

INTERVIEW TOPICS

Jewish life in America

Jewish education in America

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Before Covid 19, you were still performing in synagogues and various Jewish events, what has happened since then?
2. You started an online Hebrew academy called BeCHAVRUTA™, why did you choose this name?
3. What made you write the book?
4. What's special about your book that made Dennis Prager so excited?
5. As an unaffiliated rabbi and a Jewish educator for many years, what is your view on the future of Judaism and Jewish education in America?
6. What is the publishing date?
7. Who is the book suitable for?
8. What is the core message of your book?
9. Since your book is an original, and the only one using this unique color coded method, are there any upcoming books you plan to write and publish?
10. Where can we buy LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS?



AUTHOR Q & A 1/2

1. Until Covid 19, you were still performing in synagogues and various events, what has happened since then?

"There's been a lot of water under the bridge, and like many others, my life has completely changed in the wake of Covid 19. Some people have been paralyzed by fear. It made me create. In Ethics of our Fathers, it says: *Im lo achshav ematie?* If not now, then when? "

2. You started an online Hebrew academy called BeCHAVRUTA, why did you choose this name?

"On January 5th, 2020 I began studying Talmud Daf Yomi and really liked the Aramaic word *BeCHAVRUTA*, which means "In friendship". Studying in friendship is an accepted method of Talmudic studies. It really reflects my equality approach to teaching; my students are my best teachers."

3. What made you write the book?

"For years I have been supplementing my lessons with original fun and simple sheets I've created, helping my students excel. Knowing there's a better way to teach Hebrew, considering what is available, I've made the decision to offer a solution in a form of a book. Israelis don't really use vowels when they read Hebrew since they know how to pronounce a word, but for those who do not speak the language, vowels are essential. The problem is how can one read accurately, when similar looking vowels have different sounds? with BeCHAVRUTA™ method, one is reading accurately, being guided mainly by the colors."

4. What's special about your book that made Dennis Prager so excited?

"The book solves a big problem that has existed in the American Jewish education for many years. Less and less children are interested in reading Hebrew, because Hebrew is being perceived as difficult and not fun. We live in an instant gratification society, where instant is the norm. My book is short and to the point. Some of your readers might remember the transition from black & white photography to color. My book is turning black & white images to color."

5. As an unaffiliated rabbi and a Jewish educator for many years, what is your view on the future of Judaism and Jewish education in America?

It is no secret that based on Temple's membership enrollments alone, the numbers are in decline. Temples are choosing to merge in order to maintain and sustain their livelihood. The same applies to Religious schools. Having said that I'm hopeful. Receiving the kosher stamp of approval for my book from accomplished authors and rabbis; Rabbi David Wolpe, Rabbi Dr David Ellenson and Dennis Prager, validates the need and the willingness to adapt our teaching tools and methods to the social, emotional and psychological needs of our students. "

6. What is the publishing date?

"The book publishing date is July 18th, which happens to be the date I arrived to Los Angeles 26 years ago. "

7. Who is the book suitable for?

"The book simple layout makes it suitable for all ages. Anyone who wants or needs to learn to read Hebrew will enjoy it. We're receiving orders from Jewish schools across the United States, and in July I will be teaching intensive workshops for educators, at the NewCAJE Conference."



AUTHOR Q & A 2/2

8. What is the core message of your book LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS?

“The core message of my book is that everyone can read Hebrew accurately in a fun and easy way. The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second- best time is now, it is never too late to start learning something new! Also it is important to remember that It is our responsibility to teach Hebrew, the holy tongue, to ensure we will continue to pass it *Midor L’dor*, from generation to generation.

9. Since your book is an original, and the only one using this unique color coded method, are there any upcoming books you plan to write and publish using this method?

“Yes! Thank you for asking. I’m writing an entire curriculum! Soon BeCHAVRUTA™ will publish an entire series of books following BeCHAVRUTA™ color coded method.

10. Where can we buy LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS?

The book is available to purchase on www.rabbiyakira.com



FEATURE ARTICLE 1/3

BeCHAVRUTA Introduces the holy tongue in living color

A new revolutionary book in Hebrew that excites Dennis Prager

While many stayed home during Covid 19 months, not knowing what to do to pass the time while in quarantine, Rabbi Yakira, who was ordained as a rabbi a year ago, has decided to fulfill a twenty years old dream come true, and write a new revolutionary text book, BeCHAVRUTA™, **LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS.**

The new self-published book has already received the kosher stamp of approval from many well-known respected, accomplished rabbis and authors. Dennis Prager wrote "Original, fun, and effective, this is a superb way to learn to read Hebrew." Rabbi David Wolpe wrote "A clear, lucid and immensely helpful guide to learning Hebrew. Takes the reader by the hand and introduces the holy tongue in living color."

"I was born and raised in Israel" says Yakira, "and what started off as two weeks-vacation in Los Angeles California, back in the summer of 1995, morphed into 25 years, with more than a thousand students, of a successful teaching career." Yakira, a former military band veteran, singer-songwriter, whose debut CD was released back in 1998, finds a lot of similarities in the process of writing a song, writing a lesson plan or writing a book. "At the end of the day, we're all co-creating our own reality, hopefully inspiring others, one should always ask, which seed am I choosing to plant in people's hearts minds and souls? "

Until Covid 19, you were still performing in synagogues and various events, what has happened since then?

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You started an online Hebrew academy called BeCHAVRUTA™, why did you choose this name?

"On January 5th, 2020 I began studying Talmud Daf Yomi and really liked the Aramaic word *BeCHAVRUTA™*, which means "friendship". Studying in friendship is an accepted method of Talmudic studies. It really reflects my equality approach to teaching-my students are my best teachers."



FEATURE ARTICLE 2/3

What made you write the book?

"For years I have been supplementing my lessons with original fun and simple sheets I've created to help my students excel. Knowing there's a better way to teach Hebrew, considering what is available, I've made the decision to share my ideas in a form of a book. Israelis don't really use vowels since they know how to pronounce a word, but for those who do not speak the language, reading Hebrew with vowels are essential. The problem is how can one read accurately when similar looking vowels have different sounds?"

My method offers a solution to this problem since you're being guided mainly by colors."

What's special about your book that made Dennis Prager so excited?

"The book solves a big problem that has existed in the American Jewish education for many years. Less and less children are interested in reading Hebrew, because Hebrew is being perceived, as difficult and not a fun. We live in an instant gratification society, where instant is the norm. My book is short and to the point. Some of the readers might remember the transition from black & white photography to color. My book is turning black & white images to colors."

As an unaffiliated rabbi and a Jewish educator for many years, what is your view on the future of Judaism and Jewish education in America?

"That's a big question. The short answer, nobody knows. It is no secret that based on Temple's membership enrollments alone, the numbers are in decline. Temples are choosing to merge in order to maintain and sustain their livelihood. The same applies to Religious schools. Having said that I'm hopeful. Receiving the kosher stamp of approval for my book from accomplished authors and rabbis; Rabbi David Wolpe, Rabbi Dr David Ellenson and Dennis Prager, just to name a few, validates the need to adapt our teaching tools and methods to the current social, emotional, psychological learning needs of our students."

What is the publishing date?

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FEATURE ARTICLE 3/3

Who is the book suitable for?

“The book simple layout makes it suitable for all ages. Anyone who wants or needs to learn to read Hebrew will enjoy it. We're receiving orders from Jewish schools across the United States, and in July I will be teaching intensive workshops for educators, at the New CAJE Conference.”

What is the core message your book brings?

“The core message of my book is that everyone can read Hebrew accurately in a fun and easy way. The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second- best time is now. It is never too late to start learning something new! Also, it is important to remember that It is our responsibility to teach Hebrew, the holy tongue, from generation to generation, to ensure we will continue to pass it *Midor L'dor*, from generation to generation.”

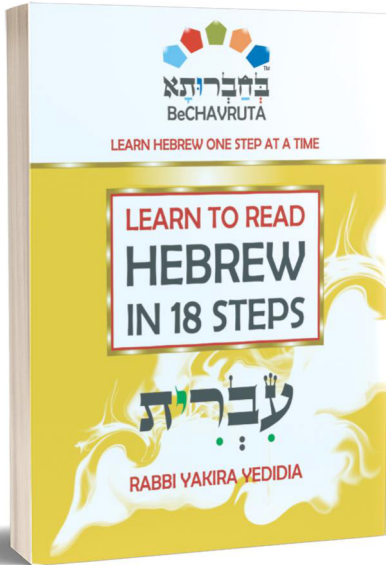
Since your book is an original, and the only one using this unique color coded method, are there any upcoming books you plan to write and publish using this method?

“Yes! Thank you for asking. I'm writing an entire curriculum! Soon BeCHAVRUTA™ will publish an entire series of books using my color coded method.”

Where can we buy *LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS*?

The book is available to purchase on www.rabbiyakira.com





... THE WHOLE TORAH ON ONE FOOT

BeCHAVRUTA™ LOGO REPRESENTS THE FIVE VOWELS
AQUA RED GREEN ORANGE BLUE
 THE **X** REPRESENTS A HEBREW LETTER

Aqua	x x x x	RED	x x x x	GREEN	x י	ORANGE	x ו x x x	BLUE	x א	SILENT	x
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Israelis don't really use vowels when they read Hebrew. Why? because they know the meaning of a word and how to pronounce it.

For those who do not speak the Hebrew language, vowels are essential. The problem is how can one read accurately, when similar looking vowels have different sounds? The answer is, it is impossible!

Make no mistake! With BeCHAVRUTA™ method, students of all ages are guided by colors, ensuring they excel, enjoy & read accurately.

HATIKVAH IN COLORS

Y LETTER VERSUS SILENT EE VOWEL (Aqua)

A VOWEL (Red)

O VOWEL (Orange)

V LETTER VERSUS SILENT UE VOWEL (Blue)

O VOWEL (Orange)

כל עוד בלבב פנימה
 נפש יהודי הומיה
 ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
 עין לציון צופיה
 עוד לא אבדה תקותנו
 התקוה בת שנות אלפים
 להיות עם חפשי בארצנו
 ארץ ציון וירושלים

HATIKVAH IN BLACK & WHITE

E VOWEL OR SILENT VOWEL-SAME SHAPE (Sheva Na or Sheva Nach)

A OR O VOWEL-SAME SHAPE!

כל עוד בלבב פנימה
 נפש יהודי הומיה
 ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
 עין לציון צופיה
 עוד לא אבדה תקותנו
 התקוה בת שנות אלפים
 להיות עם חפשי בארצנו
 ארץ ציון וירושלים

A VOWEL OR O VOWEL-SAME SHAPE!

LEARN TO READ HEBREW-NEW BOOK SERIES



BEFORE BeCHAVRUTA

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

AFTER BeCHAVRUTA

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion.

“ORIGINAL, FUN, AND EFFECTIVE, THIS IS A SUPERB WAY TO LEARN TO READ HEBREW.”-DENNIS PRAGER

“A CLEAR, LUCID AND IMMENSELY HELPFUL GUIDE TO LEARNING HEBREW. TAKES THE READER BY THE HAND AND INTRODUCES THE HOLY TONGUE IN LIVING COLOR.”-RABBI DAVID WOLPE

**“I RECEIVED MY COPY YESTERDAY, AND IT IS BRILLIANT! YOUR NIKKUD SYSTEM IS A TRUE GAME CHANGER - MY KID TRIED IT OUT AND IT MADE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT. YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING BIG HERE!”
-RABBI DR OREN STEINITZ**

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BOOK ENDORSEMENTS

LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS



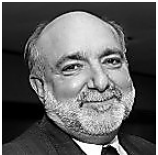
“Original, fun, and effective, this is a superb way to learn to read Hebrew.” -DENNIS PRAGER

Dennis Prager, nationally syndicated radio talk show host, founder of PragerU, author most recently volume three of The Rational Bible, his five-volume commentary on the Torah.



“A clear, lucid and immensely helpful guide to learning Hebrew. Takes the reader by the hand & introduces the holy tongue in living color.” -RABBI DAVID WOLPE

Rabbi Wolpe is the Max Webb Senior Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, the author of eight books and has been named one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world by the Jerusalem Post.



“An instant classic! Rabbi Yakira has written a primer on Hebrew that is both enchanting & colorful. It is sure to capture the interest of students & magically introduce them to the Hebrew language!” -RABBI DR DAVID ELLENSON

Rabbi David Ellenson, Chancellor Emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He is known as a leader of the Reform movement in Judaism. President George W. Bush appointed Ellenson to serve on delegation to accompany him to Jerusalem for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel in May 2008. In 2009 Newsweek named him # 5 on its list of "50 Influential Rabbis."



“At last! A really engaging fun & easy way for learning Hebrew.” -RABBI DR HARRIE CEDAR

Harrie Cedar has a PhD in Cancer Stem Cells and is Healthcare Chaplain at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital in London, as well as the Jewish Chaplain at King's. Harrie has been involved with the establishment of Post-Graduate Healthcare Chaplaincy Training to meet NHS standards of care.



“No more mystery, always knowing how a word is supposed to sound, simply by using colors! It's a great tool that can help everyone learn to read Hebrew.” -RABBI ADAM SCHAFFER

Rabbi Schaffer, Temple Aliyah Director, Sevran Center for Jewish Learning and Living.



“Rabbi Yakira's book is a game changer. She has transformed learning Hebrew vowels into a fun, dynamic rainbow of simplicity.” -RABBI DAN GORDON

Rabbi Gordon is the Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Torah, Texas. A storyteller, a teacher, and a motivational speaker.



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ORDERING INFO

ISBN: 978-0-9910860-0-9
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Publisher: BeCHAVRUTA, LLC
Category: Hebrew language
Format: print, Size 8.5x11
Pages: 64 pages
Price: \$29.99
Publication date: July 18, 2021
Available at: rabbiyakira.com



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ABOUT THE BOOKS

For those who do not speak Hebrew, reading Hebrew with vowels is essential. The problem is how can one read accurately, when similar looking vowels have different sounds? The answer is, it is impossible.

LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS SERIES, is a new method tuned to the social, emotional, and psychological needs of students today, ensuring they'll excel, enjoy and keep the Hebrew language and Judaism in America alive.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING . . .

“Original, fun, & effective, this is a superb way to learn to read Hebrew.”-**DENNIS PRAGER**

“A clear, lucid & immensely helpful guide to learning Hebrew. Takes the reader by the hand & introduces the holy tongue in living color.”-**RABBI DAVID WOLPE**

“An instant classic! Rabbi Yakira has written a primer on Hebrew that is both enchanting & colorful. It is sure to capture the interest of students & magically introduce them to the Hebrew language!”-**RABBI DR DAVID ELLENSON**

“Brilliant! Your Nikkud system is a true game changer-my kid tried it out and it made an immediate impact. You're on to something big here! ”-**RABBI DR OREN STEINITZ**

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS EDUCATORS, DIRECTORS, TEACHERS



INTRODUCTION 90 MINUTES

LEARN TO READ
HEBREW IN 18 STEPS
OVERVIEW

ONE DAY SEMINAR 6 HOURS

IN DEPTH TRAINING
LEARN TO READ &
TEACH HEBREW

TWO DAYS SEMINAR 12 HOURS

FULL TRAINING
LEARN TO READ &
TEACH HEBREW

RABBI YAKIRA YEDIDIA

Rabbi Yakira wears many hats. She is the founder of BeCHAVRUTA, LLC online Hebrew Academy, a blogger contributor at Times of Israel, interlacing her song-writing skills, graphic design, and teaching expertise in her new book series LEARN TO READ HEBREW IN 18 STEPS, endorsed by many. She was born and raised in Israel, and what started off as a two week vacation in Los Angeles CA. back in the summer of 1995, morphed into 25 years of a teaching career, with more than a thousand students. A Hebrew and Judaic specialist at various temples, leading educational seminars (NewCAJE). Yakira was ordained as a rabbi at the RSI in NY via zoom in 2020.

Alongside her husband Aaron, raising their three home-schooled daughters, and even their cat Mia Meow, seems to understand Hebrew quite well.