of sanctifying life?

▶ Each of us has experienced events of the past year in our own way. How does your experience affect how you understand the idea on this poster?