

**There is a secular Jew in your closet.** She used to date Karl Marx. She believed in Black-Jewish solidarity. She believed in Yiddish as a portable homeland for Jews. She believed in Israel as a socialist state at peace with its neighbors (but her dream of a lifetime was to go in the spring to Paris).

She thought that being Jewish basically meant being kind, passionate, progressive, interested in books, self-examining, and funny. Irreverent, even.

She was a labor organizer and a rent striker. She signed petitions to stop lynching and to integrate Major League Baseball. She had fantasies about Paul Robeson.

She fought against fascism in Spain. She led the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the revolt in Sobibor. She was the first Jew in America to commemorate the Holocaust, and the first to document that Jews fought back.

She built the Zionist movement. She started the Israeli folk-dance craze in America, alongside the modern dance movement. She wrote modernist novels in Yiddish. She performed Yiddish puppet shows, too.

She paid for her kids to go to the South as Freedom Riders. Instead of praying for them, she worried.

She never believed in God. Just didn't, couldn't, even when they shaved His beard. But she had faith in human beings and (maybe) in a time of universal redemption. Anyway, as a Jew, she was going to work for it. That was her commitment.

She's still there in your closet. You should let her out, she might make you a kugel.

**There is a religious Jew in your closet.** He decided thousands of years back that idolatry was a real affliction among human beings and that there was really just one unifying force in the universe, invisible and incomprehensible but somehow very much worth contemplating.

He created a sabbath for all living creatures. He created a code of law that taught his people how to embody their beliefs. He added commentary and stories to that code of law to keep up with changing times.

He managed to preserve a sense of peoplehood among Jews scattered throughout the globe — and a sense of connection to their country of origin, even two thousand years after they were exiled from there.

He fathered Christianity and Islam, and survived the indignity of rejection by his own children.

He wrote systematizing books and mystical books. He wrote soul-stirring poetry and music. He spoke about the interconnection of all life, well before there were ecological sciences. He spoke truth to power.

He taught his people to restrain their lusts. He taught them to care for their most vulnerable. He urged them to draw a boundary between themselves and cruelty. He established enduring networks of tzedoke and mutual aid.

He kept hope alive. He spread literacy and joy among his people.

He's still there in your closet. You should let him out, he might sing you a niggun.



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