



Our Eight Lights of 2020

COVID as an Opportunity

During 2020, the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism was a beacon of light to hundreds of thousands of Israelis from all walks of life. Here are our eight highlights for the year:

-  **New Reform Rabbis:** We welcomed four new Rabbis into our ranks of over 100 Reform Rabbis in Israel, ordained by the HUC Jerusalem Campus.
-  **New Reform Congregations and Initiatives:** We continued our communal growth in Israel's periphery: in the Galilee (Mate Asher), and on Israel's northern-most border (Kiryat Shemona).
-  **Increased Impact:** We reached 750,000 unique Israeli users through virtual Jewish holidays, unique content, spiritual solace and inspiration during COVID - and many of these are newcomers!
-  **Israel-world Jewry:** In spite of the lockdowns in Israel and worldwide, we maintained our twinning programs between dozens of schools and Reform congregations in Israel and North America.
-  **Equal Rights for Pluralism:** Our local leadership, together with IMPJ's Israel Religious Action Center, fought for equal allocation of public funds, resulting in Shoham's municipality providing premises for the Reform congregation. We also made significant progress in Gedera, Holon and Rosh Ha'Ayin.
-  **Youth and Young Leaders:** Over 1,000 children, youth and young leaders participated in IMPJ's Camp Havayah and leadership summer retreats, all via online platforms - and enjoyed every minute of it!
-  **Tikkun Olam:** For the first time in IMPJ history, we received funding from the Israeli National Insurance Institute to continue our support for abused women through our empowerment programs.
-  **New Prayer-book:** Together with the MARAM – the Reform Rabbinic Conference, we finished the new Reform-Israeli prayer-book: "Tfilat Ha'Adam" (Prayer of All Humankind), which includes new liturgy merged with ancient tradition and faith. The new prayer-book will be released in 2021!

We invite you to become our Shamash, the Menorah's 9th candle, with which light the other eight. Join us in investing in the growth of the Reform Movement in Israel!

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join a shared candle-lighting ceremony on the last night of Hanukkah, December 17th at 12 PM EST, 7 PM Israel time. Kindle the final eight candles together with all of us in Israel and celebrate the miracle that is Jewish peoplehood. For details and registration, please email Tamar Roig at tamar@reform.org.il.

Wishing you a very happy Festival of Lights, and thank you for your partnership in bringing light to Israel and the Jewish people.