

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

January 27, 2022 | Erica Brown | Subversive Leadership

- Becca Thomas: Erica's source sheet for today is available here:
https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/1-27_Exodus-1-part-II-Subversion.pdf
- del. Jon Cardin: where is miriam?
- del. Jon Cardin: if that is miriam. She is depicted twice; once at the end of the cartoon
- Goldie Lansky: Are those weeds in the water or more women?
- judy neuman: moses is the only one smiling
- Stuart Rossman: The basket made to look like a castle is actually an "ark" in the Hebrew Bible!
- Michelle Anfang: Batya looks childlike
- Lisa Lisser: First Pharaoh is speaking directly to the midwives, after that fails, he speaks to all his people
- Susie Sorkin: while the instructions are said twice, they are slightly different - in the first - kill the boys, the second time it is throw in the Nile. While same effect it is less direct the second time
- Goldie Lansky: Midwives speak directly to Pharaoh and counter his command.
- Cass Gottlieb: The midwives, who you would think are minor characters, are given names.
- del. Jon Cardin: he's a micro-manager
- Susie Sorkin: good point, sue
- Goldie Lansky: Pharaoh realizes he is losing control. Keep reaching to something, anything he can control.
- Sue BK (she/her): If your strategy is to kill the Jewish babies it's pretty clear that you don't think you can tackle the problem of the adult Jewish community.
- Reisa Schwartzman: Also this is one of the few times women play the role of the hero
- Lena Katsnelson: It's also a classic storytelling device that the villain create the hero who takes him down by trying to circumvent the hero's creation
- del. Jon Cardin: when it comes to children, the parents/adults are willing to take extraordinary risks, and it is a good illustration to demonstrate subversion because the adults are willing to accept consequences if necessary but they can show that consequences may not come after all
- Lisa Lisser: Interesting that Pharaoh spoke to the Hebrew midwives and didn't order them.
- Sue BK (she/her): The pharaoh asked for the help of the midwives, whose singular goal is to safely deliver babies. Seems like these are the last women who would kill babies.

Stephen Grynberg: Dealing with a parent slipping into dements and needing to change long established patterns in the family dynamic

Larry Gellman: It all depends on the definition of subversion. I was asked to leave AIPAC when I started asking questions out loud about the impact of the Occupation. My behavior was labeled as subversive but was it?

Angie Atkins: Great work!!

Stuart Rossman: Leadership transitions are ripe opportunities for "Survivor" tactics and strategies!

Alan Brown: Famous FM lyric, sometimes you need to "go your own way" to accomplish what you see is needed

Debbie Toizer (she/her): A person who regularly asks the hard questions is often seen as subversive

Lisa Lisser: These days we call them disrupters

Sonia: or too progressive

Stuart Rossman: Get in "good trouble"!

Sue BK (she/her): Worked to get the SRE (Safety, Respect, Equity) model into the conversation. It was pushed to the bottom of the agenda many times, I think because it made people uncomfortable to talk about these issues openly. Finally it is an open and important topic.

Lena Katsnelson: When there is entrenched leadership that is hurting the organization and although painful, there needs to be transition to create more opportunity for leadership for others

del. Jon Cardin: defiance

Stuart Rossman: Sometimes doing the right thing is more important than being effective

Vanessa Ressler: People are inherently allergic to change, so oftentimes progress really only comes when someone is initially 'subversive.' But you need to do it (to your point) with emotional intelligence so you can bring them along in your thinking.

Larry Gellman: By far the greatest thing challenge we face is drilling into the definition of antisemitism which is branded as "worse than ever" at a time when Jews have never had more choices or been more powerful than we are today

Judy Oberlander: looking at the "common good" and setting aside one's own personal needs..thinking of future generations and the bigger picture

Vanessa Ressler: So true Larry

Alan Brown: Agree with Larry about antisemitism