

Title: Everyday Jewish Heroes: Inspiring Our Community

Grade Level: Elementary School (Recommended for Grades 1-4)

Objective:

For Jewish Heritage Month, students will explore the concept of Jewish heroes and use those to identify everyday heroes within their community. Using The Charles Bronfman Prize Laureates as examples of Jewish heroes— those who are making an impact universally while leading with Jewish values, students can identify others in their community who are doing the same.

Materials Needed:

Chalk board

[The Charles Bronfman Prize Laureates List](#) and descriptions from Website

Posters with Jewish Values on construction paper (values below)

Craft supplies (paper, markers, glue, scissors)

Introduction (10 minutes):

Start by discussing the concept of heroes and why they are important in our lives.

Ask class- what are the qualities of a hero? Write on chalk board

Introduce Jewish values- using examples

Introduce The Charles Bronfman Prize and briefly [discuss its purpose](#) and laureates.

Emphasize that heroes can be found within our communities, embodying values that positively impact those around them.

Main Activity - Identifying heroes and connecting them to values(30 minutes):

Put Jewish Values on posters around the room. Ask students to go to the poster with the value that they most identify with. Report out why

Provide a list of [Charles Bronfman Prize Laureates](#). Each student can role play as a laureate- describing to the class the laureates achievements and values.

Then, who else might be considered a hero. Encourage students to identify everyday Jewish heroes within their community by talking to family members, friends, or doing research on local community leaders.

Creative Expression - Heroic Portraits (20 minutes):

Have students create a portrait of either their chosen Charles Bronfman Prize Laureate or their identified local hero.

Encourage creativity by allowing students to use various art supplies and consider incorporating elements that represent Jewish values.

Students should be prepared to share their hero's story and the values they embody.

Sharing and Reflection (10 minutes):

Allow students to present their heroic portrait and share the story of their chosen hero with the class.

Facilitate a discussion about Jewish values and how it could impact the community and a heroes work

Conclude the lesson with a reflection on the importance of recognizing and celebrating everyday heroes who contribute positively to their surroundings.

Students can submit the heroes to the Jewish Heroes Project and potentially be a part of an exhibit at the Jewish Museum of New York in September.

Mitzvah/Value	Who	What	How
All Jews are responsible for one another	Jay Feinberg	Gift of Life	After being diagnosed with leukemia and trying to find a bone marrow match, Jay Feinberg started Gift of Life and since has recruited over 400,000 blood stem cell and bone marrow donors, identified 25,000 matches and facilitated more than 4500 transplants.
Helping the environment/ Baal Tashkit (Not destroying things without reason)	Alon Tal	The Arava Institute	Alon Tal currently is an environmental activist. He is the founder of The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in the south of Israel. It's a unique environmental education and research program that prepares generations of Arab and Jewish leaders to solve the regions environmental challenges. The Institute has educated more than 1500 students from Israel, Jordan and Palestine. Alon served as a member of the Israel Knesset from 2021-2022.
"He in whom learning from mistakes overrides wisdom, his wisdom will endure"- Pirkei Avot	Amitai Ziv	MSR- Israel Center for Medical Simulation	Amitai's MSR has trained more than 200,000 health care professionals and others, allowing them to simulate medical environments to train them for real life encounters. MSR played a key role in training soldiers and other helpers to receive hostages when they were released by Hamas after the Gaza War.
Do not stand idly by'	Rachel Andres	The Solar Cooker Project	The solar cooker project- a part of Jewish World Watch has helped over 100,000 refugees in Darfur by providing 50,000 solar cookers to refugee camps, protecting women and girls by reducing their need to leave their camps to find firewood. Women were provided with opportunities to manufacture the cookers, offered training that let them teach others to

			use the cookers and leadership opportunities within their communities.
"the world itself rests on the breadth of the children in our schools"- Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5	Dave Levin & Mike Feinberg	KIPP schools	Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) was started by Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin to transform public education for underserved children by building tuition free college preparatory schools.
Helping the stranger	Sasha Chanoff	RefugePoint	Sasha Chanoff has helped more than 54,000 refugees resettle to the US and Canada and over a dozen countries. He is instrumental in the Welcoming Project where private citizens can sponsor refugees as well as the family re-unification program.
Pidyon shvuyim - redemption of captives	Jared Genser	Freedom Now	Jared Genser is a human rights lawyer who has freed more than 300 prisoners of conscience around the world. Jared was referred to by the New York Times as "The Extractor". He also is managing director of Perseus Strategies, a law firm that focuses on human rights, and lately on issues of AI.
Love our neighbors as ourselves	Karen Tal	Bialik/Rogozin School/Educational Insights and the Amal Network	Karen Tal is an educator who focuses on valuing the melting pot of Israeli society- and creating environments where Jews, Arabs, Bedouin and Druze children can learn and thrive.
"Do not oppress the stranger because you were strangers in the land of Egypt"	Eric Rosenthal	Disability Rights International	Eric Rosenthal has brought attention to the human rights of 1 billion people living with disabilities, training activists and documenting abuses in 37 countries. He launched a worldwide campaign to convince governments to support family inclusion of children with disabilities.

Gemilut Hasadim	Sam Goldman	d.light Design	Sam Goldman founded D.light design which has impacted the lives of more than 100 million people in 62 countries by distributing reliable, affordable solar light products to people in the developing world without access to reliable energy
Tikun- olam	Becca Heller	International Refugee Assistance Project	Becca Heller started IRAP which provides legal aid to individuals all over the world who are in immediate danger.
Tikun Olam- repairing the world	Etgar Keret	Storyteller	Etgar Keret is a unique voice convening Jewish values across cultures. His work has been published in 46 countries and in 41 languages- not hesitating to question, shine a light on hypocrisy and challenge norms.
Hachnasat Orchim- Welcoming Guests	David Lubell	Welcoming America	David Lubell started Welcoming America which lead to Welcoming International, a network and a movement driven by the conviction that communities make better decisions when there are people of different backgrounds, identities and perspectives engaged. David is an expert in building inclusive and welcoming communities around the world
Justice Justice Shall thou pursue	Amy Bach	Measures for Justice	After witnessing and writing about injustices in the criminal justice system, Amy founded Measures for Justice which leads a movement to change the future of criminal justice by developing data tools to help communities shape how the system works.
Ha-achalat Rayveem - feeding the Hungry	David Hertz	Gastromotiva	David Hertz has created a model for food justice - that "feeds humanity with humanity" from feeding vulnerable people and training food workers through his no waste cooking

			school in Rio to starting solidarity kitchens during the pandemic where regular folks in Brazil or Mexico could turn their kitchen into a food pantry for others.
Pikuach Nefesh - Saving a life	Jessica Beckerman and Ari Johnson	Muso Health	After listening to and learning from people in Mali about what they needed, Ari and Jess started MUSO- a community based, rapid healthcare model which trains community health care workers to go door-to-door to solve the problem of delay in healthcare. Child mortality rates have plummeted in the areas they work.
"Give a man to fish and he eats for a day; teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime"	Nik Kafka	Teach a Man to Fish	Nik's organization- Teach a Man to Fish - helps support teachers as they facilitate setting up businesses in school settings all around the world, teaching 70,000 students a year entrepreneurial skills
Tikun Olam- repairing the world (Shimat Haguf- taking care of your body)	Yotam Polizer	IsraAid	Yotam is the CEO of IsraAid, which partners with local communities to provide disaster relief, recovery and planning to prevent future disasters. Their team includes leading experts in mental health support, water, sanitation, hygiene, medical care and education