



Meet Israeli Reform Rabbis



Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism
התנועה הרפורמית והזרם הקונסרבטיבי בישראל



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התנועה הרפורמית מחלקת ישראל הפועלת

Rabbi Eli Yoel Levin



Community Position: Rabbi of Kehillat “Darchei Noam” in Ramat HaSharon since 2013

Born: Tel Aviv

Ordination: HUC Jerusalem, 2013

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City/region: Darchei Noam is a Reform congregation and synagogue, serving the area of Ramat HaSharon, Herzeliya and the northern neighborhoods of Tel Aviv. The congregation offers a modern Jewish alternative, egalitarian and creative, accessible for all and based on the values of Jewish tradition. Our congregational activities include regular Shabbat and Holiday services, different study and Beit Midrash sessions, and Tikkun Olam activities. In addition we have regular Bar and Bat Mitzvah study groups – with around two to three Bar and Bat Mitzvahs every week!

Our members and those who take part in our activities have a warm connection to the Jewish tradition values and ceremonies. They want to find a Progressive and meaningful way to take part in the Jewish Holidays and rituals, while integrating these traditions with Israeli culture.

Our services are held in a communal atmosphere and in a clear and accessible manner. The community members come from all over the Ramat HaSharon area, and are of various backgrounds, ages and professions. Our congregation includes traditional and secular families that seek Jewish enrichment in an egalitarian and progressive spirit. The community has a dedicated group of volunteers, who have been active since the day the community was established over 30 years ago.

Special activities in my community: The special activities held in our congregation include: a Bar and Bat Mitzvah study group, which is held together with the students’ parents; musical activities including a choir and sing-alongs; different cultural activities and trips; and social events.

Formative event in my history: The most formative events in my history were my marriage, the birth of my three sons, my ordination as a rabbi and beginning my work as a rabbi in Darchei Noam.

Dreams for personal and professional future: I dream to make Darchei Noam a congregation overflowing with spiritual and cultural life. I also wish to have the opportunity to serve as a rabbi in one of our Progressive-Reform congregations around the world.

Unusual experience in the Diaspora: 18 years ago, my family and I took a trip to Cardiff, Wales during the High Holidays. On Erev Yom Kippur, despite never encountering Progressive Judaism before, we decided to go to the Reform synagogue in the city for Kol Nidre. I was profoundly impressed by how the Rabbis, both male and female, led the service with a clear and accessible approach. I was also impressed by the choir’s singing throughout the evening and by the spiritual atmosphere in the service. When I left the service that night, I decided to look for a similar place in Israel.

Gift I would you like to give to my peers around the world: I would love to share with my friends and colleagues around the world a study session – either face-to-face or via digital tools – in one of my fields of studies: the History of Am Yisrael and the Bible, or Hebrew literature and poetry.