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JUDAISM



ה א י ג ו ד
ה ע ו ל מ י
ל י ה ד ו ת
מ ת ק ד מ ת

February 2021

Hi Rabbi, Cantor, and Lay Leader,

I am Charlie Rothschild, a member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism's Executive Board, and also on the WUPJ's CONNECTIONS 2021 Planning Committee.

While this year's CONNECTIONS 2021 conference in May won't meet face-to-face in Jerusalem, I am writing to you because this virtual experience gives us the opportunity to link individual congregations across the globe. We are proposing a worldwide Shabbat Pulpit Exchange, such as swapping pulpits for your weekly sermon, during the Month of May. Given that almost all of us are doing services virtually, it should be very straightforward, just having to deal with the different time zones. If that is a problem, you could go with pre-recorded.

If you are interested, please complete this [Shabbat Pulpit Exchange form](#) If you already have a relationship with another synagogue that you'd like to do this with, please let us know. If you'd like to be matched, please let me know, and the region you would prefer (we'll do the best we can).

We now have the opportunity to make this a much bigger and broader event with thousands of attendees and, through the magic of a virtual conference, we will all be able to attend some amazing workshops and plenary sessions, study with renowned scholars, pray collectively, reconnect with long time friends, and make many new, lasting friendships.

CONNECTIONS 2021 will be the biggest CONNECTIONS ever, and you can participate from your own home or synagogue.

I am writing to you because this virtual experience gives us the opportunity to link individual congregations across the globe. We would like you to consider linking your congregation with another congregation in a different WUPJ region. This can start as a simple Erev Shabbat or Shabbat Morning Pulpit exchange and then, depending how things work out, you can take it

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anywhere. This could be with a congregation you already have a relationship with, or forming a new relationship.

To make this as easy as possible, we have designated the entire month of May to hold these sessions. Pick any time that works for both congregations.

The most obvious suggestion is a Shabbat Pulpit Exchange, as mentioned above, which is a blessing of our new on-line reality. Alternatively you could consider a musical exchange – one or two songs from your liturgy could be swapped with the other congregation (again, live or pre-recorded). If you desire, you could even do more, including core parts of the service. Time zone differences may make this a little more challenging.

While we are suggesting a pulpit exchange, this could be anything (maybe a joint study session). It might also be the start of a lasting relationship. What happens after this initial exchange is up to you.

If you have questions or concerns, you can reach out to me, or [Rabbi Jordan Helfman](#), Co-Chair of CONNECTIONS 2021, or [Rabbi Nathan Alfred](#), WUPJ Head of International Development and Community Building. We will all be glad to help.

Please respond as quickly as possible. May is coming up!

Looking forward to an amazing CONNECTIONS!!!

Thanks and best regards

Charlie Rothschild

[**Here's a link to the form again to sign up today!**](#)