

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM



www.wupj.org

INTRODUCING YOU TO A WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY OF REFORM JEWS

The **World Union for Progressive Judaism**, headquartered in Jerusalem, is the international umbrella organization of the Reform, Progressive, Liberal and Reconstructionist movements. It is the pluralistic voice and soul of the largest body of religious Jews in the world, affecting the lives of millions who seek a traditional yet contemporary expression of their Jewish spiritual and cultural identity.

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● Developing and ● Strengthening Communities

THERE IS NO GREATER TESTAMENT TO THE VIBRANCY OF REFORM JUDAISM* TODAY THAN THE GROWTH AND REEMERGENCE OF CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD. THE WORLD UNION IS INSTRUMENTAL IN THIS HISTORIC RENEWAL, HELPING TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT REFORM COMMUNITIES THROUGH CONGREGATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, INSPIRATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMMING AND THE PROMOTION OF JEWISH VALUES AND IDEALS.

In Israel, the heartland of the Jewish people, the World Union answers the call for religious pluralism with Reform programs, institutions, and support for the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism.

In the Former Soviet Union and in central and eastern Europe, after nearly a century of religious oppression, the World Union is a driving force for growth among both new and existing congregations.

The World Union presence is growing in Latin America, Australia, South Africa and countries throughout Asia as well.

Support for community development also includes facilitating the purchase and construction of synagogues in order to provide permanent spiritual and physical homes for our communities worldwide.

* Reform Judaism is known outside of North America also as Progressive or Liberal Judaism



● Facilitating ● Leadership

THE KEY TO SECURING JEWISH CONTINUITY AND STRENGTHENING REFORM JUDAISM IS HIGH-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL AND LAY LEADERSHIP. THE WORLD UNION PARTNERS WITH MANY REFORM INSTITUTIONS IN THE TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OF RABBIS AROUND THE WORLD. RABBINIC SEMINARIES INCLUDE THE LEO BAECK COLLEGE IN LONDON, THE ABRAHAM GEIGER COLLEGE IN BERLIN AND THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.

Guided by the Progressive value of pluralism, the World Union also provides other avenues of leadership training, most notably the **Anita Saltz International Education Center** located at Mercaz Shimshon / Beit Shmuel, the World Union headquarters in Jerusalem.

Here some of Israel's most accomplished scholars and teachers engage participants from all over the world in Jewish learning and living through a variety of programs, including the Beutel Leadership Training Seminar, the Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators, and the Roswell Seminar on Social Justice.

We also offer additional leadership programs such as the Machon Institute (Institute for Modern Jewish Studies) in Moscow, which trains native paraprofessional congregational leaders, some of whom will go on to study in our seminaries to become ordained rabbis. In addition, we are proud of our highly regarded Netzer Olami year-long course in Israel, as well as the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism's Mechina pre-army program.



● Bringing ● Lives Together

THE JEWISH VALUE OF PLURALISM AND ITS PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION IS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL WHEN IT IS SHARED. THE WORLD UNION CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF ITS COMMUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER ON MANY LEVELS.

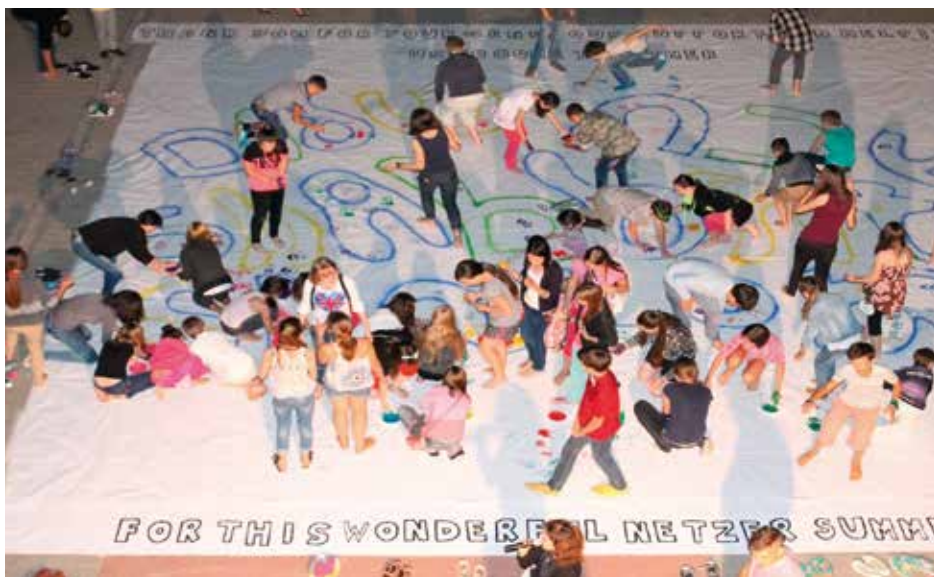
Congregational leaders exchange experiences and best practices throughout the year at meetings and conventions from Moscow to São Paulo, from Johannesburg to Jerusalem. Congregational missions and personal visits bring people together in Israel, Europe, the FSU and Latin America for shared religious and social experiences. Synagogue twinning and the Torah loan program, "Guardians of Torah," enable Reform congregations to connect with their Liberal and Progressive counterparts around the world, while individual Bar and Bat Mitzvah youths pair with peers across the world.

Through online newsletters, Internet communications and the World Union's Web site, individuals connect daily to discuss a wide variety of matters – both religious and secular – all in pursuit of the common goals of the worldwide Reform movement.

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH THE WUPJ

Our communities around the globe are waiting to welcome you and help you see their world. Wherever you travel, there will be a Reform family happy to meet you. Let us connect you with these new friends.

>> Contact our WUPJ offices for full details.



● Nurturing ● Our Youth

THE FUTURE OF REFORM JUDAISM IS IN THE HANDS OF ITS YOUTH, AND THE WORLD UNION FOCUSES HEAVILY ON ITS LARGE AND RAPIDLY GROWING JEWISH YOUTH MOVEMENT, NETZER OLAMI (INTERNATIONAL REFORM ZIONIST YOUTH).

Founded in 1979, Netzer Olami today brings together more than 16,000 young people in 18 countries and inspires them with a love of Israel, a commitment to Jewish peoplehood and continuing traditions in the context of modern democracy and pluralism through educational activities, regional camps, Israel engagement and social justice programs, as well as highly regarded international gatherings.

The North American Federation of Temple Youth [NFTY] sponsors over 500 congregational youth groups, 14 regional camps, and dozens of programs serving over 10,000 young people every year.

In 1996, Netzer Olami established TaMaR (Tnuat Magshimim Reformit), an organization for young adults aged 18 to 30, to continue their involvement in the global Reform community. We also partner with our regional programs for Young Adults.



WUPJ is making a difference! Learn about all our programs and initiatives by visiting our website today: www.wupj.org



Advocating Justice

TIKKUN OLAM (REPAIRING THE WORLD) HAS BEEN A CORE VALUE OF REFORM JUDAISM THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY. THE WORLD UNION SEEKS TO MEND, IMPROVE AND BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN THROUGH LOCAL AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION AND BY INSTILLING THE VALUE OF TIKKUN OLAM IN OUR YOUTH.

Feeding the hungry, helping victims of terrorism, settling new olim (immigrants) in Israel, fighting for gender equality and the preservation of our environment are all causes on the World Union's international humanitarian agenda.

As a leader in the struggle for the recognition and legitimacy of Reform and other non-Orthodox streams of Judaism, the World Union has had a significant impact on promoting social justice and pluralism around the world, especially in Israel, by supporting and strengthening the efforts of such organizations as the Israel Religious Action Center.

The World Union has also expanded the scope of its international advocacy by partnering in special initiatives with other international and non-governmental organizations, such as the U.N., the Human Rights Commission and UNESCO.

In these times of increasing extremism, the World Union's commitment to human dignity and tolerance make it a leading participant in the international interfaith dialog among Christians, Muslims and Jews.



QUICK FACTS

1,800,000
people affiliated
with the World
Union's constituent
movements globally

50,000
family members reached
through Progressive
Judaism's **pluralistic
Jewish Studies
program** in Israeli
public schools

over 5,000
Jewish, Christian
and Muslim
families receiving
**pre-holiday food
assistance** in Israel

1,000
youths participating
in weekly activities
in clubs across the
former Soviet Union

1,200
Progressive,
Reform, Liberal and
Reconstructionist
congregations
around the world

18,000
members of Netzer
Olami, the World
Union's **international
youth movement**

70,000
people a year enjoy
**quality educational
and cultural
programs** in our
Mercaz Shimshon /
Beit Shmuel center
in Jerusalem

50
countries with
**Progressive
congregations***

* Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Curaçao, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Saint Thomas, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.



Behind the numbers, there are stories. Get to know our communities by visiting us on Facebook and Twitter

MISSION STATEMENT

The **mission** of the **World Union for Progressive Judaism** is to **strengthen Jewish life and values** in **Israel** and Jewish communities throughout the **world** by **supporting** and **advancing** a **Progressive approach** to **Jewish tradition**.



THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM,
IN COLLABORATION WITH ITS CONSTITUENTS AND
AFFILIATES, WORKS TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION BY:



Building

and connecting Progressive Jewish communities worldwide.

Partnering

in the development of Israel as a democratic and pluralistic Jewish state.

Securing

the Jewish future by investing in youth and young adults.

Developing

lay, rabbinic and other Jewish professional leadership.

Advocating

social justice and fostering interfaith understanding.

Supporting

the foundation of Judaism:
Torah (study), Avodah (worship), and G'millut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness).





HEADQUARTERS

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Mercaz Shimshon / Beit Shmuel, headquarters of the World Union, located in the heart of Jerusalem, is an educational, cultural and activities/conference center, and offers hotel and guest house accommodations.

www.beitshmuel.com/en-us

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

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REGIONS

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administrator@eupj.org | www.eupj.org

FORMER SOVIET UNION

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orosir@mail.ru | www.wupj.ru

LATIN AMERICA

União do Judaísmo Progressista na América Latina - WUPJ-LA

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Telefax: 55-11-3865-9492

contato@wupj-latinamerica.org | www.wupj-latinamerica.org

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Union of Jewish Congregations of Latin America and the Caribbean – UJCL

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NORTH AMERICA

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SOUTH AFRICA

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

NETZER OLAMI

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THE ANITA SALTZ INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

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BEIT SHMUEL EDUCATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

Provides specialized tours, educational courses, conferences, events and cultural activities.

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To learn more about what's happening in the global community of Reform Jews, sign up for the World Union for Progressive Judaism e-newsletter, **WUPJnews**. Simply click <http://is.gd/wupjsubscription> to subscribe.

From breaking news to developing stories, WUPJnews will keep you informed with bulletins about Progressive and Reform communities in all corners of the globe, linking you with others around the world who share our values and beliefs.



There's always something happening at the WUPJ!

Stay current by visiting our website to view the different regional newsletters. | www.wupj.org



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