



# The Baltimore Board of Rabbis Congratulates *Barack Obama* on his Inauguration as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

The Baltimore Board of Rabbis congratulates President Obama and wishes him and America unqualified success in the coming four years. President Obama carries the hopes and dreams of the Jewish community and all Americans with him into office. We pray that our new president leads our nation with wisdom and compassion on a path of justice and equity. May we as citizens be inspired to new heights of cooperation and understanding. May our nation emerge from a period of distress to a time of joy and renewed confidence.

As Jews and Rabbis, we celebrate the presidential inauguration of Barack Obama as a watershed of significance to all Americans. For generations, the promise of opportunity and equality has eluded too many American citizens. We are buoyed by the evidence of how much our society has matured and pray that we will continue to progress in this direction. We pray that the blessings of social justice, quality education for all, and increased civil rights will redound to everyone in our nation, and that the scourge of racism that still clouds our land will lift and a new light shine forth.

In 1963, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared his dream of the day when *“this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,”* when, in the words of the prophet Amos (5:24) *justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.* In that same year, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, *“The hour calls for moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.”* Our country has taken a major step toward that time. May we go from strength to strength.

*Mi shebeirakh et olamo b'tov, y'var'khehu viy'var'khenu b'chesed elyon.*

*May God who created this world and deemed it good, offer our leaders a touch of divine blessing with which to lead our nation with fairness and justice to prosperity, equality, and greatness. May our country regain its moral preeminence in the world, and may our example of liberty, justice, and humanity inspire all on earth to contribute to the improvement of life for every living creature.*

Rabbi Mitchell Ackerson, *Sinai Hospital* • Rabbi Elan Adler, *Immed. Past President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah - Liberty Jewish Center* • Rabbi Geoffrey Basik, *Kol Halev Congregation* • Rabbi Donald R. Berlin, *Emeritus, Temple Oheb Shalom* • Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton, *Congregation Beit Tikvah* • Rabbi Bradd Boxman, *Har Sinai Congregation* • Rabbi Jonathan Brown, *Beth El Congregation* • Rabbi Gustav Buchdahl, *Emeritus, Temple Emanuel* • Rabbi Andrew Busch, *Baltimore Hebrew Congregation* • Rabbi Nina Cardin • Rabbi Yaakov Chaitovsky, *Shoshana S. Cardin Jewish Community High School* • Rabbi Steven Fink, *President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, Temple Oheb Shalom* • Rabbi Aaron Frank, *Beth Tfilob Community School* • Rabbi Ari Goldstein, *Temple Beth Shalom* • Rabbi Jay Goldstein, *Beth Israel Congregation* • Rabbi David Greenspoon, *Baltimore Hebrew Congregation* • Rabbi Susan Grossman, *Beth Shalom Congregation* • Rabbi Yocheved Heiligman, *Shalom Aleichem Congregation* • Rabbi Floyd L. Herman, *Emeritus, Har Sinai Congregation* • Rabbi Jason Klein, *UMBC Hillel* • Rabbi Jon Konheim, *Beth Am Congregation* • Rabbi Ilyse Kramer, *Institute For Christian And Jewish Studies* • Rabbi Chaim Landau, *Ner Tamid - Greenspring Valley Synagogue* • Rabbi Mark Loeb, *Emeritus, Beth El Congregation* • Rabbi Jacob Max, *Emeritus, Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah - Liberty Jewish Center* • Rabbi Michael Meyerstein, *Baltimore Board of Rabbis* • Rabbi Phil Miller, *Jewish Community Center* • Rabbi Randi Chudakoff Nagel • Rabbi Scott Nagel, *Temple Oheb Shalom* • Rabbi Joshua Neely, *Beth Israel Congregation* • Rabbi Jeffrey Orkin, *Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital* • Rabbi Jonathan Panitz, *Bolton Street Synagogue* • Rabbi Mark J. Panoff, *Temple Isaiah* • Rabbi Avram Israel Reisner, *Chevrei Tzedek Congregation* • Rabbi Gila Ruskin, *Vice-President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, Harford Jewish Center* • Rabbi Sheila Russian • Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen, *Baltimore Hebrew Congregation* • Rabbi Dana Saroken, *Beth El Congregation* • Rabbi Amy Scheinerman, *Second Vice-President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, Beth Shalom Congregation of Carroll County* • Rabbi Dr. Paul D. Schneider, *Krieger Schechter Day School of Chizuk Amuno* • Rabbi Dr. Tsvi G. Schur, *Jewish Community Services* • Rabbi Steven Schwartz, *Immediate Past-President, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, Beth El Congregation* • Rabbi Stuart Seltzer, *The Shoshana S. Cardin School* • Rabbi Ronald Shulman, *Chizuk Amuno Congregation* • Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky, *Baltimore Hebrew Congregation* • Rabbi Ross Singer, *Beth Tfilob Congregation* • Rabbi Ruth Smith, *University of Maryland Medical System* • Rabbi Josh Snyder, *Goucher College Hillel* • Rabbi Sonya Starr, *Columbia Jewish Congregation* • Rabbi Deborah Wechsler, *Secretary, Baltimore Board of Rabbis, Chizuk Amuno Congregation* • Rabbi Mitchell Wohlberg, *Beth Tfilob Congregation* • Rabbi Alan Yuter, *B'nai Israel Congregation* • Rabbi Joel Zaiman, *Emeritus, Chizuk Amuno Congregation* • Rabbi Lawrence Ziffer, *Center For Jewish Education*

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