



5786

YEARBOOK

2025–2026

*A year of gatherings, learning
and community in Latin American
Reform Judaism.*



26 communities in eight countries, building
the future of progressive Judaism together

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BOARD AND STAFF

The people who lead UJR-AmLat: the 2026–2028 volunteer board and the professional staff.

BOARD 2026-2028

Flavio Levi Moreira
Miriam Vasserman
Felipe Samá Gregoski
Rabbi Kelita Cohen
Adrian Sucari

Ariel Orchansky
Berenice Arce
Marcio Sukman
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David Britva Beraha
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ângela Goldstein
CHUMASH PLAUT

André Liberman
EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Amanda Varchavsky
COMMUNICATIONS



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looking back on the year that has passed and ahead to the next always stirs in me a deep mix of gratitude and restlessness.

We held our leaders' meeting in Curaçao, where I had the opportunity to speak about what technology and artificial intelligence will not replace: our physical presence and our involvement in the congregations we belong to.

When I look at the data from our recent census, I see much more than numbers. I see people, sweat and dedication. I see the living richness of UJR-AmLat, spread across 26 communities in eight countries. I see everything from the centuries-old Snoa in Curaçao and Templo Libertad in Buenos Aires to itinerant groups that gather with determination and no fixed roof, in Santiago or Guayaquil. I see kehillot with well-established structures, like CIP in São Paulo, alongside heroic communities, from Maringá to Valparaíso, from Natal to Huánuco in Peru, that keep the flame alive day after day,

especially through the passionate dedication of their volunteer leaders. Technology connects us through screens, but Judaism only truly exists in person and in exchange with one another.

At the same time, these data remind us of an uncomfortable truth: we are many, but not all of us are served. There are thousands of Jews with a progressive soul scattered across this continent, in cities our structure has not yet been able to reach. And we want to be there. Just as we need to strengthen our existing centers.

We want to train more leaders through our Rabbinical Institute, bring communities together through exchanges, send a strong delegation to Connections (the WUPJ biennial conference in Israel) in March 2027, bring in scholars, train leaders, produce new materials and share more widely what we have already been doing! For the coming year, our commitment is to shorten these distances.

Thank you all for choosing to be present.

SHANAH TOVAH UMETUKAH!

Flavio Levi-Moreira
President of UJR-AmLat



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Echoing our president's words, I am proud to say that the Latin American Reform movement and its coordinating institution, UJR-AmLat, keep growing. We see the impact of every action we take, every project we carry out and every kehillah we support.

Throughout this yearbook we take a closer look at each of these projects, but I would like to highlight one: the Regional Conference, held in August in Curaçao. Mobilizing so many communities to take part and send representatives and leaders is no easy task, but I am very pleased to say that everything went as planned – or even better. A team like ours, made up of professionals, volunteers and partner organizations, a well-oiled and finely tuned machine, is a source of pride for us.

Another source of pride is the Youth Kenes, which brought together 20 young people from most of our congregations – some from well-established snifim, such as Avanhandava (São Paulo) and Tamar Costa Rica, and others we invested in precisely to create new snifim. Less than a month later, we can say that Tamar Florianópolis is already one of the snifim born as a result – and others are on the same path.

Leadership development and the multiplication of initiatives go beyond the Netzer and Tamar age groups. Our community-strengthening program has shown significant results with small kehillot, with strong progress in Jewish education – for all ages – and the Netivot course opened graduates' minds to more ways of acting and getting involved in the Jewish community.

The Portuguese translation of *BaZman*, the guide to the Jewish calendar, is also moving forward. As a taste of what is to come, Conference participants were able to take home the translation of the chapter on Elul. The author, Rabbi Dalia Marx, was the Conference's Scholar-in-Residence and also shared some of her Torah with us during a visit to Brazil.

We have strengthened – and greatly so – our work as Zionists. On an interim basis, I represent Arzenu Brazil at the Zionist Federation of Brazil (FSB), and our presence in the FSB strengthens us as the political-Zionist representation of progressive, Reform and liberal Jews in Brazil. The FSB appointed me to attend the meeting of the Latin American Zionist Confederation (COSLA) in early July in Bogotá, in recognition of the support and work the Reform movement has given to Brazilian Zionism.

All of UJR-AmLat's activity is the result of a great deal of work and dedication by professionals and volunteers, and it is an honor for me to coordinate this whole great team. Kol hakavod!

SHANAH TOVAH, GIT YUR, ANYADA BUENA.

David Britva Beraha
Executive Director of UJR-AmLat



YOUTH



5786 began with preparations for a season in Israel: from the veidot olamiot of Netzer (youth movement) and Tamar (young adults), through Connections 2025, culminating in the strong participation of Latin American youth in the World Zionist Congress.

We are proud to say that the veidot led to new organizational structures for both youth movements, including the election of Argentinian Tomas Blaser as mazkir olami of Tamar and, in Elul, the election of fellow Argentinian Maxi Waisman as Latin American representative on Tamar's hanhagah olamit. Kol hakavod to Beatriz Rubinsztain, who completed her term as mazkirah olamit of Netzer.

Youth at Connections

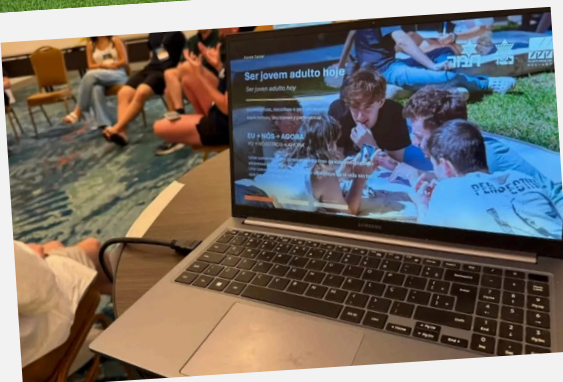
Connections featured not only the presence but the active participation of young people, who led panels, discussion circles and presentations – something reflected in the WUPJ delegation to the Zionist Congress, made up mostly of young adults.

Shabbatonim and Kenes

December saw the first Shabaton Kesher, which brought together 15 young people aged 12 to 17 from small and mid-sized communities for a truly special weekend in Campos do Jordão.

In May, UJR proudly supported the Tamar Centroamérica Shabaton, which brought together twenty young people from Tamar Guatemala and Tamar Costa Rica in the Guatemalan mountains, along with mazkir olami Tomi Blaser and UJR Education Coordinator André Liberman.

At the start of Elul, as part of the UJR Regional Conference, twenty young people from ten Tamar snifim and two Netzer snifim joined our Youth Kenes, and their presence marked the celebrations of the 375th anniversary of Mikvé Israel-Emanuel, the Conference's host community.



INSTITUTO RABÍNICO REFORMISTA



Founded in 2017 / 5778, the Instituto Rabínico Reformista is based in Buenos Aires and offers distance learning, allowing people who are already leaders in communities of every size, from across the region, to take part in the program.

The Institute currently has 19 students from eight countries: Argentina (7), Brazil (5), Spain (2), and one each from Chile, Italy, the United States, Costa Rica and Switzerland. Their home communities include ACIB (Brasília), SIBRA (Porto Alegre), NCI-Emanu El (Buenos Aires), Kehilá de Córdoba, Or Jadash (Madrid) and others. This reflects significant geographic diversity, with representation on both sides of the Atlantic.

Liberal Yeshiva and new ordinations

5786 saw the launch of the Yeshivá Liberal (Liberal Yeshiva), a weekly online space for any adult interested in studying Jewish sources – to deepen their connection with Jewish identity, to draw closer to Judaism, and/or as a first step toward the rabbinical program.

In June we celebrated the ordination of Eliahu Carvajal, who serves the community of Zurich, Switzerland, and between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur the Institute celebrates the ordination of two women. Kol hakavod to our newest rabbis, Marina Umaschi Bers and Marisa Drexler.

Learn more about the Institute at institutorabinico.org or on our social media: [@institutorabinico](https://www.instagram.com/institutorabinico).



JEWISH CONTENT CREATION

THE TORAH: A MODERN COMMENTARY

Published at the end of 2021 after seven years of work by a team of professionals and volunteers, the Portuguese edition, "A Torá - Um Comentário Moderno," is both an achievement and an ongoing project of UJR. The Chumash, originally edited by German-Canadian Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, is used in more than 1,200 congregations around the world. Learn more at plaut.com.br.



LIVING WITH OUR DEAD, BY RABBI DELPHINE HORVILLEUR

With more than 250,000 copies sold, in editions ranging from French to Japanese, the book is a collection of essays on grief drawn from the experiences of Reform Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur. With UJR's support, the French rabbi's book was published in Portuguese, translated by Editora Garamond. Learn more on our website: ujr-amlat.org.



BAZMAN, BY RABBI DALIA MARX

This guide to the Jewish calendar, already available in English, Spanish and German as well as the Hebrew original, will soon have a Portuguese edition. A great success abroad, recommended even by Israeli President Isaac Herzog, the book offers sources, rituals and reflections on the Jewish-Israeli year from a liberal, feminist and modern perspective. We celebrated the translation of the chapter on the month of Elul at the 2026 Regional Conference, and the final edition is coming soon.



BOOKLETS ON THE CHAGIM

Written on a volunteer basis by rabbis serving in the region, students of the Instituto Rabínico Reformista and other partners, UJR's chagim booklets offer reflections tied to each chag we celebrate. See the booklets published in Portuguese, Spanish and English at:
<http://ujr-amlat.org/o-que-pensamos/chaguim/>



ACADEMIA JUDAICA

The [Academia Judaica](#) is an education startup created by the Congregação Israelita Paulista to broaden and strengthen 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 the strengthening of Jewish identity from a plural, relevant and innovative perspective.

With UJR's support, member communities can take its courses at a 50% discount.

UJR also published columns in Tribuna Judaica, a widely read newspaper in the São Paulo community.



COURSES

ADULT B-MITZVAH

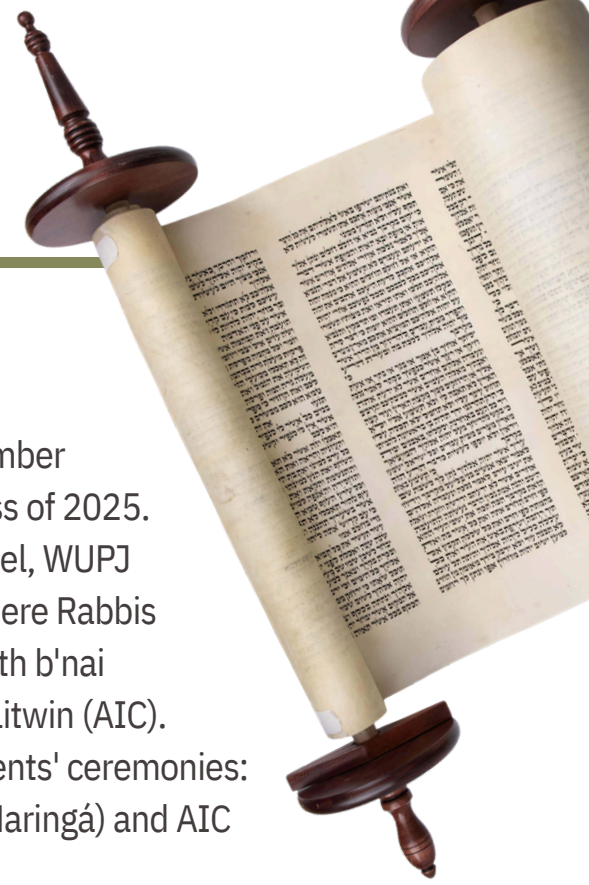
Launched in 2016 under the leadership of UJR board member Miriam Vasserman, the course had 19 students in the class of 2025. A highlight was the ceremony on the rooftop of Beit Shmuel, WUPJ headquarters in Jerusalem, during Connections 2025, where Rabbis Kelita Cohen (UJR) and Stacey Blank (WUPJ) officiated with b'nai mitzvah Nina Pencak (ACIB), Laís Gotlib (CIP) and Pedro Litwin (AIC). In the first half of 5786, the kehillot celebrated their students' ceremonies: in October at ACIB (Brasília), in November at Beit Tikvá (Maringá) and AIC (Florianópolis), and in December at CIP (São Paulo).

NETIVOT

With WUPJ support, UJR's new lay leadership course ran for fifteen biweekly classes, covering topics ranging from identity and identification with Reform Judaism to community building, financial sustainability and governance, conflict, and self-care. In addition to the UJR team, we were joined by several guest faculty members:

- Diego Goldman, Varda Institute for Community Building
- Morris Ely, Federação Israelita do Estado de São Paulo
- Yael Sandberg, Instituto Golden Tree
- Rabbi Ron Wolfson
- Rabbi Lauren Tuchman
- Victoria Kimmelman e Silva

We especially celebrate students Felipe Gregoski and Tamara Crespín, who received their certificates and shared their experiences of the course at the UJR Regional Conference.



EVENTS



UJR-AmLat took part in and organized a range of events in partnership with local communities. Among them:

REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2026 AND 375 YEARS OF THE SNOA

The traditional gathering of regional leaders took shape as part of the 375th anniversary celebrations of the United Congregation Mikvé Israel-Emanuel, the Snoa. The Curaçao kehillah, in the Caribbean, is the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Americas, and it still keeps many Portuguese-Sephardic traditions, such as several prayers recited in Portuguese rather than Hebrew or another vernacular.

The Conference brought together 50 participants from across the region, north to south, along with Rabbi Dr. Dalia Marx (HUC-Jerusalem) as Scholar-in-Residence, WUPJ Chairperson Phyllis Dorey OAM, Arzenu Olami co-Chair Paulo Kulikovsky, and Julia Ullman Hevron, Tamar Olami coordinator and executive director of Netzer Olami.



The Youth Kenes opened the activities on the Caribbean island, with 20 young people from 10 Tamar snifim and two Netzer snifim gathering for a two-day intensive before the Conference. The main program days included reflection and the collection of qualitative and quantitative data on our kehillot, talks and classes on liturgy, patrilineal descent in Judaism, Jewish history, education and Zionist action, and the celebration of the adult b'nai mitzvah class of 2026, along with a great deal of interaction with the Curaçao kehillah at every religious service and cultural event marking the community's 375th anniversary. UJR thanks the Snoa for its warm welcome, especially its leaders Marjorie (Mali) Blanken de Waard, Elena Krijt and Daniel Krijt, and Rabbi Martin Hirsch.

RABBI DALIA MARX VISITS SÃO PAULO AND RIO DE JANEIRO

Following the Conference, Rabbi Dalia Marx visited the kehillot of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, with an intensive program focused on her field of study. Marx is Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at Hebrew Union College (Jerusalem), and occasionally also teaches at the Abraham Geiger Kolleg (Berlin) and various institutions in North America.

We held classes and talks on the evolution of Jewish liturgy, the origins of Yom Kippur, the cycle of forgiveness, reflections on the parashat hashavua, midrashim and more. Our thanks to the kehillot in São Paulo (CIP and Academia Judaica, Templo Beth El and Kehilat Neshamá) and in Rio de Janeiro (ARI and Tamar Rio).



UJR-AMLAT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN NATAL

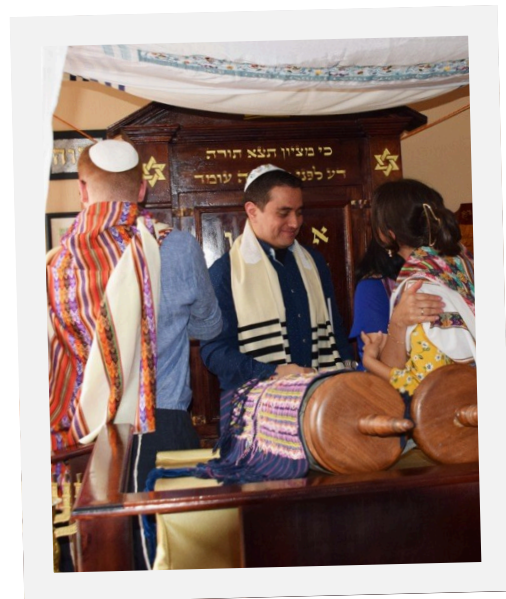
Responding to a request from the Centro Israelita do Rio Grande do Norte, UJR built an educational and rabbinic support project for the Natal community. Through monthly visits by educators, the aim is to listen, understand, train and develop the community so it can sustain a Jewish life that is relevant and consistent with the values of the Reform movement. The project is supervised and supported by UJR's Director of Education, Rabbi Kelita Cohen, and by educators from the other two Reform communities in

Brazil's Northeast, Recife and Fortaleza, as well as UJR Education Coordinator André Liberman. The program is sponsored in part by the National Center to Encourage Judaism (NCEJ).



ADAT ISRAEL GUATEMALA RECEIVES A NEW SEFER TORAH

In partnership with the Memorial Scrolls Trust, Adat Israel Guatemala received a new Sefer Torah of Czech origin. Written around 1850, scroll number 1505 served the community of Podivín until its destruction in the Shoah. Kept at the Jewish Museum in Prague, it was sold by the communist regime to an English philanthropist who founded the Trust to restore the more than 1,500 rescued scrolls and give them new homes. With UJR's support, the



Guatemalan community joyfully welcomed scroll 1505 after it had spent decades in England, Australia and the US. We thank Lori Garg and Sharon Freed for their generosity in sponsoring the donation of the scroll in honor of their father, Frederic J. Freed z”l, and Andrew Keene, a Trust volunteer and friend of UJR, for his collaboration.



The event was also marked by the presence of Israel's Ambassador to Guatemala and El Salvador, Alon Lavi, and the executive director of the Comunidad Judía de Guatemala, Ilan López – a sign of the bridges being built between the Reform and Orthodox communities, and between the local community and the State of Israel.

YALA ACCELERATOR PROGRAM FOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

A partnership between Fundação Arymax and Instituto Golden Tree, the Yala program began in 2020, initially for organizations based in São Paulo. Bringing together institutions from across the São Paulo community, the Yala network enables more integrated community work, with events and partnerships among diverse institutions. In 2023, the program expanded to include organizations from Rio de Janeiro and Recife.

Through virtual meetings and in-person events, Yala strengthens personal and professional ties between UJR and partner organizations.



Arzenu is the Reform Zionist faction within the World Zionist Congress. With representation in Brazil and Argentina, we have raised important issues and taken part in events in defense of Israeli democracy.

2025 WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS

The 2025 World Zionist Congress elections brought an important victory for the Reform movement, which won seats in Brazil and Argentina, securing its representation in a forum that is decisive for the future of the Jewish people.

BRAZIL

In Brazil, there were 6,585 registered voters and 3,197 valid votes. The joint Reform and Masorti list, Arzenu-Mercaz, received 471 votes, a result that secured the election of Beatriz Rubinsztain as delegate of the Brazilian Reform community.

ARGENTINA

In Argentina, 5,942 people voted (92.27% turnout). Arzenu Argentina ran its own list, without alliances, won 410 votes and secured the Reform seat, with Sergio Brukman as delegate.

These results reflect the Reform movement's commitment to taking an active part in Jewish democratic life worldwide, strengthening its representation and bringing fresh perspectives to global discussions. These campaigns mobilized communities, gave visibility to the Reform ideal and showed the importance of pluralism within contemporary Judaism.

More than electoral victories, they reaffirm a commitment: to bring the Reform voice to the center of the global Zionist debate, contributing to a more inclusive, pluralistic and hopeful future for the entire Jewish people.

This voice made a difference, bringing together allies across the progressive and centrist spectrum and securing important wins, such as the election of people linked to the movement to leadership and board positions at the WZO, KKL and the Jewish Agency, Congress resolutions in line with Reform values, and much more.



COMMUNITIES

By year of affiliation and in alphabetical order

2009 (FOUNDING 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 Beneficência / 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 de São Paulo Templo Beth El - São Paulo, Brazil
Congregação Israelita Capixaba / CICAPI - Vitória, Brazil
Judaica Norte Centro Cultural y Espiritual - Nordelta, Argentina

2020-2025

Associação Minián Neshamá - São Paulo, Brazil
União Israelita do Vale do Rio Itajaí / Univri - Balneário Camboriú, Brazil
União Israelita Porto-Alegrense - Porto Alegre, Brazil
La Casa Kehilá - Santiago, Chile
Centro Israelita do Rio Grande do Norte / CIRN - Natal, Brazil

YOUTH MOVEMENTS

Netzer

Avanhandava - 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
Tamar Rio - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Tamar Brasília - Brasília, Brazil
Tamar POA - Porto Alegre, Brazil
Tamar Judaica - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tamar Natal - Natal, Brazil

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Our work is only possible thanks to partners and sponsors who believe in a plural, vibrant and connected Judaism. Our heartfelt thanks to them:

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World Zionist Organization



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K K L - J N F



National Center to
Encourage Judaism

Luis e Lilian Stuhlberger
Dora Lucia Brenner
Rabino Leonardo Alanati

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