

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE LEADERSHIP OF TORAH

October 21, 2021 | Erica Brown | Turning Strangers Into Angels

Becca Thomas: Erica's source sheet for today is accessible here:

https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/10-21_Gen.-18-Hospitality.pdf

Shelly Kupfer: Can't see Abraham's face/reaction

Vanessa Ressler: He is totally prostrating himself it seems? Ultimate humility.

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb: totally prostrating, face and body DOWN -- extra-painful considering what he's recovering from!

Judy Oberlander: the view looking outwards from the comfort of the tent

CHarris: It looks like the middle angel is wearing shades or perhaps is blind

Angie Atkins: The angels have 2 feet!!

Nina Bruder: Please repost the source sheet

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Irine Schweitzer: can't join at the moment, so sorry

Michael Neil: serving of milk and meat

David Rudis: All of Abraham's action is telling others what to do...the guests, Sarah and the slave boy

Michael Neil: Abraham did not introduce guests to his family

Susie Sorokin: He looks out for all the needs - not just food, but alleviates the heat (bathe feet, sit under the tree)

Nina Bruder: They didn't have any of the food ready for guests - they had to prepare a lot in a short amount of time

Jessica Semel: It's a model of hospitality, Maybe family hold back but give the best to the guests!

Nina Bruder: Didn't pull out anything from the freezer...

Reisa Schwartzman: Agree with Sue. Sacrificing a cow for guests is an ultimate respect

David Rudis: all of the food had to be prepared it wasn't commodity

Angie Atkins: By the way, we are tracking all the additional sources offered by Erica and you too! During these calls. They will be tracked in a document we are calling our VIRTUAL BEIT MIDRASH, and can be found on our landing page for these calls. Meanwhile,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odysseus%27_scar_\(Auerbach\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odysseus%27_scar_(Auerbach))

Reisa Schwartzman: But also the good to prepare will take a long time - bread takes 4 hours but asks for haste

Jessica Semel: Always run to do a mitzvah

Caryn Rosen Adelman: doesn't really say what happening while meal is prepared and three men waiting

Nina Bruder: subservient

Carole Sterling's iPhone: Humility

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb: vulnerability, trust

Shary Levitt: Subservient

Jon Cardin - Lyons Doughty: maybe, even though he is in extreme pain, he still wants to be a good host

Angie Atkins: https://www.amazon.com/Setting-Table-Transforming-Hospitality-Business/dp/0060742763/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2QP16HWE48UUQ&dchild=1&keywords=setting+the+table+danny+meyer&qid=1634833137&sr=8-1

Jessica Semel: This is super Zingerman's kind of training!

Stefanie Zelkind: another great example: <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/grand-hyatt-kauai-lost-teddy-bear-adventures/index.html>

Becca Thomas: Describe in detail the kindest thing a stranger ever did or said to you.

Caryn Rosen Adelman: in Israel invited to a Shabbat dinner by a stranger at the wall

Reisa Schwartzman: Had my luggage explode in the NY subway system. People stopped to help me bring it up the stairs.

Jessica Semel: I paid for the person after me when I was getting gas and next time I went there the owner gave me a note that the other person had written TO ME to thank me. Such a wonderful surprise.

Elka Abrahamson: Delta airline sent a basket of Kosher snacks to my dad (z"l) shiva because they knew we were trying to get the whole family back to Minnesota. They found me!

Vanessa Ressler: Our dog and daughter were attacked last year by a neighbor's loose dog (our dog didn't survive) and a random neighbor came to our home a week later with a big bag of gifts and crafts for our children, and a heartfelt letter of support and an invitation to dinner.

Melissa Patack: Arriving in Israel with 2 toddlers by himself, my husband was overwhelmed with the assistance provided by strangers on the plane and airline staff. And in the US we wouldn't trust strangers with our children.

Michael Neil: As a young (23-24), shy, overwhelmed first time attendee at a GA, I didn't know anyone there... I was awkwardly seeking a place to sit for meal and then sat by myself at an open table. I was tapped on the shoulder and was asked to join a nearby table, that was also occupied by other Philadelphia-folks. That woman who welcomed me is a global leader across many of our shared organizations.

Jessica Semel: Seriously people should also read the book about Zingerman's customer service - I did their training and it is all about legendary hospitality - even driving to take pickles to a customer who went to the wrong store...

Becca Thomas: Create a moment of legendary hospitality in your leadership.

Nina Butler: Immediately after the Tree of Life shooting, the Ortho community sent dinners/Shabbat meals to the Rabbis involved (with those who accepted the offer). Yahrzeit this weekend, btw

Caren Hammerman: Initiating one-on-one calls to board members to ask how they feel about serving on the board, if they feel it fulfilling, and how we could make their experience better.

Jessica Semel: Another author that builds on this is Priya Parker - The Art of Gathering.

Shelly Kupfer: Amazing story

Michael Neil: that's fantastic - sounds like making of a new Broadway play

David Rudis: Rather than hopping right into agenda, taking time to acknowledge the accomplishments of others, especially in a group environment

Judy Neuman: In every professional role as a leader I have served, I bring into the culture the importance of "surprise and delight". The entire team has the authority to go above and beyond to make people feel special.