40 YEARS of RSY-Netzer

The Zionist Youth Movement for Reform Judaism

The movement for REFORM JUDAISM 80 YEARS

PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

8 Candles for 8 Decades

Celebrating the Reform Movement's 80th Anniversary

Channukah 5783

18th-26th December

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PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

8 Candles for 8 Decades

The Movement for Reform Judaism is Celebrating its 80th Anniversary this year. This 8 Candles for 8 Decades booklet will tell you the proud journey of our Movement and its achievements – one short story with every candle and a special blessings written by our Rabbis.

We hope that you will use it with joy and festivity to complement your *Channukah* prayers.

Chag Channukah sameach

Before lighting the Chanukiah

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה:

בָּרוּךְ Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, whose commandments make us holy, and who commands us to kindle the lights of *Chanukah*.

בָּרוּךְ *Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam,*
asher kidd'shanu b'mitsvotav, v'tsivvanu l'hadlik neir shel chanukah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּבַזְּמַן הַזֶּה:

בָּרוּךְ Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, who did wonders for our ancestors in those days at this season.

בָּרוּךְ *Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam,*
she'asah nissim la'avoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim uva-z'man ha-zeh.

On the first night add

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה:

בָּרוּךְ Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, who has kept us alive and supported us and brought us to this season.

בָּרוּךְ *Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam,*
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higgi'anu la-z'man ha-zeh.

The Blessings

For the first decade

PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

1942-1951 - Building a Movement

The first candle represents our first decade. We dedicate this to the establishment of the Movement and the founders. They lit the flame that has illuminated the way for everything that has followed. In 1942 the 6 Reform communities, excluded from education funding by the Board of Deputies, created the ASGB made up of West London Synagogue, Alyth, Glasgow, Bradford, Settlement (now SWESRS) and Manchester (Jackson's Row). We soon became the largest non-Orthodox denomination in the UK and Europe joining the wider Reform world as a full member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in 1945. In 1948 we established our own Beit Din.

Blessing for the First Candle by Rabbis Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton and James Baaden, Co-Chairs of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors:
Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, for the vision, for the determination and for the example of our founders who ignited the spark of collaboration and cooperation to enlighten the darkness of a divided world.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

For the second decade

65 YEARS
Leo Baeck College
AT THE HEART OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

1952-1961 - Securing our Future Leadership

The second candle represents our second decade, in which our future leadership structure was put in place. The Leo Baeck Colledge (LBC) was established in 1956 and has now ordained more than 210 rabbis to underscore the future of the Reform Jewish Community in the UK. The rabbi's leadership and inspiration has encouraged thousands of people to lead a modern and open Jewish life. Furthermore, over 300 educators graduated from various LBC's Jewish education courses that it has run over the years. We are proud to dedicate the second candle to the Leo Baeck College and our Clergy.

Also, in 1958 ASGB changed its name to the more familiar Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB) organising our movement into a Reform family across the whole country.

Blessing for the Second Candle by Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal, Leo Baeck College:
Blessed are You, Eternal our God, who through our sages instructs us to *aseh lecha rav*, make teachers for ourselves [*Pirkei Avot* 1: 6], in order that we fulfil your plan for our welfare, giving us a future and a hope [after Jeremiah 29:11].

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

The Blessings

For the third decade

PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

1962-1971 - A Force to be Reckoned with

The third candle represents our third decade with Reform Judaism becoming a significant presence on the Anglo-Jewish stage. This was marked by a number of professional appointments, such as Raymond Goldman becoming the Movement's General Secretary. Shortly afterwards, John Kay became our first professional youth leader. The Movement was still run and sustained by a vast number of volunteers, but it now had much greater sense of focus and momentum. At the same time, our voice was being heard more strongly within the Board of Deputies. During this decade we were also blessed by the newly LBC Rabbinic graduates who built 6 new communities in London, Surrey, Manchester and Newcastle. The 'new boy' was now moving centre stage and others were beginning to sense our impact.

Blessing by Rabbi Colin Elimer, Rabbi Emeritus, Sha'arei Tsedek:
Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, whose word inspired new rabbis and professionals to dedicate themselves to developing existing communities and building new ones.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

For the fourth decade

1972-1981 - The Empowerment of Women

The fourth candle represents our fourth decade which we dedicate to our female Rabbinic and lay leaders. We elected the first female Chair of RSGB, Eva Mitchell in 1973. And to mark an historic decade we celebrated *s'micha* (ordination) in 1975 of our first female Reform Rabbi, Jackie Tabick. Rabbi Jackie opened the door for the many female Rabbis and Cantors that have followed, spreading our values in a physical as well as a spiritual way. We salute their leadership, determination and innovation which has so strengthened our Movement.

Blessing by Rabbi Jackie Tabick, Convenor of the Reform Beit Din:
Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, for giving us the courage and strength to claim our right to equal status for all in a challenging world.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

The Blessings
For the fifth decade

40 YEARS of RSY-Netzer

1982-1991 - And the Youth Shall see Visions

The fifth candle represents our fifth decade and is devoted to our wonderful youth movement, RSY-Netzer, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2022. We remain determined to invest in our youth and young people programmes. The Jewish Youth Study Group (YSGB) joined the international Reform Zionist Youth Movement Netzer in 1982. RSY-Netzer has inspired thousands of young people through its educational programming including *Shemesh* summer camps and Israel tour. These teach practical skills alongside Jewish knowledge and tradition. Many of our Rabbis and lay leaders credit their being so from their experiences growing up in our Youth Movement. The 80's also saw the first Reform primary school in *Akiva*, the foundation for those that have followed in Essex and Hertfordshire.

Blessing by Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, EHRS and RSY-Netzer *Bogeret* (graduate):
Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, Source of wisdom and growth, may we always be blessed with young who see visions and old who dream dreams, together working for a strong and creative future full of *ruach* (spirit), inclusion and innovation, as our young people have shown us for so many decades.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

<u>RSY-Netzer song:</u>
See, now we're all here the time has come
To find a way with everyone to build upon ideals
We know that while we can be free
We've got the true ability to make the changes real

Chorus:
RSY-Netzer Olami
Yesh lanu z'man livnot olam c'yehudim
RSY itcha v'iti
V'gam kol ha'klal shel Netzer Olami

Friends, learning and having fun,
We'll take the chance while we are young it's the way
we want to be We share a *ruach*! we can feel
Form our own links with Israel -a strong identity

Nothing to lose, got the right to choose
How we move on, and feel a part of it all -we're in

Chorus

The time we spend brings us all closer (instrumental)
We grow, we learn, we find ourselves (instrumental)
Nothing to lose.... Chorus (x lots)

The Blessings

For the sixth decade

PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

1992-2001 - Living Judaism - Living Communities

The sixth candle represents our sixth decade. Having become established within mainstream British Jewry, we launched the 'Living Judaism' programme. This was targeted at strengthening our communities, fostering strong relationships amongst members and their communities. The aim was to ensure that leadership, participation and synagogue attendance remained robust. Our Re-Imagining Leadership initiative is now at the forefront of this process.

Candle number 6 is therefore dedicated to our communities, their staff and all the lay leaders who continue to evolve and serve our communities. They are an integral part of our Movement and an ongoing source of respect and inspiration.

Blessing by Rabbi Daniel Lichman, Makor Hayim:
Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, for calling us into relationship with the question '*ayecka* (where are you)*?'* and showing us how to lead with the answer *'hineni* (here I am)*'*.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

For the seventh decade

2002-2011 - Representing Reform Jews

The seventh candle represents our seventh decade. At the beginning of the new millennia we celebrated two milestones. First, in 2004, Reform Rabbis performed wedding blessings for same sex couples entering Civil Partnerships. This was a clear public statement that positioned the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors in full support of same sex marriage in the UK.

The second milestone saw Rabbi Tony Bayfield, former MRJ President, represent the Reform Movement at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday. Until then this was an honour reserved exclusively for the Orthodox Chief Rabbi. We have been in attendance every year since, reinforcing our place within Britain's Jewish community.

Blessing by Rabbi Josh Levy, Alyth Synagogue:
B*aruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam,* Blessed are You our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, who inspires us to create rich, dynamic communities that are central to the religious life of this country, and a movement that projects their voice into the world. A movement creative in its practice, with communities that meet people where they are and respond to their needs, and are a source of comfort, joy and meaning in a complex world.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

The Blessings

For the eighth decade

PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

2012-2022 - Radical Inclusivity - a Movement for all

The eighth candle represents our eighth decade. With a brightly lit *Channukiah* this decade celebrates our commitment to radical inclusivity. Shining light on the darkest corners of the Jewish community where we know true welcoming is needed. Our eighth decade is marked by a landmark set of policies that enabled more people to be part of the Reform family. We have recognised that children who have a Jewish father and grow up in a Jewish home are fully Jewish and we have embraced the fact that many of our members who are building mixed-faith homes also need a blessing as they marry and we support them to build Jewish values into their families.

Therefore our eighth and final candle is dedicated to our brave Rabbinic and Reform Movement's lay leadership who dared to change and adapt to new realities, opening the door for more Jews to join us.

Blessing by Rabbi Jonathan Romain, Maidenhead Synagogue:
Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, for giving us the ability to marry the wisdom of the past with the new insights of today, and the courage to make changes where necessary.

Please turn to the final page for the concluding blessing and Maoz Tzur

The Blessings

After each candle

PROUD OF THE PAST - FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

After lighting the Chanukiah

הַנֵּרוֹת We kindle these lights to commemorate the wonders, the victories and the marvellous and consoling deeds which You performed for our ancestors through Your holy priests in those days at this season. During all the eight days of *Chanukah* these lights are holy and we are not permitted to make use of them, but only to see them in order to thank Your name for the wonders, the victories and the marvellous deeds.

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנוּ מַדְלִיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַנִּפְלָאוֹת וְעַל הַנֶּחָמוֹת שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּבַזְּמַן הַזֶּה עַל יְדֵי כֹהֲנֶיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים. וְכָל־שְׁמֹנַת יְמֵי חֲנוּכָּה הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם אֶלָּא לִרְאוֹתָם בִּלְבָד. כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת לְשִׁמְךָ עַל־נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל־יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ וְעַל־נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ׃

הַנֵּרוֹת *Ha-neirot hallalu anu madlikim al ha-nissim v'al ha-t'shu'ot v'al ha-nifla'ot v'al ha-nechamot she'asita la'avoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim uva-z'man ha-zeh, al y'dei kohanecha ha-k'doshim, v'chol sh'monat y'mei chanukah ha-neirot hallalu kodesh, v'ein lanu r'shut l'hishtameish ba-hem, ella lir'otam bilvad, k'dei l'hodot l'shimcha al nissecha v'al y-shu'atecha v'al nifl'otecha.*

Ma'oz Tsur

מָעוֹז Fortress, rock who sets me free,
how fine it is to sing Your praise.
When my house of prayer shall be,
our offerings of thanks we'll raise.
the time You end all slaughter,[1]
enemies shall falter.
I'll complete
a song to greet
and dedicate the altar.

מָעוֹז צוּר

מָעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי
לְךָ נָאֶה לְשַׁבֵּחַ
תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי
וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נְזַבֵּחַ
לְעֵת תַּשְׁבִּית מַטְבֵּחַ
וְצָר הַמְנַבֵּחַ
אָז אֶגְמוֹר
בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר
חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ׃

מָעוֹז *Ma'oz tsur y'shu'ati l'cha na'eh l'shabei'ach,*
Tikkon beit t'fillati v'sham todah n'zabei'ach,
L'eit tashbit matbei'ach mitsar ha-m'nabei'ach,
Az egmor b'shir mizmor
Chanukat ha-mizbei'ach.