

Yearbook 5783

UJR • AmLat

UNIÃO DO | UNIÓN DEL
JUDAÍSMO
REFORMISTA

— AMLAT —



UJR-AmLat Board

Raul Cesar Gottlieb

Mario Fleck

Flavio Levi-Moreira

Miriam Vasserman

Dora Lucia Brenner

Patricia Holzman

Miriam Olchansky

Sergio Brukman

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

David Britva Beraha

Executive Director

André Liberman

*Coordinator, Communications
and Education*

Ângela Goldstein

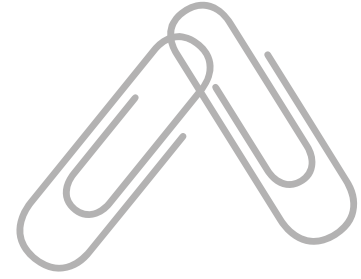
*Coordinator, Plaut Chumash
Campaign*



KRAKENIMAGES



Message from the president



Reform Judaism was born as a necessity for the Jewish people and remains alive and kicking for the same reason. The Jewish world needs a modern, inclusive approach that does not devalue other currents, but learns from them all.

The Reform Movement is the main vector for the development of a Judaism adapted to the challenges faced by the different Jewish communities, in each of their places of constitution and at each moment of their existence.

In this way, the Union of Reform Judaism in Latin America - UJR-AmLat - develops according to the needs of our specific region, in close cooperation with the worldwide Reform Movement - the World Union for Progressive Judaism, WUPJ.

Our oldest communities were founded decades ago, in the first half of the 20th century, but the initiative to form UJR-AmLat took place much more recently, in 2006-2009.

Consistent with the specific needs of our region, where half a million Jews live in a territory larger than the sum of the territories of Europe and the United States of America, we have developed our work around 3 main axes:

- The celebration of the encounter of Jews with Judaism, through study and socializing events and also through the building of new communities and the affiliation of previously existing communities.
- The local training of community leaders, including Rabbis, born within our communities and, above all, familiar with our idiosyncrasies.
- The creation of quality Jewish material, adapted to the intellectual concerns and questions of Jews who make a strict point of valuing the Jewish heritage received from previous holy generations, adapting it to the world and the circumstances that surround them.

We are proud of the path we have taken so far, even though we are aware of how much remains to be built. With the help of the Eternal and the support of all of you, we pledge to continue to grow stronger.

May we all have a good and sweet year!

RAUL CESAR GOTTLIEB
Chair of UJR-AmLat





Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

This 5783 has been a year of many events for UJR-AmLat. We have seen growth in all our areas of activity, as you can see on the following pages. Our members - in other words, our communities - have grown in number, quality and activity. We can mention that this year the newest and one of the oldest Brazilian communities joined the UJR. We have more communities in formation and in the process of joining in other countries, with leaders dedicated to the continuous development of community work on behalf of the Jewish People.

There are communities in development with our support, and with leaders studying for the rabbinate at our Rabbinical Institute, inside and outside the Latin American region. The Institute's Kinusim, organised in December in Argentina and in June in Brazil, show the growing strength and quality of the students, teachers and directors - as well as the position of several alumni, ordained in December.

Our rabbis lead communities with strength and pride, represent not only their congregations but all of Judaism in interfaith dialog, work and cooperate with civil and governmental institutions and communities from other lines of Judaism. Our congregations provide rabbinic support to communities (Reform and non-Reform!).

Our professional team is constantly learning, involved in exchange programs in the Brazilian, Latin American and world community; we are also developing our professional training in educational institutions linked to the Reform movement.

Our region was present at the world Reform meeting, with a proportionally very large delegation - there we received sifrei Torah for our communities, led workshops, mediated round tables, were able to celebrate adult bnei mitzvot at the Kotel (a program created in our region, which inspires many around the world!). We had a large number of young people at the Netzer and Tamar meetings, with several involved in key positions in the worldwide reform movement.

I view the balance - the **חשבון נפש** chesbon nefesh - of the UJR with great satisfaction, and that our work in 5783 laid and developed foundations for better, bigger and deeper work for the Jewish People inside and outside Latin America for years to come.

שנה טובה
Shanah Tovah,

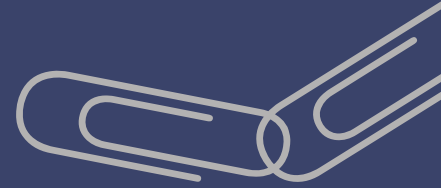
DAVID BRITVA BERAHA
Executive Director



Messages from the Rabbinical Councils

Reform Rabbinical Council of Brazil

Rabbi Uri Lam



Another Jewish year completes its cycle. In 5783, as Reform, liberal and progressive Jews, we learned a lot: we regained confidence in holding religious services and other face-to-face activities and re-established personal and community ties. We have increased the number of communities in Brazil. These, in turn, are stronger and more committed to the future of the Jewish people, based on practices that include diversity and are meaningful to those who live a Judaism anchored in tradition and at the same time aware of the historical times in which we live.

The Jewish year 5784 already begins with the special spirituality of Shabbat. We immerse ourselves in the founding stories of our people; we listen to the blowing of the shofar by men and women; we stand before God - children, young people and adults, women and men - to reaffirm our Covenant; we reflect on our past actions and plan better, more creative and efficient ways of acting in the near future, inspired by the practice of forgiveness and love of neighbor; and we create renewed opportunities to write new chapters in our lives.

Like all of us, the Reform Rabbinical Council of Brazil (CRRB) also takes stock of its activities, including successes and mistakes. We are always looking to strengthen our communities, with a focus on creating creative, Jewish solutions to the issues of our times. We are improving the processes for welcoming new members to the Jewish people, we strive to improve communication between ourselves, with the Reform congregations and with the Jewish community as a whole and, of course, we argue among ourselves - sometimes passionately and heatedly - about issues that are still considered controversial.

If at the beginning the achievement was to put Reform rabbis in touch and generate mutual consultation and exchange, the challenge now is to involve the CRRB more and more in the life of our congregations, in an increasingly concrete and practical way. There are many demands: what are the challenges of each synagogue, congregation and school? How can we deal with the particularities of each community when it comes to Jewish practices? How can we collaborate in the development of communities in our movement that don't have a local rabbi?



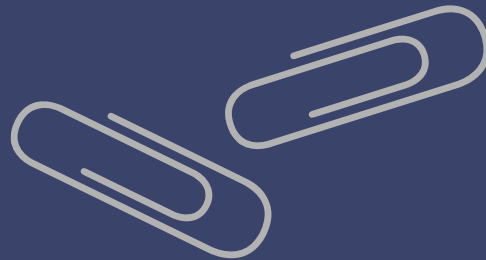
What can we do to best welcome future colleagues who are about to receive their Reform rabbinical ordination in Latin America?

These and many other challenges face us, a young Rabbinical Council, still building its first spiritual spaces. We are convinced that this sacred work can only take place within the framework of and in relationship with our communities and those that are inclined to be part of the Reform Jewish movement; and that many of its fruits will only be savored by the next generations.

Reform Rabbinical Council of the Argentine Republic

Rabbi Eliyahu Peretz

May the gatherings during the Tishrei Festivities, from Rosh Hashanah to Simchat Torah, passing through Yom Kippur and Sukkot, inspire us to continue building communities inspired by the blowing of the shofar, forgiveness and compassion, while at the same time committing ourselves to building new community spaces throughout the region, capable of welcoming every Jew in search of a Jewish home full of affection, spirituality and respect.



In a few days we will be immersed in the festivities of Tishrei and we will find ourselves, in time and in form, with the famous and cherished sound of the Shofar. With its atavistic voice, the Shofar inspires us, drawing us closer to the mystery associated with existence, alerting us and suggesting the permanent proximity of the majestic divinity.

When we hear the voice of the Shofar, a sense of grandeur invades us, inviting us to observe our incredible world. By alerting us, it prepares us to be ready to act and cooperate for the individual and common good. And mystery, in turn, brings magic to our existence, as it is impossible to predict what will happen in the year to come.

Greatness, vigilance and mystery are inherent to human existence. The synergistic effect of these three manifest events enriches our communities and predisposes us to experience the greatness of the world from a genuine willingness to cooperate and discover together all the positive things we can make happen through our actions.

The members of the Reform Rabbinical Council of the Argentine Republic would like to greet you, wishing you Shaná tová and working to ensure that each of our institutions continues to be an inspiring Shofar.



Passings

This year, sadly, we said goodbye to a few dear activists and promoters of Latin American Reform Judaism. These friends have left their mark, each in their own way, in their community work. The UJR mourns their departures. May the memory of each one be a blessing.

Rabino Reubén Nisenbom z”l - *Argentina*

Douglas Miranda z”l - *Brazil*

Celia Morgunovsky z”l - *Chile*

Marvin Sasson z”l - *Costa Rica*



MAREK-STUDZINSKI



Institutional Statements

Due to the political and social events in Israel, on behalf of the Latin American reform community, the UJR spoke out on two occasions:

- ▶ **NOVEMBER 15, 2022 - OPEN LETTER TO BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**
<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/open-letter-to-benjamin-netanyahu/>

- ▶ **JULY 26, 2023 - OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S VOTE TO WEAKEN ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT**
<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/uncategorized/official-statement-on-government-vote-weakening-israels-supreme-court/>



Youth and Young Adults

We can commemorate various events among the youth of our communities in 5783.

These young people are not the future of the reform movement, but the present.

Events and achievements include:

- ▶ **UJR-AMLAT AND GAAVAH CREATE NEW BEIT MIDRASH FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN RECIFE'S JEWISH COMMUNITY**
<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/ujr-amlat-and-gaavah-create-new-beit-midrash-for-young-adults-in-recifes-jewish-community/>
- ▶ **NETZER OLAMI GAINS A NEW, ALL-FEMALE LEADERSHIP WITH A BRAZILIAN REPRESENTATIVE**
<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/netzer-olami-gains-a-new-all-female-leadership-with-a-brazilian-representative/>
- ▶ **NETZER AND TAMAR LATIN AMERICAN SNIFIM REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATE IN CONNECTIONS 2023**
<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/connections-2023-and-beutel-the-latin-american-presence-at-the-international-conference-of-progressive-judaism/>
- ▶ **YOUNG ADULTS FROM UJR-AMLAT PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS SEMINAR**
<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/young-adults-from-ujr-amlat-participate-in-the-world-jewish-congress-seminar/>



Instituto Rabínico Reformista • IIFRR

Founded in 2017/5778, the Reform Rabbinical Institute is based in Buenos Aires and offers distance learning classes, allowing us to engage people who are already community leaders in congregations of all sizes and from all over the region. The institute currently has 23 students from eight different countries, including students in the USA and Europe.

In December 2022/5783 כסלו, the first class of rabbis was ordained, joining Rabbi Diego Elman (Mishkán, Argentina) who received his semichá סמיכה in May 2022. Today, they work in the following communities:

Rabino Hernán Rustein

*Temple Beth Shalom,
Porto Rico, USA*

Rabino Martín Hirsch

*Mikvé Israel-Emanuel,
Willemstad, Curaçao*

Rabina Silvia Dorfman

Mishkán, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Rabino Edy Huberman

Reform Rabbinical Institute

Rabino Pablo Schejtman

*União Israelita Porto-Alegrense,
Porto Alegre, Brazil*

Find out more about the ordination here:

<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/reform-rabbinical-training-institute-ordains-first-cohort-in-argentina/>

This year, the Institute also offered two extension courses for the general community:

Why do we do what we do on Kabalat Shabbat קבלת שבת?

with Chazan Oren Boljover

Democracy and the Jews

with Rabbi Joseph Edelheit

Find out more about the Institute at

institutorabinico.org, or on social media:

<https://www.instagram.com/institutorabinico/>

<https://www.facebook.com/institutorabinico>

<https://twitter.com/reformimarg>



Jewish Content Creation

► A TORÁ - UM COMENTÁRIO MODERNO

Published at the end of 2021 after seven years of work by a team of professionals and volunteers, the Portuguese version of “The Torah - A Modern Commentary” is an achievement and an ongoing project for the UJR. The Chumash, originally edited by the German-Canadian rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, is used in more than 1,200 congregations around the world. In 5783, we celebrated the delivery of more than two thousand volumes of the book. In June, we started a Facebook/Instagram and Google campaign, which has already sold more than 300 units, and we are starting to plan a second edition. Find out more at plaut.com.br.

► LIVING WITH OUR DEAD, BY RABBI DELPHINE HORVILLEUR

With more than 250,000 copies sold, in versions from French to Japanese, the book is a collection of essays on mourning, based on the experiences of Reform Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur. With the support of the UJR, the French rabbi’s book has been translated into Portuguese by Editora Garamond. Find out more on our website: <http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/viver-com-nossos-mortos-rabbi-delphine-horvilleurs-latest-literary-success-gets-a-portuguese-edition/>

► FLYERS ABOUT CHAGIM

Voluntarily written by rabbis working in the region, students from the Reform Rabbinical Institute and other partners, the UJR’s chagim leaflets offer reflections linked to each chag we celebrate.

See the leaflets published in Portuguese, Spanish and English at: <http://ujr-amlat.org/en/what-we-think/chagim/>



► DEVARIM MAGAZINE

Devarim magazine is a publication of ideas, with a high level of editorial work and a large proportion of texts produced exclusively for the magazine by Brazilian Jews. Devarim's aim is to promote the development of Brazilian Jewish culture, especially in its liberal, modern, inclusive and Zionist aspects. It has been published since 2006 by ARI - Associação Religiosa Israelita do Rio de Janeiro - a synagogue affiliated to UJR, and is distributed to approximately 3,000 Jews and non-Jews throughout Brazil, who subscribe to it on an opt-in basis.



► ACADEMIA JUDAICA

Academia Judaica is an educational start-up created at the initiative of Congregação Israelita Paulista with the aim of broadening and enhancing pride in belonging to the Jewish community through knowledge of its history, its sources of wisdom and its impact on humanity.

It offers tools for community development through knowledge, connection with Israel and strengthening Jewish identity from a plural, relevant and innovative perspective.

With UJR's support, affiliated communities can take part in the courses at a 50% discount. Learn more at academiajudaica.org.

The UJR has also published columns in the Tribuna Judaica, a widely circulated periodical in the São Paulo community.



Events

UJR-AmLat has participated in and organized various events in partnership with local communities. These include:

► **CONNECTIONS 2023 AND BEUTEL - THE LATIN AMERICAN PRESENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM**

With a large delegation from Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica and Guatemala, Latin America was present, active and participative not only at the main conference, but also at the Netzer (youth), Tamar (young adults) and Beutel (community leadership) seminars.

Through the WUPJ's Torah Exchange program, two Latin American communities received donations of sifrei Torah: Univri, from Camboriú (Brazil), and Neshamá, from São Paulo (Brazil).

As part of the agenda, students from the 2022-2023 class of the UJR Adult B-Mitzvah program performed the moving ceremony at the Kotel.

<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/connections-2023-and-beutel-the-latin-american-presence-at-the-international-conference-of-progressive-judaism/>



► **UJR-AMLAT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND RABBINIC VISITS IN BRASÍLIA, FORTALEZA, AND RECIFE**

<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/visits-to-brasilia-fortaleza-and-recife/>

► **RABBI DIEGO ELMAN, ON BEHALF OF UJR-AMLAT, VISITS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF NEUQUÉN AND JEWISH LEADERS OF THE CITIES OF ALLEN, CIPOLLETTI AND GENERAL ROCA**

<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/rabbi-diego-elman-on-behalf-of-ujr-amlat-visits-the-jewish-community-of-neuquen-and-jewish-leaders-of-the-cities-of-allen-cipolletti-and-general-roca/>



Other UJR appearances include:

► **EPIISODES OF THE PODCAST
TORÁ COM FRITAS**

- Episode 56 - Jewish translations of the Torah - February 9, 2023
- Episode 58 - The Reform Rabbinical Institute - March 2, 2023
- Episode 65 - What are Israeli settlements? - May 18, 2023
- Episode 69 - What is the name of God? - July 13, 2023

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5TMZSgxzeQMBuDnSCb6qNS?si=uctIBB38TEO9X1c3Mybmfw>

► **YALA - ACCELERATOR PROGRAM
FOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS**

In a partnership between Fundação Arymax and the Instituto Golden Tree, the Yala program began in 2020, initially for organizations based in São Paulo. With institutions from across the entire spectrum of the São Paulo community, the formation of the Yala network allows for the development of more integrated community work, with events and partnerships from different institutions. In 2023, the program expanded to include organizations from Rio de Janeiro and Recife.

With virtual meetings and face-to-face events, Yala strengthens personal and professional connections between the UJR and partner organizations.



► **MACHANE MISHPACHTI -
AVANHANDAVA - SEPTEMBER 2023**

In celebration of its 85th anniversary, Avandhandava organized another edition of Machané Mishpachti, especially for families and bogrim (former members) of the tnuva. Represented by its executive director David Britva Beraha - himself an Ava boger - the UJR congratulated the tnuá on its anniversary and its achievements within and outside the local community, such as its strong role in the Netzer Olami and its exchanges with other Netzer snifim.



Arzenu

Arzenu is the Reform grouping within the World Zionist Congress. With existing representation in Brazil and Argentina, we have brought up important issues and participated in events in defense of Israeli democracy.

In 5783, Arzenu Brasil was led by Mario Fleck (Congregação Israelita Paulista/CIP), whom the UJR thanks for his work and leadership. Mario passed the baton in 5784 to Karina Stange Calandrin, who attends the Congregação Israelita de São Paulo - Templo Beth El, is a school and university teacher, researcher, expert on Israel, PhD in International Relations from the University of Haifa and UNESP, and community activist.

In Argentina, Arzenu is led by UJR director Sergio Brukman.

▶ ARZENU LEADERS IN LATIN AMERICA TAKE PART IN GLOBAL SEMINAR

<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/arzenu-leaders-from-latin-america-participate-in-arzenus-world-seminar/>

▶ WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL & LIBERAL JUDAISM

In partnership with the Brazil-Israel Institute (IBI), Arzenu Brasil and UJR organized two live sessions on the Israeli elections in November 2022 and the possible impacts on liberal Judaism in Israel and the diaspora. You can watch the recordings on IBI's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGkf4A-yLxA> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW00YNuz9yE>.

▶ ARZENU ARGENTINA AND JUDAICA BELGRANO HOST DEMONSTRATION FOR ISRAELI DEMOCRACY IN BUENOS AIRES

With the participation of various Zionist groups, youth movements and other community organizations, the reform community NCI-Emanu El (Judaica Belgrano) and Arzenu Argentina hosted a demonstration in defence of Israeli democracy.

<http://ujr-amlat.org/art/en/reform-movement-takes-part-in-in-large-demonstration-for-israeli-democracy-in-argentina/>



Staff

UJR-AmLat also values the continuous personal and professional development of our staff.

With the support of the UJR, our executive director David Britva Beraha began a master's degree in community management at the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and our communications and educational program coordinator André Liberman began the rabbinate course at the Instituto Rabínico Reformista.



Communities

By date of membership and alphabetical order

2009 (FOUNDATION OF UJR-AMLAT)

- Associação Religiosa Israelita / ARI - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Centro de Espiritualidad Judía Mishkán - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina / Templo Libertad - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Congregação Israelita Paulista / CIP - São Paulo, Brazil
- Escuela Comunitaria Arlene Fern - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Fundación Judaica - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- NCI - Emanu El / Judaica Belgrano - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Ruaj Ami Comunidad Religiosa y Cultural - Santiago, Chile
- Sociedade Israelita Brasileira de Cultura e Beneficiência / SIBRA - Porto Alegre, Brazil

2010-2015

- Adat Israel Asociación Judía Reformista de Guatemala - Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
- Associação Cultural Israelita de Brasília / ACIB - Brasília, Brazil
- Associação Israelita Catarinense / AIC - Florianópolis, Brazil
- Centro Israelita de Pernambuco / CIP - Recife, Brazil
- Comunidad Judía de Huánuco Beith Etz Chaim - Huánuco, Peru
- Congregação Israelita Mineira / CIM - Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- Sociedade Israelita do Ceará / SIC - Fortaleza, Brazil
- Sociedad Israelita Max Nordau - Valparaíso, Chile

2015-2020

- Associação Israelita Norte Paranaense "Beit Tikvá" - Maringá, Brazil
- Bnei Israel - San Jose, Costa Rica
- Congregação Israelita Capixaba / CICAPI - Vitória, Brazil
- Congregação Israelita de São Paulo Templo Beth El - São Paulo, Brazil
- Judaica Norte Centro Cultural y Espiritual - Nordelta, Argentina

2020-2023

- Associação Minián Neshamá - São Paulo, Brazil
- União Israelita do Vale do Rio Itajaí / Univri - Camboriú, Brazil
- União Israelita Porto-Alegrense - Porto Alegre, Brazil
- In formation: La Casa Kehilá - Santiago, Chile

YOUTH MOVEMENTS • NETZER

- Avandava - São Paulo, Brazil
- Colônia da CIP - São Paulo, Brazil
- Netzer Costa Rica - San José, Costa Rica

TAMAR (YOUNG ADULTS)

- MOV 20:35 - São Paulo, Brazil
- Tamar Guatemala - Guatemala
- Zehut - Recife, Brazil



Partners and sponsors

Luis e Lilian Stuhlberger

Dora Lucia Brenner

Miriam Vasserman

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האגודה
העולמית
ליהדות
מתקדמת



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization



התנועה
הרפורמית
The Israel Movement for Reform
and Progressive Judaism



קרן קימת לישראל
K K L - J N F



fundação
arymax



facebook.com/ujramlat

info@ujr-amlat.org

www.ujr-amlat.org