



PASSED RESOLUTIONS

תשס"ו – 2006

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY  כנסת הרבנים

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Rabbi Jay M. Kornsgold, *chair*; Rabbi Paul S. Drazen, *parliamentarian*;
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Rabbi Lee Paskind, Rabbi Eric Rosin, Rabbi Charles Savenor, Rabbi Brian Strauss, Rabbi Ari Sunshine

2006-1: RESOLUTION COMMENDING RABBI ISMAR SCHORSCH ON HIS LEADERSHIP AS CHANCELLOR OF THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Whereas Rabbi Ismar Schorsch has served The Jewish Theological Seminary as Chancellor for the past twenty years with distinction;

Whereas Rabbi Schorsch articulated his vision to the community with the publication of *Sacred Cluster: The Core Values of Conservative Judaism*;

Whereas Rabbi Schorsch implemented that vision by committing JTS to train the next generation of Jewish educators by establishing the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education;

Whereas Rabbi Schorsch has continued his commitment to Jewish education by serving as a guiding force behind the establishment of the Solomon Schechter High School of New York;

Whereas Rabbi Schorsch established Project Judaica to bring his vision of Conservative Judaism to Jews living in the Former Soviet Union;

Whereas Rabbi Schorsch has led JTS to serve as a Jewish voice on public issues from expanding the rights and religious identity of Conservative/Masorti Jews in Israel, to the environment, to bioethics, and healthcare;

Whereas Rabbi Schorsch's personal commitment to scholarship and academic excellence has been a model for the faculty and students at JTS; and

Whereas under Rabbi Schorsch's leadership, The Jewish Theological Seminary successfully completed a \$250 million capital campaign.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly extol Rabbi Schorsch on his twenty years of dedicated service to The Jewish Theological Seminary;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly praise Rabbi Schorsch for his commitment to a strong world-wide Conservative/Masorti Jewry; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly wish him hatzlahah rabbah in his future endeavors as a scholar and teacher among the Jewish people.

2006-2: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSERVATIVE/MASORTI MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly is holding its first international convention in Latin America and it is an historic occasion;

Whereas the Conservative/Masorti Rabbis in Latin America often work under difficult conditions in order to spread the words of Torah, and Judaism;

Whereas the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano is the only Conservative/Masorti institution in Latin America training educators and rabbis who are equipped to confront this shifting world and its challenges; and

Whereas its graduates serve the Jewish people globally ranging geographically from Argentina to the United States, and from Chile to Israel.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly applaud and encourage the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano Marshall Meyer and its teachers and authorities to continue its good works; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly encourage all Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer graduates who continue their efforts to spread the vision of Torah common to the Conservative/ Masorti Movement throughout Latin America.

Considerando que por primera vez se realiza una Convención de la Rabbinical Assembly en Latino America siendo ésta una ocasión histórica;

Considerando que los Rabinos Conservadores/Masorti en América Latina a menudo trabajan en condiciones difíciles para poder transmitir las palabras de la Torá y del judaísmo;

Considerando que el Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano es la única institución Conservadora/Masortí en América Latina que forma educadores y rabinos preparados para confrontar este mundo cambiante y sus desafíos; y

Considerando que sus graduados atienden al pueblo judío globalmente en un área geográfica que se extiende desde Argentina hasta los Estados Unidos y desde Chile hasta Israel.

Se resuelve que la Rabbinical Assembly aplauda y aliente al Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer y a sus profesores y autoridades a continuar con su excelente labor; y

Se resuelve también que la Rabbinical Assembly estimule a todos los graduados del Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer a continuar sus esfuerzos de transmitir la visión de la Torá de acuerdo al Movimiento Conservador/Masortí a través del continente Latinoamericano.

2006-3: RESOLUTION ON GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly is greatly concerned by the resurgence of anti-Semitism around the globe;

Whereas the President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad publicly and unabashedly proclaimed his goals of “wiping Israel off the map” and creating a world “without the United States and Zionism,” funds terrorist activities in Israel, spearheads his country’s development of nuclear weapons and is seeking to deny that the Holocaust ever happened;

Whereas in the Middle East, leaders have turned a blind eye against false and incendiary allegations such as the Holocaust denial, infamous blood libel, and comparisons of Israel and Israeli leaders to Nazis;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority has continued to proffer anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric in their classrooms and media;

Whereas anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and incidents continue to escalate in Europe and other countries around the globe; and

Whereas on university campuses manifestations of intellectual intolerance towards the legitimacy of the State of Israel and the Zionist movement persist.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly applaud the United States, Germany, England, Canada, and other governments for speaking out against all manifestations of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel behavior and ask that its rabbis express their thanks to these governments; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call upon government and religious leaders, academicians, and members of our own communities world-wide to condemn anti-Semitism, to insist that violent attacks against Jewish institutions and individuals will not be tolerated by civilized society, and make it clear that the way to bring about peace in the Middle East is to engage in continuous dialogue.

2006-4: RESOLUTION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN ISRAEL

Background: The Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee under the chairmanship of MK Michael Eitan, has worked for many months to produce a draft constitution for the State of Israel, which is to be reported out of committee in March 2006. Parallel to those efforts, more than one Israeli "think tank" has also issued its own draft proposal. All of these proposals need to tackle the issues of religion and state, which are among the key disagreements that have blocked the adoption of a constitution ever since 1948.

One well-funded institution has produced its own draft of a "constitution by consensus," which, despite its proclamation of freedom of religious expression and practice, would block all avenues of judicial appeal regarding the existing monopoly of the Orthodox state rabbinate over issues of personal status. That would effectively undermine the draft constitution's enumeration of citizens' rights and eliminate its religious freedom plank, thereby entrenching the existing Orthodox monopoly over marriage and divorce in constitutional law. The Rabbinical Assembly Israel Region and the Masorti Movement have expressed their opposition to that proposal and their concern that there be no provision undermining complete religious equality adopted in any document that would become the foundation of the relationship of religion and state in Israel.

Resolution:

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly has historically over the past 100 years supported the centrality of the State of Israel in the life of the Jewish people;

Whereas the State of Israel has been governed by the principle of Basic Law since its establishment without the benefit of a Constitution establishing the rights and responsibilities of Israel's citizens and their government;

Whereas the laws governing personal status (e.g., marriage and divorce) in the State of Israel is still regulated by Ottoman law in force before the Mandate period which grants a monopoly over the regulation of the personal status of Israel's Jewish citizens to the Orthodox state rabbinate; and

Whereas proposals for a Constitution for the State of Israel have been issued by the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee and by several private organizations.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on the Knesset to guarantee in any Constitution equal status for the mainstream expressions of Jewish religious life, without the establishment of any one of them as the sole recognized authority for the Jewish religious community; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly insist that the Knesset ensure that marriages and divorces entered into in the State of Israel under the auspices of rabbis of any of the established and recognized forms of Jewish religious life, including members of the Rabbinical Assembly, be recognized as valid and binding under Israeli civil law.

2006-5: RESOLUTION ON JEWISH EDUCATION

Whereas the Torah teaches us, “וּשְׁנַנְתֶּם לְבָנֵיכֶם – and you shall teach your children” (Deuteronomy 6:7) and this call to literacy has been a hallmark of Jewish civilization for over 3,000 years and has ensured Jewish survival;

Whereas the National Jewish Population Study (NJPS) of 2001 revealed that identification with Judaism, observance, the Jewish people, and the State of Israel is highest among those with the greatest level of Jewish education;

Whereas Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary, at the 2005 Biennial Convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) announced a “bold entitlement proposal” to invest in the future by providing free supplementary or day school Jewish education or summer camp for every Jewish child from grades 1-12 whose family is affiliated with a synagogue or a JCC; and

Whereas there are pilot communities in the United States that are currently heavily subsidizing Jewish day school education by placing a cap on tuition.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly endorse Chancellor Schorsch’s bold entitlement proposal;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly continue to work closely and diligently with the United Jewish Communities (UJC), local Federations, and USCJ to actively pursue creative ways in which the proposal may be implemented;

Be it further resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly actively recruit potential donors in order to be able to bring this initiative to fruition; and

Be it further resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly continue to seek ways to promote Jewish education in Solomon Schechter Day Schools, Camps Ramah, supplementary schools, synagogues, and Jewish community centers.

2006-6: RESOLUTION ON POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Whereas Jewish tradition commands us to “open your hand [to the poor person] and provide sufficient for the need” (Deut. 15:8), and reminds us that “just as God clothed the naked...so too must you supply clothes for the naked [poor]” (Talmud B. Sotah 14a);

Whereas the Jewish community has long demonstrated a commitment to economic and social justice in the United States as exemplified by the involvement of hundreds of Conservative synagogues, schools and camps in social justice programs such as food banks, homeless shelters, home rebuilding projects and medical clinics;

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly has been on record as advocating for the rights of the needy in “You Shall Strengthen the Poor: A Rabbinical Letter on the Poor” by Rabbi Elliot Dorff as well as several resolutions over the course of many years;

Whereas the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the poor of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast disproportionately as many of them were already living on the margins and could not evacuate for lack of the means to do so, exposing the poverty which still exists in America and which has been ignored in a country that prides itself on lifting up the downtrodden;

Whereas between 2001 and 2004, the number of Americans in poverty jumped by more than four million, to 37 million people and the number of Americans without health insurance has increased by 6 million since 2000, bringing the number of uninsured to 46 million, all taking place during a period of economic recovery; and;

Whereas the United States Congress has already cut \$40 billion in important social service programs projected to take place over the next 10 years - \$4.9 billion from child support enforcement, \$12.7 billion from student aid programs and \$10.1 billion from Medicaid.

Therefore be it resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly speak out in their pulpits and in other appropriate venues against Unites States Federal budget cuts impacting the disenfranchised, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled; and

Be it further resolved that the leadership of the Rabbinical Assembly and its members communicate with members of the United States Congress and other federal, state and local officials to provide adequate funding for a range of social services including Medicaid, child care, education, and student aid.

2006-7: RESOLUTION ON GLOBAL POVERTY

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly is comprised of colleagues who care deeply about the state of the world, תיקון עולם, and משפטי צדק, the laws of justice and righteousness as prescribed by the Torah and Prophets of Israel;

Whereas members of the Rabbinical Assembly have the potential for enormous influence throughout the world by standing up for moral principles, as both Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer exemplified in their time and place in history;

Whereas it is known that there are sufficient resources to end extreme poverty in our world, a poverty that leaves billions living on \$1 a day and suffering from malnutrition and disease where thousands of children die each day before their fifth birthday; and

Whereas the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions, thus galvanizing unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly reaffirm its 2000 Resolution supporting international debt relief calling on wealthy nations to forgive the debt of poor nations and require those nations as a condition of the debt relief package to increase spending on their health care system, educational programs, and micro loans to help people start businesses and relieve poverty as part of the 'Jubilee Principle' articulated by the concept of Yovel in the Torah and as agreed to at the most recent G8 summit;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call upon the World Bank and governments to make foreign aid contingent on an increase in micro loans to start small businesses and to remove bureaucratic, economic, and legal barriers to foreign investment in those countries seeking aid, and to send agricultural and other technical experts to those countries as Israel has done;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call upon all countries and in particular, those in which our members reside, to urge that they honor their pledges of foreign aid; and

Be it further resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly speak out about this issue, support programs that educate us and our constituents on this issue, such as the American Jewish World Service, MAZON, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Ziv Tzedakah Fund and work in collaboration with local interfaith clergy to communicate with governmental officials to establish a world which supports the dignity and worth of each and every human being.

2006-8: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PIDYON AND ERADICATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ISRAEL

Background: In an official Knesset committee report published just a month before Pesach 2005, it was estimated that 3000 women are illegally smuggled into Israel through the Egyptian border. They are enticed to come, mostly from the Former Soviet Union, with promises of a good job and better life. They are then sold into sexual slavery at “auctions” at \$8000-10,000. These women, 23 yrs old on average, are raped, abused, incarcerated and threatened, “servicing” 10-15 clients over 14-18 hrs a day, 7 days a week. The women become indentured slaves with an ever growing debt to their owners. Israeli men of all walks of life pay approximately 1,000,000 visits to brothels per month and the profits from this illicit activity are estimated at 750 million dollars annually.

The organization Pidyon, through its Task Force on Human Trafficking (www.tfht.org), and other human rights organizations work to assist individuals entrapped in this system, advocate for them and for laws to prevent further abuses, and to lobby legislators, judges and law enforcement officials to stop the cycle of abusers, “clients” and bystanders who enable this depraved trade in human beings. It is crucial that the authorities understand that human trafficking is slavery. Women and especially children are physically and emotionally abused and made to fear for their lives. Israel has made clear efforts to address this problem, but more work remains. The State of Israel must adopt a zero tolerance approach to human trafficking.

Resolution:

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly has adopted a strong stand against the worldwide enslavement of human beings in its Resolution on Worldwide Slavery (2002), based on the teaching that every human being is created “בצלם אלהים - in God’s image;”

Whereas this global practice affects 600,000 to 800,000 human beings each year;

Whereas in Israel this problem has grown into the enslavement and abuse of some 3,000 people, mainly women, each year despite the efforts of the authorities;

Whereas in the Jewish State human trafficking is unacceptable as it is inconsistent with Jewish teaching about the value of every human soul and our history as a people who has known oppression and enslavement; and

Whereas Pidyon and other organizations work to: 1) free and support those able to escape; and 2) urge changes in the laws to prosecute those who enslave others.

Therefore be it resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly educate themselves and their communities about this global epidemic of human enslavement;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on its members to endorse the Pidyon Rabbinic Petition calling on all Israeli officials to take increased action to stop human trafficking;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly and its members collaborate with elected and other governmental officials to bring about an end to human trafficking in Israel and around the globe; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly partner with Pidyon and other anti-slavery groups to bring an end to this abusive practice in Israel and around the world.

2006-9: RESOLUTION ON INTELLIGENT DESIGN AND THE FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

Whereas the Rabbinical Assembly, an association of religious leaders with deep faith, believing in the truth of our Torah and the teachings of traditional rabbinic Judaism, also believes that a literal reading of Genesis otherwise known as Creationism is not a dogma of Judaism;

Whereas it is a Jewish religious obligation to study and understand God's creation through intellectual inquiry and scientific research and whereas such study is one of the foundations of piety (משנה תורה יסודי התורה 2:1);

Whereas religion and science are both sources of truth which propel us to protect and support the academic disciplines which provide free scientific inquiry;

Whereas it has been shown that the concept of Intelligent Design does not fulfill the characteristics of a legitimate scientific theory and is in fact a theological argument for the existence of God and evolution can be incorporated into a Jewish theology of Creation;

Whereas many proponents of Intelligent Design seek to impose a Creationist agenda by teaching it in the American public school science curriculum which would: 1) constitute a break down of the separation of religion and state which is contrary to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, 2) be a suppression and distortion of scientific findings by religious groups; 3) have serious consequences for human health, public safety, and community well-being; and

Whereas this attack on the freedom of scientific inquiry include issues involving air pollutants, global warming, reproductive health, drug resistant bacteria, endangered species, forest health, and military intelligence.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly oppose any effort to introduce the religious based teaching of Intelligent Design into American public school science classes;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly continue to support scientific inquiry and research free of any religious or political interference or coercion;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly continue to support the separation of religion and state according to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

Be it further resolved that Rabbinical Assembly members contact state and local school board officials in communicating the Rabbinical Assembly's position.

2006-10: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS FOR THE AGING

Background: 1. For many years Interfaith Caregivers provided a loose national network of local groups that trained volunteers to provide support services for seniors to enable them to remain in their homes as long as possible. This network became subsumed under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Faith in Action program.

2. In the last several years the United Jewish Communities has encouraged local federations around the United States to seek federal grants to give similar social services to seniors living in their own communities to allow them to gracefully “age in place.” These so-called “Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities” or NORCs present the challenge of a large aging senior population. They also present the possibility of providing a wide array of supports and programs for these people to make their last years truly “golden years.”

Resolution:

Whereas the Torah instructs us “מפני שיבה תקום והדרת פני זקן” (“rise before the hoary head and give honor to the face of the elderly”, Lev. 19:32);

Whereas the Rabbis recognize the elderly as those with the wisdom acquired through life experience by interpreting “זקן (elderly)” as “זה שקנה חכמה” (“one who has acquired wisdom”);

Whereas due to enhanced medical technology and healthcare people live longer today than at any other time in human history;

Whereas the percentage of seniors (those over 65 years of age) in the US has jumped from 4.1% (in 1900) to 8.1% (1950) to 13% (in 1997), with the “oldest old” (those 85 and over) the fastest growing segment increasing 280% from 1960 to 1994;

Whereas, as a result, our senior citizens have more need of support and services to enable their “golden years” to be truly a time of celebration and not increasing infirmity and isolation;

Whereas many Conservative congregations have established Hazak chapters under the umbrella of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to serve the needs of its senior members; and

Whereas there are programs and agencies such as Interfaith Caregivers/Faith in Action and the United Jewish Communities-coordinated NORC support organizations – which provide services and offer such supports and create new opportunities to meet the growing needs of seniors with dignity and compassion.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly encourage its members to explore forging interfaith coalitions under Faith in Action or similar programs in other countries;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly encourage its members in the United States to work with or seek funding for further NORC support organizations;

Be it further resolved that the members of the Rabbinical Assembly encourage and support the work of their Hazak chapters; and

Be it further resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly involve their organizations’ members in performing this mitzvah of גמילות חסדים on a large scale to meet the increasing needs of this growing and important segment of our population so they may reach their last days in dignity.

Passed by the Rabbinical Assembly Convention March, 2006

2006-11: RESOLUTION ON RESPONDING TO THE ONGOING WAR IN IRAQ

Rabbi Yose HaGalili says, “How meritorious is peace? Even in time of war Jewish law requires that one initiate discussions of peace.” (Leviticus Rabbah, Tzav 9);

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries remain engaged in armed conflict in Iraq;

Whereas Judaism affirms the justice of war only as a response to life-threatening aggression, current or anticipated;

Whereas Judaism also affirms the supreme value of peace and peacemaking;

Whereas Judaism insists on the humane treatment of prisoners under all circumstances (see, for example, Deuteronomy 21); and

Whereas Jewish history and tradition express the hope that justice will ultimately triumph over violence.

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on its members and their communities to speak out against torture as a tool of war;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on its members and their communities to maintain support for civil liberties during a time of war;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on its members and their communities to create educational forums to teach about war and Jewish laws of war, and to imagine resolutions that might bring closure to the current conflict;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on its members and their communities to communicate the results of such discussions to local and national elected and other governmental officials and to the press in order to give voice in the public sphere to our perspectives on war and peace; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call on its members and their communities to remain active in support of soldiers of all faiths and extend special blessings to the military chaplains (including members of the Rabbinical Assembly) who are risking their lives on behalf of us all.

2006-12: RESOLUTION ON CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Whereas the most treasured values of Americans as enshrined in the laws and Constitution of the United States are under attack;

Whereas among the most revered of these is America's regard for civil rights and civil liberties;

Whereas Jewish tradition teaches of one's obligation to defend oneself against those who have and/or will attack;

Whereas Jewish tradition supports the establishment of a basic normative order and governance that ensures peace and security for the citizens of all lands as exemplified by the instructions of Moses to Jethro in Exodus 18;

Whereas Jewish tradition establishes the principle of נזק ראייה – damage done by looking into the private property of another person; and

Whereas the domestic surveillance programs that have come to light demonstrate how the Administration has weakened a number of Constitutional and statutory protections through its interpretation of the Patriot Act as well as by its assertion of "implicit authority" in its interpretation of the Congressional Resolution of September 14, 2001 (which authorized the use of force against those responsible for the attacks of September 11).

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly call upon the United States government to abide by the letter and spirit of its Constitution;

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly applaud the efforts of the United States Congress to seriously examine the implications of all aspects of the Patriot Act so as to guarantee that the very values those who attack us seek to destroy are not undone from within; and

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly look to the United States Congress to provide appropriate review of such acts that might weaken our civil liberties thereby providing the necessary "checks and balances" that are the hallmark of American governance.

2006-13: RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NEW ORLEANS JEWISH COMMUNITY FOLLOWING HURRICANE KATRINA

Whereas the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing flood that breached the floodwalls and the levee system of New Orleans has become one of the United States' worst disasters ever;

Whereas Jews have lived in and participated in the life of the greater New Orleans area for generations, building up a visible civic presence, the loss of which would have repercussions not only in New Orleans and Louisiana but nationally;

Whereas the Jewish community in the New Orleans, which previously numbered between 10-12,000 individuals, has seen a tremendous decline and despair in its population in the wake of the hurricane; and

Whereas it is important to show solidarity with both the general and Jewish communities of New Orleans mipnei darkhei shalom;

Therefore be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly, as a show of solidarity, will hold a kallah, if possible, in conjunction with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, whose main function is limmud in New Orleans, Louisiana, before Sept. 2008, infrastructure permitting;

Be it further resolved that the aforementioned kallah will include in its schedule at least one plenary session in one of New Orleans' historic Jewish locations, open to and inviting Jewish New Orleanians to be present and to benefit from Rabbinical Assembly programming.

Be it further resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly express its solidarity with the Jewish community of New Orleans, all the people of New Orleans, and all those who were stricken by Hurricane Katrina.