

2022-2023 *ENCOUNTERING DIFFERENCE*

NOVEMBER MONTHLY FOCUS:

**JUDAISM**

Judaism is an ancient monotheistic religion rooted in the land known as Israel.

**Key Dates and Figures**

- Abraham
- Torah
- Talmud
- Ethics
- Main Branches
- High Holidays
- Shabbat dinner

**Words of the Tradition:**

This is the story of a people which was scattered over all the world and yet remained a single family, a nation which time and again was doomed to destruction and yet, out of the ruins, rose to new life. *Abba Kovner*

In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.

*Anne Frank*

If I weren't a Jew then I wouldn't be an artist, or at least not the one I am now.

*Marc Chagall*

One day, Honi Hameagel, a righteous miracle worker, saw an old man planting a carob tree. Knowing that a carob tree took 70 years to bear fruit, and that therefore the old man would not live to see the results of his labor, he asked why he was planting a tree whose fruits he would never enjoy. 'Carob trees were here when I was born, planted by my father and his father,' answered the old man. 'Now I plant trees for the enjoyment of my children and their children's children.'

*Talmud, Taanit 23a*

What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your fellow man. That is the whole Torah; the rest is just commentary.

*Hillel the Elder*

G-d is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

*Psalms 46:1-3*

The highest form of wisdom is kindness.

*Talmud, Brachot 17a*

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.

*Abraham Joshua Heschel*