

Dear Friends,

For over 25 years, I have visited your warm, welcoming communities and your communities have visited ours. In times of war and times of peace, Israel has always been the beneficiary of immeasurable support from our Jewish brothers and sisters in the Diaspora; and we yearned for your “peace” and freedoms.

Today we see that Jewish communities across the U.S. are going through difficult times, with the acts of terrorism in Pittsburgh and a rise in anti-Semitism. We - your brothers and sisters in Israel - understand your deep worries and sympathize with your pain. In recent years, much has been said about the strained relations between North American and Israeli Jews but during my recent visits, I felt a deeper closeness between us. At the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism, we believe that a healthy Israel is dependent on a healthy relationship with our people in the Diaspora. Our friends in the U.S. have always given us their attention, dedication and support. And now, it is our time to celebrate you. That is why in June 2019, we will host Israel's first American Jewish Festival for Israelis in Hebrew; in celebration of the bounty and beauty of



North American Jewish culture.

The words of Israel's President, Reuven Rivlin inspire us as we plan this festival: “we must embark on a new path...of shared commitment to justice, to Jewish and human mutual responsibility...with a true partnership based on really knowing each other.”

As many of you know, the Daniel Centers recently lost our founding partner, supporter and champion, Gerard (Gerry) Daniel z"l. I can tell you unequivocally that Reform Judaism's initial foothold in Israeli society and its growth is a testament to Gerry and his wife's, Ruth z"l, unwavering efforts, resolve and commitment to entrench an egalitarian, modern and pluralistic Judaism in Israeli society.

Save the Date! American Jewish Festival

June 12-14th, 2019 - at Beit Daniel

honoring North American Jewish creativity,
culture & spirituality



'יהיו לרצון אמרי פי והגיון לבי לפניך'

This phrase taken from the book of Psalms translates as: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable before you.

Beit Daniel takes part in the 92nd Street Y's New Year Prayer

We were delighted to be part of the 92nd Street Y's New Year Prayer project. This year's theme was 'Choose Life / ובחרת בחיים'; Beit Daniel was one of 6 communities in 4 continents to celebrate life in this extraordinary video project. Under the artistic leadership of muralist Judy Tal Kopelman, we came together to create our fabulous community wall. Located at the entrance of Beit Daniel, the wall brings color and life to our community and greets all that enter our door. The words transmit a message of respect and consideration for others; values that are at the core of everything that we do at the Daniel Centers for Progressive

Judaism. A special thank you to Rabbi Peter Rubinstein and his team at the 92nd Street Y for including us, and supporting this initiative.



#2018RoundUP

2018 was a record-breaking year at the Daniel Centers!

Buzzing with activity, full of meaning and joy, we hosted hundreds of b'nai mitzvah and egalitarian weddings, and our largest conversion program to date. And that's not all.... check out our **#2018RoundUP** video on our Facebook page.

Follow us in 2019! Here's just a few things we've got planned:

- 100s of b'nai mitzvah scheduled, including for children with special needs and children from interfaith families.
- For the first time ever: a Reform conversion program for Spanish speakers is opening at Beit Daniel – this is in addition to our classes for Hebrew, Russian and English speakers.
- Back by popular demand! Shonim B'yahad will return to Jaffa Port. This time with more schools and winning pieces of art.
- The 1st American Jewish Festival for Israelis: coming out to celebrate North American Jewish culture, creativity and spirituality.





Celebrating the Golden Years at Beit Daniel

Our work in Tel Aviv-Jaffa extends from the very young to the most senior. While Tel Aviv is thought of to be a city for the young (which it is!!), 25% of the population is over

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65 years old. Many of them are Holocaust survivors or arrived before the establishment of the State and fought in her wars. In many cases, they have no family living close by or have experienced bereavement. These people need companionship, community and support.

The Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism values this special group of people. Each week groups of seniors

gather at Beit Daniel to participate in lectures, Jewish study sessions, dancing lessons and other activities. Our centers serve as a hub for participants - many of them remain to socialize after the program and participate in our community-wide events, such as Kabbalat Shabbat and holiday services. A testament to the success of this program is that the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa partially supports it by providing us with the services of a social worker that specializes in issues affecting this age group.

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Kabbalat Shabbat in Park Hayarkon

Support the Friends of the Daniel Centers

We can't do it without your belief and support. Your generosity helps the Daniel Centers meet our ambitious goals of religious pluralism, multiculturalism and service.

You can donate online to Friends of the Daniel Centers, by going to our website. Your donations will be processed through the secure website of Network for Good.

Or send a check directly to Friends of the Daniel Centers, 4108 Leland Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. If you are interested in establishing a longer term relationship with the Daniel Centers, please contact us at edit@beit-daniel.org.il

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Facebook: **The Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism**

Stay tuned for more details on Beit Daniel's American Jewish Festival

June 12-14th, 2019



The Daniel Centers // TLV
for Progressive Judaism

[Beit Daniel](#) // [Kehilat Jaffa](#) // [Mishkenot Ruth](#) // [Kehilat Halev](#)

BEIT DANIEL
The Center for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv-Jaffa

MISHKENOT RUTH DANIEL
Kehilat Daniel in Jaffa
Congregation, Tourism and Seminars Center and Guesthouse in Jaffa

KEHILAT HALEV
Spiritual Kehila in the Center of Tel Aviv

