

Jewish Heroes through Avodah: The Effects on Their Jewish Worlds and Ours

Written by: Mari Gordon, NFTY CAR RCVP 2004-05,
Traci Stratford, NFTY CAR President 2004-05,
Lauren Palay, NFTY No President 2004-05,
Anna Barberio, NFTY No Marketing Chair 2004-05,
Larry Jerome, NFTY CAR Treasurer 2004-05

Synopsis:

- Participants are first separated into groups, and then reporter teams to collect overview information on five different heroes. Groups then do an in-depth study of one specific hero. Presentations will take place at the end.
- Ideal number of participants: 50-150
- Time frame: 1 hr

Goals:

- To give participants an understanding of the phenomenal impact certain characters in history have had on their respective Jewish communities during their lifetimes and also on our Jewish world today

Objectives:

- To provide participants with information regarding the lives, goals, obstacles, and achievements of five specific characters in history, spanning from Biblical to modern, whose acts of avodah had a profound impact on their Jewish communities, and
- To provide participants with enough information that they will be able to hypothesize about how our Jewish world today would be different if those characters hadn't done what they did

Materials:

- Name signs (so as to identify the people acting as the characters) for each of the five participating heroes:
 - David Ben Gurion
 - Oskar Schindler
 - Aaron
 - Eliezer Ben Yehuda
 - Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise
- 150 pencils
- 150 'Question and Answer' forms
- 1 completed 'Question and Answer' form for each hero
- 5 poster boards
- Plenty of markers
- 10 copies of each 'Hero Information Packet'

Timeline:

- 0:00-0:10 Introduction monologues

- 0:10-0:15 Split up into groups of 10 and then into reporter teams
- 0:15-0:25 Question and Answer Sessions with the heroes
- 0:25-0:30 Hero reviews in 10-person groups
- 0:30-0:50 In-depth group study with a hero
- 0:50-1:00 Presentations and wrap-up

Procedure:

- *0:00-0:10 Introduction monologues*
 - The program leader will say, "Welcome. We have a wonderful opportunity today to meet with five of the most important people in our history. Why were they so important to our ancestors of their times and why are they still so important to us now? Well, let's hear what each of them has to say"
 - Each hero will then step forward and read/perform his monologue
- *0:10-0:15 Split up into groups of 10 and then into reporter teams*
 - According to the sign on his or her nametag, each participant will move to one section of the room. The best situation would be that there are ten or fifteen groups of ten participants each. The number of participants in each group can vary up or down, but the number of total groups should be divisible by five. (Preferably 5, 10, or 15)
 - Once each group is settled, the group leader will split the group into 5 reporter teams. There should be between 1 and 3 participants per reporter team. The group leader will then give each reporter a 'Question and Answer' form and a pencil or pen and will assign each team to one of the five heroes. The reporter teams will then go to the spot in the room where their respective heroes will be sitting.
- *0:15-0:25 Question and Answer Sessions with the heroes*
 - Each reporter team will have a 'Question and Answer' form with basic biographical questions on it. Participants will take turns asking their respective heroes the questions in order to complete their forms. Once the forms have been filled out, if time allows, participants are welcome to ask the heroes other relevant questions. The people acting as the heroes will have copies of completed forms as well as a packet of other important information about the character whom they are acting as in order to best answer any questions that the reporter teams may have.
- *0:25-0:30 Hero reviews in 10-person groups*
 - The reporter teams will go back to their 10-person groups, and each team will take just a minute to tell the rest of their group what they think are the most essential points they learned about their respective characters.
- *0:30- 0:50 In-depth group study with a hero*

- Once everyone has gotten a few quick points about all the characters involved in the program, the 10-person groups will all be assigned a specific hero.
 - Depending on the number of participants, there will be between 1 and 3 10-person groups assigned to each hero.
 - Each bigger group will now be given more information about their respective hero.
 - The groups will look through the material, as well as talk to the person acting as their respective hero, and together discuss that specific character's impact on their Jewish community and then on ours today.
 - The groups will also be led to think hypothetically about how our Jewish community today would be different had that character not done what they did.
 - Group leaders can ask specifically:
 - Would NFTY be any different? How?
 - Would your synagogue be any different? How?
 - Would Israel be any different? How?
 - Would Judaism in the United States be any different? How?
 - What about in other countries? How?
 - Groups will prepare presentations based on the hypothetical situations that they come up with. Presentations can be in any form—poster materials will be available and skits will be suggested, but the only “rule” will be that everyone in the group has to have some role in the presentation.
- *0:50-1:00 Presentations and Wrap-up*
 - Each group will present their presentation and their hero to the rest of the participants.
 - The program leader will then end the program with a wrap-up.

Oskar Schindler

- Born on April 28, 1908 in Zwittau, Austria-Hungary (is now Moravia in the Czech Republic)
- Was ethnically German
- before the outbreak of World War II, Poland had been a relative haven for European Jews—over 50,000 Jews lived in Krakow
- when Germany invaded, Jews were forced into ghettos, humiliated, and randomly beaten and killed
- Jewish businesses were destroyed or appropriated and “sold” to Nazi investors—one of whom was Oskar Schindler
- Schindler grew up with all the money and privileges he could want
- he was known as a money-hungry womanizer
- he was born Catholic, but was a famous sinner for exploiting women
- married Emily Schindler at age 19, but always had a few mistresses
- he made friends with the Gestapo big wigs and got himself a factory where he employed the cheapest labor he could ever find—Jews
- at first it seemed as though he was purely centered around profits and greed
- he seemed to be successful in his quest for riches, but by the end of the war, he had spent everything he made on keeping 1,300 Jewish men and women alive
- Schindler’s Jewish accountant put him in touch with every Jew in the area that had some remaining wealth
 - o They invested in his factory, then worked there, and would in turn be spared by the Nazis
- he paid off Nazis so that they would allow various Jews to stay in Krakow
- Schindler was making money, but everyone in his factory was fed—no one was beaten or abused
- he referred to his workers as “Schindlerjuden” or “Schindler’s children”
- A famous quote “If you saw a dog going to be crushed under a car, wouldn't you help him?”
- As the Holocaust became more and more brutal—Schindler became more and more

focused on saving Jews

- He witnessed a German raid on a Jewish ghetto in the summer of 1942
- After that event Schindler said, "Beyond this day, no thinking person could fail to see what would happen. I am now resolved to do everything in my power to defeat the system."
- At the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and the transfer of most Jews to the Plaszow Concentration Camp, Schindler set up a branch of the camp for at least 900 Jews to work safely for him
- At the end of the war, Schindler and his wife fled to Argentina and returned to Germany in 1958
- He spent the rest of his life moving back and forth between Germany and Israel
- He died in Hildesheim in 1974
- About his questionable motives, one of the survivors said, "I don't know what his motives were...But I don't give a damn. What's important is that he saved our lives."
- He is honored at Israel's Yad Vashem memorial to the Holocaust as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations" and was buried in the Protestant Cemetery, at Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.
- His efforts were retold in the Thomas Keneally novel *Schindler's Ark*, and a subsequent film *Schindler's List*, directed by Steven Spielberg.

Aaron

- Moses' older brother
- born in 2365 (in the Jewish calendar) three years before Moses
- born before the Pharaoh's edict requiring the death of male Hebrew children
- He was the ancestor of all Kohens, the founder of the priesthood, and the first Kohen haGadol (High Priest)
- Tended the altar and offered sacrifices
- his sons continued the priesthood after him
 - o God said... "Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up to Mount Hor. Strip Aaron of his vestments and put them on his son Eleazar. There Aaron shall be gathered unto the dead" (Num. 20:26)
- Aaron served as Moses's spokesman
- Moses had a speech impediment, so Aaron spoke for him
- it was actually Aaron, not Moses, who cast down the staff that became a snake before Pharaoh
 - o "So Moses and Aaron came before Pharaoh and did just as the Lord had commanded: Aaron cast down his rod in the presence of Pharaoh and his courtiers, and it turned into a serpent." (Ex. 7:10)
- It was Aaron, not Moses, who held out his staff to trigger the first three plagues against Egypt (Ex. 7:19-20; Ex. 8:1-2 or 8:5-6; Ex. 8:12-13 or 8:16-17).
- According to Jewish tradition, it was also Aaron who performed the signs for the elders before they went to Pharaoh
 - o "Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites. Aaron repeated all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and he performed the signs in the sight of the people, and the people were convinced. When they heard that the Lord had taken note of the Israelites and that He had seen their plight, they bowed down low in homage." (Ex. 4:29-30)
- Aaron's most notable personal quality is that he was a peacemaker
- Rabbi Hillel said, "Be disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving

people and drawing them near the Torah."

- It was said that if he heard two people arguing, Aaron would go to each of them and tell them how much the other regretted his actions until the two people agreed to face each other as friends
- Aaron loved peace so much that he participated in the incident of the Golden Calf (Ex. 32)
 - o It can be understood that the reason Aaron led the people to make the Golden Calf was to settle their nerves and to unite them in some way so as to not have dissent among the Israelites
 - o "Moses said to Aaron, 'What did this people do to you that you have brought such great sin upon them?' Aaron said, 'Let not my lord be enraged. You know that this people is bent on evil. They said to me, 'Make us a god to lead us; for that man Moses, who brought us from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him.' So I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, take it off!' They gave it to me and I hurled it into the fire and out came this calf!'
- Aaron, like Moses, died in the desert shortly before the people entered the Promised Land (Num. 20).
- He died at age 123

Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise

- Born on March 29, 1819 in Steingrueb, Bohemia
- He was always a brilliant student—by age 9 his father felt as though he had taught him all there was to know about the Torah and Talmud
- At age 23, he appeared before a Beit Deen (rabbinical court) and was given the title Rabbi
- Married Therese Bloch and had 10 children
- Wise had problems as a Rabbi in Bohemia because there were lots of restrictions against the Jews
- Decided to come to America for religious freedom and arrived in New York on July 23, 1846
- Became the Rabbi of Congregation Bet El in Albany New York—there he introduced:
 - o choral singing
 - o confirmation instead of Bar Mitzvah
 - o men and women sitting together in pews
- his “reforms” were not accepted readily by the board—they dismissed him on the morning of Rosh HaShana in 1850
- there was a split in Bet El between Wise’s followers and his opposition
- together with his followers he established a new Reform Congregation, Anshe Emet
- he believed that Judaism would become the religion of all enlightened men, but first it would have to be modernized, democratized, and most importantly, Americanized
- in 1854 he moved to Congregation Bet Eichim (a Reform Congregation in Cincinnati, OH, where he stayed for the rest of his working life)
- in Cincinnati he founded the weekly *The Israelite* and for many years wrote most of its articles
- from Cincinnati, Wise worked to set up a union of Reform Congregations—he often fought against Orthodox Rabbis who were against the principles of the Reform movement
- his first published book was *History of the Israelitish Nation*

- the book was about the history of the Jewish people from Abraham to Solomon and it was meant to be a political history of the “Israelitish” nation
- it was widely attacked by the Orthodox for having strayed from the traditional conception and depiction of the biblical period in Jewish history
- in it he said, “The book before you claims to be the first of this kind written from a democratic, free, and purely scientific standpoint... It is the history of a people, and not of rulers and battles, the history of the life and growth in politics, religion, literature, culture, civilization, commerce, wealth, and influence on other nations...”
- died on March 26, 1990
- America’s leading Rabbi in the 19th century
- Major achievements:
 - The establishment of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (1873)
 - The establishment of the Hebrew Union College (1875)
 - The establishment of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (1889)

Eliezer Ben Yehuda

- Born in Luzki, Lithuania on January 7, 1858 to Yehuda Leib and Feyga Perelman
- One of the first Zionists
- Began learning Hebrew at a young age because of his religious upbringing
- Raised as Orthodox
- Went to a yeshiva in hopes of becoming a Rabbi
- Switched out of the Yeshiva to learn secular studies because he became more interested in the outside world than the world of his own community
- He was intrigued by the countless revivals of various peoples at the time and decided that his people, the Jews, should also have a national revival
 - o Especially interested in the revival of the Bulgarians as an independent nation from the Ottoman Empire
 - o Thought that if the Bulgarians were able to demand and obtain a state of their own, then the Jews, who were an ancient People of the Book and the heirs of historic Jerusalem, deserved and were capable of the same
- At age 17 he had a revelation in which he realized that the two keys to revival of the Jewish people as an independent nation would be land—Israel, and language—Hebrew
- Changed his last name from Perelman to “Ben-Yehuda” to show his tie to the rest of the Jewish people as a “son of Judah”
- Left Russia in 1878 first to go to Paris to study medicine, and then to Palestine
- In 1881 he arrived in Palestine and moved into Jerusalem with revival plans for the Hebrew language
- When he first arrived in Palestine he published several articles that are today considered forerunners of modern political Zionism
 - o They included the basic elements pertinent to Jewish nationalism: settlement policy, the revival of the Hebrew language, literature, and culture in the national homeland
- His plan had three parts: Hebrew in the home, Hebrew in the school, and words
- He made the decision to only speak in Hebrew with every Jew he met

- He encountered people who could speak simple Hebrew simply because they were learned in Judaica—he knew that those were the types of people he had to get on his side in order to actualize his dream
- His son, Ben-Zion, (who is commonly known by his pen-name Itamar Ben-Avi) was the first all-Hebrew speaking child in modern history
 - Ben Yehuda would send his son to his room or out of the house whenever a non-Hebrew speaker was present because he did not want Itamar to hear any other languages
 - Itamar did not speak at all until he was 4
- Ben Yehuda invented words as he began to find them necessary
- “If a language which has stopped being spoken, with nothing remaining of it save what remains of our language – (if there is such a language) can return and be the spoken tongue of an individual for all necessities of his life, there is no room for doubt that it can become the spoken language of a community.”
- He knew that the Hebrew language would really soar if it was used as the language of instruction in school for both Jewish and secular subjects
 - Hebrew schooling had lots of problems: lack of trained teachers, lack of textbooks, lack of materials such as games or songs, lack of terminologies, etc.
 - Ben Yehuda worked to prepare lots of educational materials on his own and he also paid some of the older students as time went on to make materials that they thought would be successful
- He established two organizations that would both work toward his goal of Hebrew as the spoken language of the Jewish people
 - Tekhiyat Yisrae—the Rebirth of Israel
 - Safa Brura—Clear Language
- He compiled “A Complete Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Hebrew”—worked 18 hours per day in the process—it lists all the words used in Hebrew literature from Abraham to Ben Yehuda’s times

- He founded the Hebrew Language Council—the forerunner of today’s Hebrew Language Academy, which is the authoritative body on the Hebrew language in Israel
- He upheld Orthodox Judaism in his home, but often quarreled with the Orthodox community because they thought his agenda was too political rather than pious
 - o Someone who held a respected position in the Orthodox world once mistranslated a line in an article about the story of Channukah that Ben Yehuda had written. It was supposed to read, “Let us gather strength and go forward,” but was translated as, “Let us gather an army and proceed against the East.” This was used in the Orthodox community as a pretext to inform the ruling Turkish authorities that Ben Yehuda was calling his followers to revolt.
 - o He was arrested, charged with conspiracy and revolt, and sentenced to a year in prison. There was so much outrage from Jews around the world that his sentence was appealed and he was eventually released.
- He set up “HaTzvi” (The Deer), which was the first all-Hebrew current events newspaper.
- Famous quote: “The Hebrew language will go from the synagogue to the house of study, and from the house of study to the school, and from the school it will come into the home and become a living language”
- Quote: “For everything there is needed only one wise, clever and active man, with the initiative to devote all his energies to it, and the matter will progress, all obstacles in the way notwithstanding... In every new event, every step, even the smallest in the path of progress, it is necessary that there be one pioneer who will lead the way... without leaving any possibility of turning back.”
- He was that pioneer for the Hebrew language
- November 29, 1922: British mandate authorities recognized Hebrew as the official language of the Jews in Palestine
- Died on December 29, 1922

David Ben-Gurion

- Born in Plonsk, Poland in 1886
- Attended a Hebrew School established by his father
- He was always an ardent Zionist
- By his mid-teens, he led a Zionist youth group called "Ezra"
 - o The members only spoke Hebrew among themselves
- At age 18- joined the Socialist-Zionist group "Poalei Zion" (Workers of Zion)
- Moved to the Land of Israel in 1906
- Upon arrival in the Land of Israel, he became involved in the creation of the first workers' commune (first called Kvutzah and later Kibbutz).
- Helped establish the Jewish self-defense group, "HaShomer" (the Watchmen)
- He was deported at the beginning of WWI and found his way to New York on behalf of the Socialist-Zionist cause
- In New York he met Paula Monbesz, another member of Poalei Zion—they married
- He returned to the Land of Israel as a member of the Jewish Legion (a unit of the British Army created by the Zionist leader, Jabotinsky)
- He founded trade unions, and in particular, the national federation, the Histadrut, which dominated in the 1920s.
- A founder of the trade unions and particularly the national federation, the Histadrut
- He served as the Histadrut representative in World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency
 - o Elected chairmen of both organizations in 1935
- After leading the struggle for Israel's independence, he addressed the world on May 14, 1948, the day the British Mandate expired
 - o He read The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel aloud and was the first to sign it
 - o The United States recognized the State of Israel that day and the USSR three days later.
 - o He was named the first Prime Minister and Defense Minister of the State of Israel.

- He remained Prime Minister until he resigned in 1953 but came back to politics in 1955 after the Knesset elections
- He resigned permanently from Prime Minister in 1963
- During his years in office, he helped with the rapid development of the country as well as its continued security. This included:
 - rural, agricultural and desert developments
 - military campaigns such as the Sinai Campaign. (1956)
 - the development of the state's institutions
 - national projects such as "Operation Magic Carpet" which airlifted Jews from Arab countries and brought them to Israel
- After stepping down from his position, he still held an active role in Israeli government and politics.
- He established the Rafi (List of Israeli Workers) party after the split of the Mapai Party in June 1965.
- When the two parties rejoined three years later with a third party, Ahdut Ha'avodah and together formed the Labor Party, Ben-Gurion formed another party, Hareshima Hamamlachtit (The State List)
- In June 1970, he retired from political life completely and settled at Kibbutz Sde Boker (which is near Be'er Sheva)
- He passed away 1973 and is buried at Sde Boker

Oskar Schindler's monologue:

In character:

[Addressing his workers at the end of the war]

All workers, listen closely. The unconditional surrender of Germany has just been announced. At midnight tonight, the war is over. Tomorrow you'll begin the process of looking for survivors of your families. In most cases... you won't find them. After six long years of murder, victims are being mourned throughout the world. We've survived. Many of you have come up to me and thanked me. Thank yourselves. At midnight, you'll be free and I'll be hunted. I shall remain with you until five minutes after midnight, after which time - and I hope you'll forgive me - I have to flee.

[He addresses the factory's SS guards]

Guards, I know you have received orders from our commandant, which he has received from his superiors, to dispose of the population of this camp. Now would be the time to do it. Here they are; they're all here. This is your opportunity. Or, you could leave, and return to your families as men instead of murderers.

Out of character:

[After the monologue] There are fewer than four thousand Jews left alive in Poland today. There are more than six thousand descendants of the Schindler Jews. It says in the Talmud, "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire."

Aaron's monologue:

In character:

My people—gather round. Many of you have come to me with great concern. Many of you have said to me, “Moses has been so long in coming down from the mountain,” and you have asked me, “Make us a god who shall go before us, for we do not know what has happened to that man Moses who brought us from the land of Egypt. He has ascended the great mount Sinai, but has for unknown reasons not yet returned, and in turn it seems as though our supposedly glorious Lord has forgotten us.” Well, come close and hear my response to your concerns. Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, and remove any other gold on you, your wives, your sons, or your daughters and bring all of the gold to me. I shall take this mold and cast the molten gold into a calf. This will be your God of Israel who brought you out of the land of Egypt. We shall build an altar for our Lord and tomorrow shall be a festival of the Lord.

Out of character:

Did Aaron commit a sin when he commissioned the building of the golden calf? Many would say yes, for he broke one of the Commandments. He built an altar to which the people of Israel were to bow down. On the other hand, he brought the community together and calmed the people's nerves while they anxiously awaited Moses' return. Did the good outweigh the bad?

Eliezer Ben Yehuda's monologue:

In character:

(to be read by Ben Yehuda in Hebrew and then translated by someone else into English)

I grew up in Russia and as a lad in the yeshiva I wanted to be a Rabbi. I learned Hebrew so that I could read and study the holy texts and for a while I thought that to forever study Torah would be the perfect life for me. But when I was a teenager I decided that all those old texts really weren't very important and I thought that what I needed to do was move on and explore the real world. So I did! I learned all about all sorts of things and when it came down to it, I realized that Hebrew really was important after all. We need the Hebrew language to revive the Jewish people! It can make us a great nation in our homeland! Go! Everybody! Go and speak our language in and out of your homes! Together, we can bring Hebrew back to our people!

Out of character:

Before Ben Yehuda, Hebrew was only a language of our ancient texts—it was written and read but almost never spoken. Today, millions of people live in a modern country with Hebrew as their national language.

David Ben Gurion's monologue:

In Character:

ACCORDINGLY, WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE HEREBY DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), and until the setting up of the duly elected bodies of the State in accordance with a Constitution, to be drawn up by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the first day of October, 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall constitute the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE ROCK OF ISRAEL, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

Out of Character:

For nearly four thousand years, the Jewish people have struggled for independence and have strived for peace with it's neighbors. We've been kicked out of Jerusalem, expelled from Spain, forced to live in the Pale of Settlement in Poland, pushed from our homes into concentrations camps and only within the past 50 years has our life-long dream of a Jewish State been a reality. David Ben-Gurion declared that the state of Israel be born. He took office as the first Prime Minister of the state of Israel after delivering his speech that included the Declaration of Independence to all of Israel and all the world.

Question and Answer Form

1. Name:

2. Country of origin:

3. Date of birth:

4. Date of death:

5. Field of work:

6. Country where most of life was spent:

7. Major accomplishments:

8. Other interesting points:

Question and Answer Form

1. Name: Oskar Schindler
 2. Country of origin: Austria-Hungary
 3. Date of birth: April 28, 1908
 4. Date of death: 1974
 5. Field of work: Factory owner during WWII
 6. Country where most of life was spent: Poland
 7. Major accomplishments: saved over 1,300 Jewish men and women as factory workers, set up a branch of the Plaszow Concentration Camp for at least 900 Jews to work safely under him, honored as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations" at Israel's Yad VaShem Holocaust Memorial museum
 8. Other interesting points:
-

Question and Answer Form

1. Name: Aaron
2. Country of origin: the Middle East
3. Date of birth: 2365 (according to the Jewish calendar)
4. Date of death: 2488 (at age 123)
5. Field of work: Moses' spokesman, leader of the Israelites
6. Country where most of life was spent: Egypt and later the desert
7. Major accomplishments: founded the priesthood, cast down the staff that became a snake before Pharaoh, triggered the first three plagues, performed the signs of the elders
8. Other interesting points: was a peacemaker

Question and Answer Form

1. Name: Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise
2. Country of origin: Bohemia
3. Date of birth: March 29, 1819
4. Date of death: March 26, 1900
5. Field of work: Reform Judaism in America
6. Country where most of life was spent: The United States
7. Major accomplishments: established the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (1873), Hebrew Union College (1875), and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (1889)
8. Other interesting points:



Question and Answer Form

1. Name: Eliezer Ben Yehuda
2. Country of origin: Lithuania
3. Date of birth: January 7, 1858
4. Date of death: December 29, 1922
5. Field of work: the Hebrew language
6. Country where most of life was spent: Palestine
7. Major accomplishments: revival of Hebrew as a modern, spoken language, compiled "A complete Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Hebrew"
8. Other interesting points:

Question and Answer Form

1. Name: David Ben Gurion
 2. Country of origin: Poland
 3. Date of birth: 1886
 4. Date of death: 1973
 5. Field of work: Politics
 6. Country where most of life was spent: Israel
 7. Major accomplishments: lead the struggle for Israeli independence, the first Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Israel, during his office he led Israel in many national developments
 8. Other interesting points: read The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel aloud and was the first to sign it
-