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Ruach Hiddush - רוח חידוש

רבנים וחזנים למען חופש דת ושוויון

Rabbis and Cantors for Religious Freedom and Equality in Israel

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Introduction

August 23, 2018 - 5778 אָלול 12

Friends,

Who ever thought the fight for democracy would be so challenging in a nation proclaimed a democracy in her Declaration of Independence?

Perhaps part of our job at this High Holy Days is to provide hope for a better tomorrow. This edition of the Ruach Hiddush newsletter should help! There is much for which to be grateful.

In the wake of the Rabbi Dov Haiyun arrest debacle, over 1300 of our cantorial and rabbinic colleagues, along with many lay leaders, signed a protest letter to the Israeli government, voicing our love for Israel and

WE COMMISSERATE (sermonic resources)

We know it's difficult keeping up on current events and preparing for the High Holy Days. Hopefully, THESE SERMON IDEAS [\[link\]](#) will aid in and encourage your preparations!

B'SOROT TOVOT:

THE PROTEST GROWS:

After the unconscionable 5:30 AM arrest of Haifa's Conservative-Masorti Rabbi Dov Haiyun for officiating at a wedding without registration, Ruach Hiddush submitted this petition, signed by over 1300 rabbis, cantors, and lay leaders, protesting the attack on pluralistic Judaism and the religious rights of liberal Jews in the Jewish Homeland.

demanding equal treatment. Please take a look at the petition, and perhaps publicize in your congregation!

As a result of the petition of ITIM and the Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for Advancing Women's Status at Bar Ilan

University, a woman has been appointed as legal advisor to rabbinical courts. In order to avoid a Supreme Court judgment against them, the State Rabbinate has dropped its opposition to women in the position of Legal Advisor. One step at a time!

You might be interested in the healthy debate over the best way to achieve pluralism and acceptance for liberal Judaism in the only nation founded to advance the welfare of the Jewish people. See the article by Dr. Einat Wilf and Dr Ram Vromen and the responses from the Reform and Masorti movements in Israel. It's not just tactics. It's an educated debate over the role of pluralistic Judaism in the Jewish State.

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו לכל
משפחותנו ולכל קהילתנו. שנה
של אושר והצלחה לכל עם
ישראל.

We look forward to your response.

The protest letter was sent to Israel's consulates in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami, in addition to the Prime Minister, Naftali Bennet (Cabinet member in charge of Diaspora Affairs), the Chief of Police of Israel, the Office of Internal Affairs, and to the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, Ron Dermer.

[PROTEST LETTER >>>](#)

First woman ever appointed as legal advisor to rabbinical courts

by Jeremy Sharon

For the first time in its history, the Rabbinical Courts Administration has appointed a woman as a legal advisor to its courts, a significant achievement for women's rights in the religious establishment.

Proponents of the step hailed it as the first time a woman would be involved in the judicial framework of the rabbinical courts.

[FULL ARTICLE >>>](#)

Stop Trying To Bring Liberal Judaism To Israel. We Already Have Too Much Religion

by Einat Wilf and Ram Vromen

Liberal American Jews seemed to have no idea that the people in Israel who share their commitment to pluralism and liberal values are by and large secular. This means that when American Jews push for religious pluralism in Israel by focusing on religion — rather than on pluralism — they are actually shooting themselves in the foot. For in so doing, they are

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seeking a coalition with the very people — religious Israelis — who will never accept them...

If American Jews are ever to find a home for their brand of Judaism in Israel, their goal cannot be support for a “kinder, gentler” type of Jewish religion in the public and political sphere, commensurate with their liberal values. Their goal should be no religion at all.

[FULL ARTICLE >>>](#)

Yes, Israel Needs Reform And Conservative Jews

by Gilad Kariv

The defenders of the Orthodox monopoly and the authors of the article all seek to perpetuate the traditional dichotomy in Israel between secularism and Orthodoxy, and to promote a binary and simplistic perception of Israeli society.

The struggle for freedom of religion and freedom from religion in Israel is crucial for Israel’s future. However, if these struggles are not accompanied by a parallel effort to develop a liberal-Jewish narrative in Israel, including communal, educational, public (and yes — political) infrastructures offering a Judaism that does not contradict liberal values, then very large sections of the Israeli public will continue to be drawn by the religious narrative offered by the Orthodox monopoly and ultra-conservative forces in Israeli society.

[FULL ARTICLE >>>](#)

Opposing Liberal Judaism In Israel Erases People Like Me

by Sophie Fellman Rafalovitz

The assumption that promotion of liberal Judaism is a concern only of North American Jews and is completely foreign to Israelis is arrogant and incorrect. My family made Aliyah from Latin America when I was a young child, but did not know about the non-Orthodox streams and discovered Masorti (Conservative) Judaism only once they were in Israel.

They found it because of the frustration they felt seeing that in “pluralistic” Israel one seemed to need to choose whether to be religious or liberal in terms of civic issues.

[FULL ARTICLE >>>](#)

Israel, This Is Not Who We Are

by Ronald Lauder

Orthodoxy should be respected, but we cannot allow the politics of a radical minority to alienate millions of Jews worldwide.

[FULL ARTICLE >>>](#)

רו"ח ה'דו"ש היא ארגון של רבנים וחזנים הפועל למימוש מלא של הבטחת מגילת הצעמאות לחופש דת ושוויון. מימוש הבטחה זו חיוני לחיזוק זהותה של מדינת ישראל כמדינה יהודית ודמוקרטית ולהמשך השותפות עם העם היהודי לתפוצותיו.

Ruach Hiddush is a network of Rabbis and Cantors working to fully realize the promise of Israel's Declaration of Independence, which guarantees religious freedom and equality. The fulfillment of this promise is vital for strengthening Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, and for maintaining the solidarity of world Jewry.

מיזם של ה'דו"ש Hiddush project

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