



↑ Rabbi Meir Azari



↑ Dancing with the Torah at Simchat Torah



The Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism

Beit Daniel // Kehilat Jaffa // Mishkenot Ruth // Kehilat Halev

On the Frontline of Advancing Reform Judaism in Israel



BEIT DANIEL

The Center for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv-Jaffa

MISHKENOT RUTH DANIEL

Congregation, Tourism and Seminars Center and Guesthouse in Jaffa

KEHILAT HALEV

Spiritual Kehila in the Center of Tel Aviv

**Friends of the Daniel
Centers for Progressive
Judaism**

Summer 2017

Youth attend Beit Daniel's
Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Dear Friend,



As we put together this newsletter we are still on a “high” from our Tikkun Leil Shavuot festivities. This annual event that brings thousands to Beit Daniel for all-night study, prayer, and celebration captures the essence of the Daniel Centers: a spiritual, intellectual and communal home to any and all.

Sometimes it is hard to communicate all that we do and let you, our loyal friends from abroad, know how impactful your support is to Israelis of all walks of life. It is hard to describe how we bring modern Jewish spirituality and a sense of community to a public that is thirsty for a true, deep connection to their Judaism and one another. So when I received this email from Gary Wexler, an Adjunct Professor at the Annenberg School of Communication at USC, I asked if I could share his kind, touching words:

“I have now heard Rabbi Sadan twice and her presentation and analysis touch my soul and my intellect. Each time I sit through the 3am concert, I feel like I am the luckiest American Jew on the planet having been part of this Tikkun and the celebration that follows. Pouring out onto the patio and the park across the street to discuss the content with people gives me a deep connection to Israel, Tel Aviv and the Jewish people.”

I hope that through his words, you will also feel the strength of the partnership we seek to build between our community in Israel and the Jewish people in the Diaspora. Such is the case with our 3rd annual Shonim B'Yachad art exhibit which we brought – and will bring – to the States in the coming months.

Through your support of our shared values and emphasis on creating a more pluralistic and inclusive society, this bridge is continuously strengthened. Together, we can build a Jewish future instilled with Progressive Jewish values.

B'bracha,

Rabbi Meir Azari
Senior Rabbi

Shonim B'yahad Enters its Third Year

For the third year in a row, hundreds of school children - Arabs, Jews, Muslims, Christians, children of foreign workers, and refugees - participated in the



Daniel Center's art program, "Shonim B'yahad" and submitted artwork to a panel of esteemed judges on the subject of "embracing our differences" and understanding the "other." The panel reviewed the submissions, and 20 pieces of art were selected and displayed, for the second year in a row, at Dizengoff Center, an iconic landmark in the heart of Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv-Jaffa's deputy mayor, Mehereta Baruch-Ron, herself an immigrant from Ethiopia, welcomed the winners, their parents, congregational members of Beit Daniel, and a multi-religious delegation from Sarasota, Florida. Generous support from the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, the Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen



↑ Mehereta Baruch Ron, the keynote speaker, opens the exhibition

Shonim Shonim B'yahad releases our youngest generation from fear of "the other" and lets the children see the "other" through art. Each piece is unique, inspired and deeply personal

Foundation, and Nancy & Ray Swart made this program possible. Shonim B'yahad releases our youngest generation from fear of "the other" and lets the children see the "other" through art. Each piece is unique, inspired and deeply personal. Visit our Facebook page to view the winning artwork. Last year's art was recently displayed at Temple Sinai of Washington DC, Temple Sinai of Atlanta and the 2017 Jewish Funders Network conference. We are excited to bring this year's art to Washington DC, Miami, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Sarasota.

↓ Students receive certificates of participation



Celebrating a New Torah Scroll



In February, the writing of a new Torah scroll in memory of soldier Dan Gilat was completed

Recognition of Rabbi Meir Azari and the Daniel Centers

Rabbi Meir Azari will receive an Honorary Doctorate from Hebrew Union College

We are so honored that our very own Rabbi Meir Azari will receive an Honorary Doctorate from Hebrew Union College, celebrating

the 25 years since completing his Rabbinical studies this coming November. Over this past quarter century, Rabbi Azari has officiated at thousands of weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs. He will be joined by Ron Huldai, mayor of Tel Aviv, who will also receive an honorary doctorate for his work in building pluralism in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. And in December, during the URJ Biennial

in Boston, Rabbi Azari and the Daniel Centers will be honored, at a festive dinner of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the international arm of the Reform movement, for its ground-breaking impact on Jewish life in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. We hope to see all WUPJ, URJ, and HUC members, as well as Daniel Centers supporters, at these events.

Caring for Jaffa's Elderly Residents

Thanks to a grant from PEF Israel Endowment Fund, we were able to launch Jaffa Connections this past year. It provides Jaffa's elderly community with holistic intellectual, religious and social services, led by Rabbi Mira Raz.

Seniors participate with the Mishkenot Ruth Daniel community through Israeli folk dancing, study sessions on Jewish literature, the weekly Torah portion, Shabbatot and holiday celebrations. As one participant noted,

"Participation in Kabbalat Shabbat services, in Havdalah and in holiday activities are emotional and rich experiences which helped me to connect to my Jewish roots in an open and happy environment."

Marking Shabbat T'kuma: The Hallowed Space between Holocaust Memorial Day and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

The Shabbat that falls between Yom Ha'shoa and Yom Ha'atzmaut is a particularly meaningful and humbling one. Just a few days after Yom Ha'shoa, when our hearts are heavy remembering all those who perished in the Holocaust, we join as a community to raise our voices in solidarity, spirit, and hope. On this special Shabbat, 20 community members, some who recently converted through our "Welcoming Path" program, and others who have recently immigrated to Israel, rose to the bima to light the Shabbat candles and to pray



↑ Celebrating the diversity within our community

in their native language. Our Jewish voices in Hebrew, Tagalog, Spanish, English, Romanian, Russian and more filled Beit Daniel and reflected the diversity within our community and in Israeli society. It reminded us all that we, as Jews, persevere and thrive.

Exploring Multiculturalism during the Tikkun Leil Shavuot

At Beit Daniel we take Tikkun Leil Shavuot – traditionally an all-night study of spiritual texts – to another level by incorporating music, culture, comedy and more. Each year around 1,500 guests and community members come together and this year's night proved the same. Our theme "Many Rivers Leading to the Sea" explored Israel's multicultural society. The evening began with the Shavuot service, led by **Rabbi Meir Azari** and **Cantor Freddy Faur**. Speakers and performers included **Meir Shalev**, acclaimed Israeli author, discussing the story of Ruth, American-born comedian **Benji Lovitt**, comparing Israel's cultural differences in the workplace, **Galit Roichman**, on multiculturalism in the cinema, musician **Ephraim**



↑ Rabbi Galia Sadan discusses multiculturalism during Shavuot

Shamir (at 2 am!), **Nitzan Horowitz**, former Knesset member and journalist, and many more. All night study ended with morning prayers on the banks of the Yarkon River led by **Rabbi Galia Sadan** and

musician **Shimon Smith**. Tel Aviv, Israel's first Hebrew city, thrives with modern, progressive Judaism as evidenced by the sheer number of individuals who participate in this amazing experience.

MASA Tikkun Olam in Tel Aviv Jaffa Program



FRIENDS & MEMBERS

We are seeking college graduates with a passion for social justice and promoting a shared society. Participants choose between a five or ten month track and volunteer or intern at local organizations, while living and learning alongside participants from Israel and around the world. Participants study Hebrew, learn about the complex realities in Israel from a broad range of perspectives, explore questions of social

Now
recruiting for
fall semester!

justice in the Jewish tradition, and discover the land and people of Israel through fascinating discussions and tours. Tikkun Olam in Tel Aviv-Jaffa is run by BINA and the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism. Visit our website online to register and learn about the different tracks:

www.tikkunolamisrael.org

Support the Friends of the Daniel Centers

While over 75% of our budget is self-financed, the Daniel Centers need additional funds to 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

BEIT DANIEL

62 Bnei Dan St. 62305 Tel Aviv Israel

Tel: 972 3 544 2740

Fax: 972 3 544 4030

Email: office@beit-daniel.org.il

Rabbi Meir Azari | Rabbi Galia Sadan

Cantor: Freddy Pe'er

President: Bruria Barish

Chairperson: Lee Perlman

KEHILAT DANIEL IN JAFFA

47 Jerusalem Blvd, corner of

Ben Zvi, Yafo

Email: mira@beit-daniel.org.il

Rabbi Mira Raz

MISHKENOT RUTH DANIEL

47 Jerusalem Blvd, corner

of Ben Zvi, Yafo

Tel: 972 3 5264526

Email: lavi@beit-daniel.org.il

Lavi Vanounou

KEHILAT HALEV

48 Rashi Street, Tel Aviv, Israel

Email: office@beit-daniel.org.il

Friends of the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism

4108 Leland Street, Chevy Chase,

MD 20815

Tel: 301 654 1259

Email: edit@beit-daniel.org.il

www.beit-daniel.org.il/en

 The Daniel Centers for
Progressive Judaism

<https://www.facebook.com>

