

International Israelite Board of Rabbis

בינלאומי מועצה הישראלית של רבנים



2016 Israelite Convention

August 19-21

New York City

“A New Era of Cooperation”



INAUGURATION
OF
CHIEF RABBI CAPERS SHMUEL FUNNYE

PROGRAM

I. Friday Morning Hampton Inn Hotel

102-40 Ditmas Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY 11369

10:00 AM, Leadership Summit, Conference Room (official delegates only)

Site seeing / Shopping / Tours of New York City (Self-Scheduled)

3:00 PM Press Conference

II. Friday Evening / Erev Shabbat Service and Kiddush Dinner

Beth Shalom Hebrew Congregation

730 Willoughby Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11206

Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levy, Spiritual Leader

7:00 PM Prayer Service in the Sanctuary

Welcome Address “*On The Wings of Eagles*”

Rabbi Sholomo Ben Levy, Israelite Board of Rabbis, President and
Spiritual Leader of Beth Elohim Hebrew Congregation

Kiddush Meal Served

After Dinner Speakers include:

Simchah Kebede, Official Nigerian Delegate

III. Shabbat Morning Service 8:30 AM

B'nai Adath Kol Beth Yisrael
1006 Greene Ave. Brooklyn NY 11221
Rabbi Baruch A. Yehudah, Spiritual Leader

Musical Selections (various choirs and soloists)

IV. 12:00 Inauguration Ceremony of Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Funnye

During the inaugural Ceremony you will see the Chief Rabbi invested with as implements of his office. These are explained below.

The Robe of State

The robe of state has the names of the twelve tribes on the shoulders as well as the names and emblems of the congregations and organizations that the Chief is responsible to guide. This is reminiscent of the Ephod that the High Priest wore that caused him to bear the children of Yisrael upon his shoulders.

The Mitre

Although similar in style, the Chief's mitre is higher than that of his colleagues and embossed with ancient writing to remind him of his place before the Creator.

The Yad

Like all rabbis, the yad represents the symbol of the authority to lead his people in the ways of Torah. The Chiefs handcrafted Yad is his symbol of authority to direct the entire community in the ways of Torah . The rabbis will present their yadim to him as a symbol that they trust him to lead their communities.

V. Recognition of Dignitaries. Partial List includes:

Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, Chief Rabbi of Uganda
Shmuel Legesse, Official Ethiopian Delegate
Cohen Okorie, Igbo Leader, Nigeria
Rabbi Debra Bowen, Congregation Temple Beth El

VI Kiddush Meal Served

VII Bet Din Presentation, Saturday 8:30 PM

Beth Shalom Hebrew Congregation
730 Willoughby Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11206
Rabbi Yeshurun Ben Levy, Spiritual Leader

The purpose of this gathering is to explain the Israelite judicial system for resolving disputes and establishing minhagim (customs). We will explain the basis in Torah and history for the Bet Din operated by the Israelite Board of Rabbis. Several rabbinic judges and Torah scholars will give a brief description and answer questions from the public.

VIII Inaugural Ball & Banquet , Sunday 1:00-5:00

Rose Castle
380 Flushing Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11205

Master of Ceremony, **Dahved Levy** of WBL

Dinner, Entertainment, and Pageant

Special Guest: **Rabbi Gideon Shloush**, President of the New York Board of Rabbis

Honoree: **Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Funnye**

We thank all the members of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis, all the synagogues and organizations that supported us, the Israelite Community Vision Counsel for their hospitality services, and everyone who volunteered, registered for these events, purchased banquet tickets, and placed ads in our journal. "Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

Declaration of African Israelite Peoplehood

Article 1 We affirm our brotherhood with and membership in the Jewish people of the world.

Article 2 We affirm that all Jews are part of one glorious people without regard to race, nationality, or ethnicity.

Article 3 We affirm our African origin only as a means of identifying our historic connection with the Biblical Israelites. The Torah teaches us that God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Jacob and his 12 sons settled in Egypt. There in Africa over the next 400 years we became Bnai Israel, “The Children of Israel,” or simply Israelites. At the time of Moses, these Israelites—who were all African people by birth for centuries—were delivered by God who led them through the wilderness, gave them the Torah, and brought them from Africa to the land of Israel. Given this oft repeated genealogy, no true Israelite can deny the deep African roots of our people.

Article 4 We accept and embrace those Jews who by reason of migration, dispersion, exile, slavery, or immigration have settled in and created beautiful Jewish communities on the continents of Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Article 5 We strongly affirm the Biblical prophecies contained in the Torah (Deuteronomy 28) and revealed by the prophets that foretold of a time when the Children of Israel would be scattered across the face of the earth, returned to slavery, carried in ships to foreign lands, lose knowledge of their true identity, and come to serve false gods until a time that the Creator shall chose to bring them back. Our existence is literal proof of these prophecies.

Article 6 We affirm that the Divine promise of the return of “lost Jews” is being fulfilled now by the spiritual awakening of dispersed people to their true Israelite heritage. The Torah refers to this Divine act as Shuvah (return). Those who are returning to their Israelite identities should not be treated like aliens (Gier) or strangers (Goyim), who must be converted. Instead they should be greeted as our long lost brothers and welcomed back into Kahal Yisrael following a process of purification, circumcision, education, affirmation of the oneness of the God of Israel, and a commitment to live according to the laws of Torah. Although many of these steps are identical to a Halachic conversion, the distinction between Israelites who are returning to their faith and foreigners who wish to join the Jewish people for the first time is preserved. Following either method of induction, all Jews should be considered equal.

Article 7 We affirm that each Jewish community is unique and entitled to maintain distinctive traditions that collectively represent the true diversity of Jewish culture as long as these practices or beliefs are not in conflict with the fundamental tenants of Torah. No single branch of Judaism should exercise hegemonic control over any other. Each should be free to learn, borrow, and develop as their leaders deem appropriate.

**Final wording of this document will be determined by convention delegates.*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

James Weldon Johnson, 1871 - 1938