

**SUGGESTED
WAYS TO
USE THESE
CARDS**

1. Random Reading

Pick a card at random and read both sides, and consider how the Jewish text helps the Aspiration come alive.

2. Finding Alignment

Pass out the cards to participants. Ask them to read both sides of the card, and to gather with all the people who are in their dimension to discuss the dimension overall, and to vote on which card they think is most important to them in that dimension.

3. Act It Out

Each group gets a card with an aspiration and the quote. Their job is to act out the aspiration so that the other participants will guess the aspiration from the list.

4. What Do I Stand For?

Have one participant place a random card on their forehead and ask them to try and reason which Aspiration they are representing.

5. Creative Choices

Put all the cards out and ask each person there to pick one and create a learning activity based on the card and the text.

ABOUT MY ASPIRATIONS PLAYBOOK

Jewish learning is intended to help us understand ourselves, our communities, and the world around us. Jewish wisdom, traditions, and culture are resources for navigating the joys and challenges of our daily lives, enabling all of us to thrive.

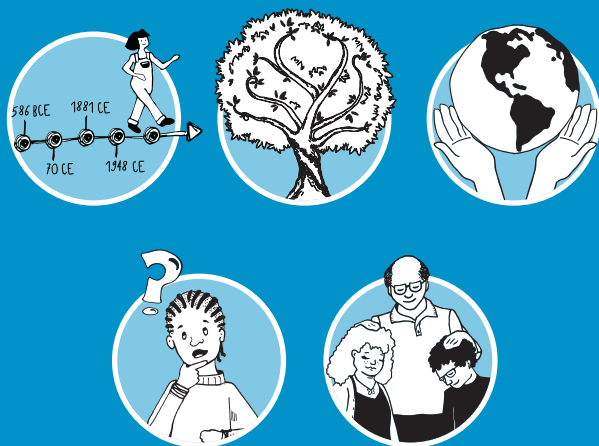
My Aspirations Playbook (MAP) for Jewish Learning & Living frames the way we think about Jewish education and guides the community in helping our children to develop a strong sense of self, belonging, responsibility, and spirituality. Deeply grounded in rich educational content, this vision enhances one's ability to live a meaningful life.

MAP, our vision of Jewish learning, empowers today's youth to explore, challenge, and grow with the support of Jewish educators, families, and communal stakeholders. Both detailed and far-reaching, this framework is designed for each educational community to lift from it what resonates with their beliefs. **MAP** allows parents and educators to reflect on what their children can achieve through a rich Jewish education during their most formative years and enables learners to understand why their Jewish education is important and relevant to who they are and how they can grow.

In this complex and challenging world, the work of Jewish education is more urgent than ever. **MAP** enables Jewish children to wrestle with all facets of Jewish wisdom, tradition, and values, helping them live a life of meaning and purpose.

DIMENSION 1

Who am I?



הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא טָבַע כָּל אָדָם
בְּחוֹתָמוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם הָרִאשׁוֹן וְאִין
אֶחָד מֵהֶן דּוֹמֶה לַחֲבֵירוֹ. לְפִיכָךְ
כָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד חַיֵּב לוֹמַר,
בְּשִׁבְלִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלָם.

The Holy Blessed One, created all people with the seal of Adam the person, none of them is exactly the same as another. Therefore, each and every person is obligated to say: The world was created for me.

Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

Who am I?

As a Jewish child, I...



Appreciate that I am created b'tzelem
Elohim (in the image of God/a higher
power) and therefore, I, and all
humanity, are important and holy.

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

The highest form of life developed so far, the human being, has reached such a level of development that it's called in Torah image of God, tzelem elokim. When you look at a human being... [recognize]...this person has God-like capacities. That is the incredible power of humanity.

***The Ethics of
Jewish Power Today***

Rabbi Yitz Greenberg

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

Who am I?

As a Jewish child, I...



Ask questions and grow from challenges, as an inherent part of my Jewish identity.

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

*Consequently, we celebrate
challenging the Torah to
make sense, and...When
we ask good questions,
the Torah is given anew on
Sinai at that very moment!*

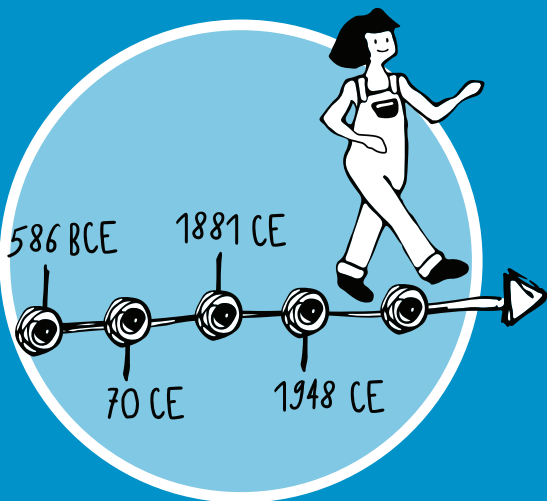
Wrestling with God and Men
Rabbi Steven Greenberg

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

Who am I?

As a Jewish child, I...



Find relevance, value, and belonging in the distinctive traits of my Jewish identity and I play a crucial role in honoring the 3,000-year-old history of the Jewish people.

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

I do certain things because I see myself as the daughter of Avraham, Sarah, etc... I learned these larger narratives that include me, and hence make demands on me, in the conversational community that transmits and reshapes the tradition. I am part of that community, and consequently I shape and am reshaped.

Rabbi Rachel Adler, PhD

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

Who am I?

As a Jewish child, I...



Discover meaning in Jewish texts, cultural/religious traditions, and history, so that they inform my values, decisions, and actions.

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

Learning Torah is not just a didactic, formal, technical experience whose purpose is creation and exchange of ideas. Learning Torah is the intense experience of uniting many generations together, the joining of spirit to spirit, and the connecting of soul to soul.

And From There You Shall Seek

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

Who am I?

As a Jewish child, I...



Make a difference in the world through
my existence, interactions with others,
and purpose in life.

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 1

*Disability Justice can guide us in thinking more holistically about the holiness of our brokenness. The Hebrew word for “holiness,” **kedushah**, is most literally translated as “set apart.” From my perspective, that which keeps us from “normalcy” is that which sets us apart, or makes us holy: the limp, the scar, the trigger, the wound.*

***The Holiness of Being Broken:
Trauma and Disability Justice***

Rabbi Elliot Kukla

DIMENSION 1

DIMENSION 2

How do I navigate my spiritual journey?



אֱלֹהֵי נִשְׁמָה שְׁנַתָּת בִּי טְהוֹרָה הִיא אֶתָּה
בְּרֵאתָה אֶתָּה יִצְרָתָה אֶתָּה נִפְחָתָה בִּי וְאֶתָּה
מְשַׁמְרָה בְּקֶרְבִּי וְאֶתָּה עֲתִיד לְטַלֵּה מִמְּנִי
וּלְהַחְזִירָה בִּי לְעֲתִיד לָבֵא, כָּל זְמַן שֶׁהַנִּשְׁמָה
בְּקֶרְבִּי מוֹדָה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵי וְאֱלֹהֵי
אֲבוֹתַי רַבּוֹן כָּל הַמַּעֲשִׂים אֲדוֹן כָּל הַנִּשְׁמוֹת:
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' הַמַּחְזִיר נִשְׁמוֹת לְפָגְרִים מֵתִים:

*My God, the soul You have placed within me
is pure. You created it, You formed it, and You
breathed it into me. You guard it while it is
within me; some day it will return to You, and
You will restore it to me in a time beyond time.
As long as my soul is within me, I will thank You,
my God and God of my ancestors, Source of
all creation, Sovereign of all souls. Blessed are
You, Adonai, Who restores the soul to the body.*

***Siddur Ashkenaz, Weekday, Shacharit,
Preparatory Prayers, Elokai Neshama***

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

How do I navigate my spiritual journey?

As a Jewish child, I...



Am inspired by Jewish liturgy,
meditation, and/or other forms of
spiritual practice.

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

*Prayer is an art form that
touches the human condition.
But you have to enter into it...*

Rabbi Larry Hoffman, PhD

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

How do I navigate my spiritual journey?

As a Jewish child, I...



Wrestle with my relationship
with God/a higher power.

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

*Jacob wrestling with the angel
and only then meriting the name
Israel signifies that to be an
authentic Jew one not only may,
but should raise hard questions
about Judaism and life in
general and be prepared to dig
into our tradition to see how our
ancestors did likewise.*

Wrestling with God

Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

How do I navigate my spiritual journey?

As a Jewish child, I...



Develop an understanding of, and language for, my evolving Jewish spirituality and the many ways to travel on this journey.

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

*For it is just that: It is a project,
a task of a lifetime, something
that is ever on the horizon
of possibility, but never fully
achieved...For holiness is
essentially about reaching for
transcendence, not arriving at a
place of complaisance.*

Contemplating Kedusha

***Parshat Korach
Rabbi Dr. Erin Leib Smokler***

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

How do I navigate my spiritual journey?

As a Jewish child, I...



Explore the concepts of obligation and choice as they relate to Jewish ideas about commandedness.

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

To be a Jew, according to the classical textual tradition, is to be obligated. Acts of service to one's neighbor and to God devolve on the individual simply by virtue of being a Jew.

The Obligated Self: Maternal Subjectivity and Jewish Thought

Dr. Mara H. Benjamin

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

How do I navigate my spiritual journey?

As a Jewish child, I...



Feel interconnected with the earth and its creatures.

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 2

*Our goal should be to live life
in radical amazement...get
up in the morning and look
at the world in a way that
takes nothing for granted.
Everything is phenomenal;
everything is incredible;
never treat life casually. To
be spiritual is to be amazed.*

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

DIMENSION 2

DIMENSION 3

How do I belong to my communities?



טוֹבִים הַשְּׁנַיִם מִן־הָאֶחָד אֲשֶׁר יֵשׁ
לָהֶם שָׂכָר טוֹב בְּעִמְלָם:

*Two are better off than one, in that they
have greater benefit from their labor.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

How do I belong to my communities?

As a Jewish child, I...



Celebrate the history, language, and people of Israel, while engaging with the Jewish homeland in all of its beauty and complexity.

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

...Jewish tradition advocates for an approach in which the Jewish people - and other nations- are called to practice a balanced particularism while still contributing towards the rest of humanity. This vision of Jewish particularism does not assume that there is something 'better' about Jews than non-Jews...The Jews are simply one family joined by history, covenant and destiny.

In Defense of Particularism

Mijal Bitton

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

How do I belong to my communities?

As a Jewish child, I...



Participate in, contribute to,
and find value in being part of
the Jewish people.

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, an almost fanatical love of justice and the desire for personal independence—these are the features of the Jewish tradition which make me thank my stars that I belong to it.

The World As I See It

Albert Einstein

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

How do I belong to my communities?

As a Jewish child, I...



Connect with Jewish friends,
mentors, and family members to
discover shared values, identities
and aspirations.

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

All actual life is encounter.

I and Thou

Martin Buber

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

How do I belong to my communities?

As a Jewish child, I...



Feel proud of and responsible
for my expansive Jewish/Jewish+
community and beyond, and
advocate on their behalf.

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

*In Judaism, community is essential to the spiritual life. Our holiest prayers require a **minyan**. When we celebrate or mourn we do so as a community. Even when we confess, we do so together.*

Relational Judaism

Dr. Ron Wolfson

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

How do I belong to my communities?

As a Jewish child, I...



Encounter Hebrew as the
historical and living language
of the Jewish people.

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 3

Language lives. It inhales culture and history. It sprouts new limbs, sloughs off old ones. It goes through cycles of rapid growth, unremarkable periods of stable maturity, decay, and sometimes, as with Hebrew, miraculous rebirth.

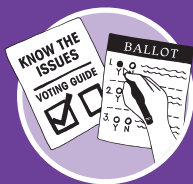
***My Father's Paradise:
A Son's Search for His
Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq***

Ariel Sabar

DIMENSION 3

DIMENSION 4

How do I participate in the world?



רֹאֵה מַעֲשֵׂי כָמָה נָאִים וּמִשְׁבַּחֵי
הֵן, וְכֹל מֵה שֶׁבָּרָאתִי בְּשִׁבְלִיךָ
בָּרָאתִי, תֵּן דַּעְתְּךָ שֶׁלֹּא תִקְלָקֵל
וּתַחְרִיב אֶת עוֹלָמִי, שְׂאֵם קִלְקֻלָּתְךָ
אֵין מִי שִׁיתָקֵן אַחֲרֶיךָ, וְלֹא עוֹד
שָׂאתָ גּוֹרֵם מִיתָה לְאוֹתוֹ צַדִּיק.

*See My creations, how beautiful and
exemplary they are. Everything I created,
I created for you. Be sure to protect my
world, and not destroy it, because only you
can ensure it will endure, as no one else
can fix it after you, if you let it be destroyed.*

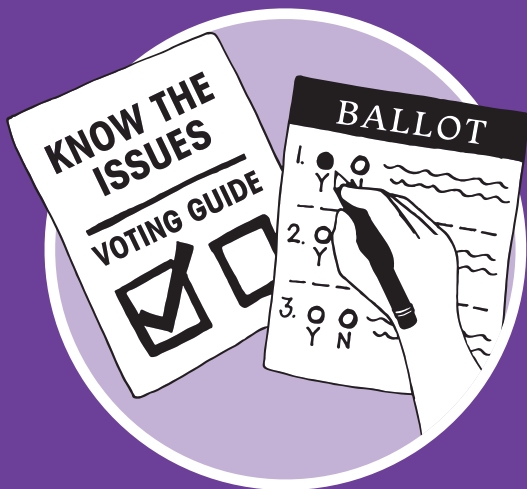
Kohelet Rabbah 7:13

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

How do I participate in the world?

As a Jewish child, I...



Explore Jewish history, and act on the
privilege of being an upstanding Jewish
citizen in a democracy.

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

In Judaism, and liberal democracy, the state exists to serve the people. Liberal democracy respects one of Judaism's most fundamental values: the priority of the personal over the political...Judaism exists to etch social relationships with the charisma of grace.

Future Tense

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

How do I participate in the world?

As a Jewish child, I...



Make the world a better
place by caring for myself,
others, and all of creation.

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

*What would it mean to build
a society in which every
person is treated as an image
of the Divine? How would
this affect our relationships
with our neighbors, our
coworkers, the stranger lying
beneath the stained blankets
and trash outside Starbucks?*

***The Amen Effect:
Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our
Broken Hearts and World***

Rabbi Sharon Brous

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

How do I participate in the world?

As a Jewish child, I...



Engage in difficult yet thoughtful conversations rooted in the Jewish tradition of questioning and debate, recognizing that no one person has an exclusive claim on the truth.

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

When we have these hard conversations in a constructive manner, we can liberate ourselves to grow and learn. We can discover a new kind of freedom, a new kind of religiosity that isn't self-righteous or self-important, that doesn't exclude the views of those who disagree, but includes and even seeks out the challenging arguments for the sake of heaven.

How To Talk Politics at Your Family Seder Without Killing Each Other

Rabbi Rick Jacobs

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

How do I participate in the world?

As a Jewish child, I...



Act upon Jewish prophetic calls
for justice by contributing to
movements for social change.

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

The God of Israel is against injustice in all its forms, and not just injustice against this people or that (no matter how beloved). Put somewhat differently: what both Moses and Frederick Douglass intuitively understood is that for all the profound importance of ethnic solidarity, a wider human solidarity is also fundamental. One cannot lead this particular people without a concern for justice for all people(s).

***The Heart of Torah, Volume 1:
Essays on the Weekly Torah
Portion: Genesis and Exodus***

Rabbi Shai Held

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

How do I participate in the world?

As a Jewish child, I...



Create a community—inspired by
Jewish tradition—that's inclusive
and empowering for all people.

DIMENSION 4

DIMENSION 4

In the biblical story of Ruth, perhaps our most famous convert tells her mother-in-law Naomi, "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." The story of Ruth reminds us that we are a people bound together in common purpose, inheritors of a tradition that are compelled to build a better world.

***Grounded in Gratitude:
Tackling Systemic Racism
With Open Hearts***

Rabbi Sandra Lawson

DIMENSION 4