

ARZA Reform Israel Shabbat - Yom HaAtzmaut 5773

Outline of Insertions for Erev Shabbat

Introduction:



April 12/13 has been designated Reform Israel Shabbat by the URJ, ARZA, HUC, CCAR, ACC, WRJ and MRJ. Last year was the first time, in recent history, that all of the arms of the Reform Movement worked together to support and celebrate Israel.

This has been a year of great growth for the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). There are now 40 Reform Jewish communities in Israel, 80 % of Israeli Jews consider themselves secular and 34% identify Reform/Progressive Judaism as the movement they most closely identify with.

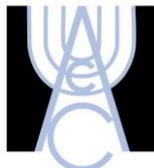
For more than 25 years, the Israel Reform movement has been investing in progressive, egalitarian pre-school education and securing the civil and religious rights for Israeli citizens from all denominations and streams of Judaism. The Reform Israel Movement now operates 50 pre-school classrooms, eight schools, 25 WRJ-Israel women's groups, a Mechinah program (pre-army leadership training and social action program with twice as many qualified applicants as openings), and Beit Midrash B'Derech, a post army young adult live and learn community. An active Reform youth movement, Noar Telem, operates a summer camp for 700 campers coupled with year-round youth activities. The Israel Reform Movement also conducts a vibrant advocacy and legal program at the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) and Keren B'Kavod, the humanitarian arm of the movement.

ARZA, The Reform Israel Appeal, is also working with the IMPJ to ensure that access to the Western Wall is equal and accommodating to all Jews.

This Yom HaAtzmaut we will joyfully mark 65 years of a strong, vibrant State of Israel, as well as celebrate that Reform Judaism has become an integral part of the fabric of Jewish life in Israel,

Thanks to Rabbi Joan Glazer Farber for her work to compile and prepare these materials.

ARZA, the Reform Israel Fund, is coordinating the Reform Israel Shabbat. ARZA, through membership and donors is the single largest funder of the Reform Movement in Israel and its advocacy arm the Israel Religious Action Center. We help the Reform Movement in the United States realize its Zionist aspirations by developing support (in the form of events, mailings, education, advocacy and fundraising) for an inclusive and democratic Israeli society.



Before Shabbat candles

River of Light

To light candles in all the world-
that is Shabbat.

To light Shabbat candles
is a soul-leap pregnant with potential
into a splendid sea, in it the mystery
of the fire of sunset.

Lighting the candles transforms
my room into a river of light,
my heart sets in an emerald waterfall.

Zeldaⁱ

Near Ma'ariv Aravim

Our people are working the black soil,
their arms reap the gold sheaves,
and when the last ear leaves its stalk,
our faces glitter with gilded oil.

From where comes the new light and voice,
from where the resounding song at hand?
From where the fighting spirit and new faith?
From you, fertile *emek*, from you, my land.

Hannah Seneshⁱⁱ

At Hoda'ah

To my Country

I have not sung you, my country,
not brought glory to your name
with the great deeds of a hero
or the spoils a battle yields.
But on the shores of the Jordan
my hands have planted a tree,
and my feet have made a pathway
through your fields.

Modest are the gifts I bring you.
I know this, mother.
Modest, I know, the offerings
of your daughter:
Only an outburst of song
on a day when the light flares up,
only a silent tear
for your poverty

Rachelⁱⁱⁱ

At Shalom Rav

I Want to Kill You War

I want to kill you war, forever,
not like a phoenix
that always comes back

I want to kill you war
and I don't know how
and I don't know why
all the people of the world
don't join hands
to kill you war-
you the greatest murderer
of them all.

They just know how to kill
the one or the two
or the hundreds and the thousands,
but not you,
you the greatest killer
of them all.

So, we will kill you war,
before you kill us.

This is real deterrence strategy,
not the useless liar one we're so busy with.
All the peace marchers of the world
Will take the heavy metal cases
full of nuclear wastes
and dump them over War's head,
the cases will leak, as usual,

And War will dissolve back into his archaic bottle
where he belongs-

We shut the cork.

Ada Aharoni^{iv}

For T'filat Halev

A woman doesn't meet her God every day,
A man doesn't always feels his prayers,
Not every how is one of grace.
We fall, we fail,
To the end of our road.
We turn back only to lose our way again,
To wander in search of forgotten paths.

But God holding a candle
Looks for all who wander and search.

Shifra Alon^v

Before singing Hatikvah as a closing song

Here Upon the Land

Here upon the land--not in the clouds on high--
upon this close Motherland
to be sorry with her sorrow and rejoice
in her poor joys that know so well to console.

Not the fogs of tomorrow--today, concrete, in hand,
solid today, warm, firm:
to drink deep of this one short day
here upon our land.

Before evening comes--come one, come all!
A united effort, stubborn and alert
of a thousand arms. Will it be beyond our
reach to roll the stone from the well?

Rachelⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Cohn Eskenazi, Tamara and Andrea Weiss, eds. *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. URJ Press, 2007. 493.

Bio: Zelda was born in the Ukraine, and moved to Jerusalem at age 12. She studied teaching, as well as art and painting, and worked with handicapped children in Haifa. Zelda published six volumes of poetry and was awarded the prestigious Bialik Prize in 1940.

ⁱⁱ Frishman, Rabbi Elyse D. *Mishkan T'filah*. J Levine/Millennium, 2007. 541.

Bio: Hannah Senesh was born in Hungary and emigrated to what was then Palestine in 1939. In 1943, she enlisted in the British army in the Woman's Auxiliary Air Force. Senesh was one of 37 Jews trained to parachute into Yugoslavia during WWII to help save the Jews of Hungary. She was captured, but refused to reveal details of her mission and was ultimately tried and executed. She is regarded as a national heroine in Israel.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rachel. *Flowers of Perhaps*. Toby Press, 2008. 35, 160.

Bio: Rachel (Bluwstein) was born in Saratov in Russia and began writing poetry at age 15. She visited Israel with her sister en route to Italy where they planned to study art and philosophy. They decided to stay on as Zionist pioneers and lived at an agricultural school for girls on the shores of the Kinneret. Most of Rachel's poems were written in the final six years of her life while she suffered from tuberculosis.

^{iv} "I Want to Kill You War." *Peace Poems*. Ada Aharoni. Web.

Bio: Professor Aharoni is a sociologist and a Peace Culture researcher, as well as a writer, poet and lecturer. She was born in Cairo and moved to Israel in 1950 at age 16. Aharoni has published 25 books and taught at Haifa University and the Technion. She currently lives in Haifa.

^v Stern, Chaim, ed. *On the Doorposts of Your House*. CCAR Press, 1993. 282. Taken from Ha-avodah She-balev, Jerusalem 1981.