

Springing into 2019

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Dear _____

As the long, rainy winter season in Israel slowly comes to a close, we look forward to the spring, and to the first fruits of our labors thus far this year. It's my pleasure to share a few highlights of our activity in 2019 and of some exciting plans for the new future. As the elections campaign in Israel ramps up and voices of division and incitement grow louder, our activists and leaders serve as **a clarion call for sanity, connection, and a shared future** for all Israelis.

And You Shall Ponder:

Creating an Intellectual Framework for the New Haredim



Our Haredi Leadership Initiative in Jerusalem, a major undertaking involving four key funders, is a serious investment into shaping the future of the moderate, integrationist trend in Haredi society today. The project, encompassing three levels of interweaving work, officially launched this February with the first meeting of "And You Shall Ponder," our program for Haredi intellectuals that includes a mix of men and women, Rabbis, writers, and educators that are coming together to create the religious and activism-based guidelines for the future of the Haredi community in Israel.

Bound to One Another:

Networking Moderate Leadership in the Religious Zionist Community



This groundbreaking Project in the Religious Zionist Community began this past October, with **15 Key Rising Leaders** from the very core of this growing and politically influential community (including the CEO of its main newspaper, director

of its main youth movement, and communal Rabbis, entrepreneurs, and educators), all of whom are committed to openness, moderation, learning more about the other communities in Israeli society and to meeting diaspora Jews in an authentic way. After sessions devoted to Haredi society, Russian speakers, and the experience of Mizrahi Jews in the periphery, the group most recently [spent a day in the Arab-Israeli city of Taybe](#) and is preparing for their trip to New York and Metrowest New Jersey after Passover.

Rethinking Peace: New Directions, Voices, and Visions



As part of our work to establish new paradigms and new thinking on the range of issues in Israeli society today, we have worked for the last few months with the Van Leer Institute and Citizens' Accord Forum on a conference on alternative visions for peace. **More than 300 Israelis and Palestinians attended our**

conference, held this past Thursday, which featured a plethora of voices and opinions that are frequently outside the narrow lines of what we talk about when we talk about peace, including women, Mizrahim from the periphery, Ultraorthodox and Muslim religious leaders, and settlers and Palestinians working together.

Building the Common Good in Arab Municipal Leadership

Together with Mohammad al-Nabari, the former mayor of the Bedouin city of Hura and a rising star in Israeli municipal politics, we are working to develop a major initiative to cultivate a new generation of Arab municipal leadership committed to professionalism, thinking outside the box, and policies that benefit all. We are working now to secure funding for the program, with the hopes that it will launch later in 2019.

The above are just a few highlights of our groundbreaking, visionary work to make a better Israel today. I'm inviting you to **join our community of supporters today** and invest in a common good future for Israeli society. With your backing, we can expand our activities, reaching more Israelis than ever before. And, thanks to the backing of a generous donor, any new or increased gift to Shahrith will be automatically doubled. Please **click below to bolster Israeli society, strengthen local communities, and advance a shared vision for Israel's future.**

Fondly,

Eilon Schwartz
Founding Director, Shahrith

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שחרית

יוצרים מחנה משותף