



Meet Israeli Reform Rabbis



Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism
התנועה הרפורמית והתנועה הפרוגרסיבית בישראל



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התנועה הרפורמית מחלקת ישראל תפוצות

Rabbi Edgar Nof



Community Position: Rabbi of Kehillat Natan-Ya in Netanya, since 2013

Born: Brooklyn, NY

Ordination: Hebrew Union College Jerusalem, 1991

Contact: rabbiedgar@gmail.com



City/region: I am currently the only Reform Rabbi in the city of Netanya, which is the 7th largest city in Israel with a population of more than 220,000 Jews. With 250 Orthodox synagogues and only one Reform, Netanya poses a window of opportunities for our movement. The potential growth of Reform Judaism in Netanya is an exciting challenge that I am proud to stand behind.

Special activities in my community: We are the leading congregation in our city in Conversion to Judaism. We have 25 graduates every year who come from all over the world, currently speaking 10 different languages. The congregation has Beit Midrash classes at 2 different locations in the city and a growing number of Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. We are also leaders in interfaith activities in our region.

Formative event in my history: In 2014, as a representative of my congregation and of Israel, I was honored with the title of "Ambassador for Peace" at the World summit in South Korea, which included representatives from 127 countries and 6 different major religions.

Dreams for personal and professional future: I wish to promote the growth of Congregation Natan-ya, and have it become an even more influential and important Jewish presence in our city. I hope to make Reform Judaism an accessible alternative in the city of Netanya, which has many Jews who have not encountered any alternative to Orthodox Judaism. I hope that they can come to see the true beauty of Reform Judaism.

A place in the world which is special to me: I am blessed by so many friends in the US and in Europe and have been fortunate to visit more than 50 Reform Temples around the world. There is not a single day that I am not in touch by phone, skype or email with a colleague or a friend. To name only one would be like saying which child you love the most: impossible.

Unusual experience in the Diaspora: Every year I visit at least 10 different Reform Temples in the US. I always learn from their amazing creativity and their firm covenant with the Jewish Tradition and its need for constant renewal. Reform Judaism in America is my inspiration as a rabbi in Israel.

A gift I would you like to give to my peers around the world:

I wish to grant our friends from Reform communities all around the world, the opportunity to spend quality time with members of Reform Congregations in Israel. I am convinced that interacting with the pioneers of Reform Judaism in Israel will cause a much deeper impact than any archaeological site. We are deeply thankful for your loyal friendship and support, and we invite you to visit us in Congregation Natan-ya!