



Executive Council of Australian Jewry



Baruch Dayan HaEmet – a tribute to the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z”l

Messages to the Sacks Family

11 November 2020

Anthony Cohen

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF WISDOM TO THE LIFE OF ALL OF US

Ian

It was truly a memorable experience, to share A YOM KIPPUR WITH RABBI LORD J SACKS at the Marble Arch West Shule a few years ago.

His wonderful insights into all modern aspects of life, were remarkable.

We are honoured to have spent this time in his presence!

Ian and Barbara BEJER

Fred Zartz

Rav todot for the life of Rabbi Sacks, the most inspiring Jewish leader of our time. May his memory be blessed.

Thalia & Georgie

Giving thanks for his integrity and his book The Dignity of Difference which my mother bought and now I have

David Knoll

Rabbi Sacks was a “gadol” – a giant, both within the Jewish world and the wider society. He gained international recognition for his erudition, moral clarity, the depth of his scholarship, his highly acclaimed books, publications and podcasts, each a reflection upon the role of faith and Torah in the modern age.

Many were first introduced to Rabbi Sacks’ global perspective in his 2002 work, “The Dignity of Difference” published in the wake of September 11th. In it, he spoke sensitively to an enflamed world when affirming his foundational belief in One God that “does (and should), speak in many languages and allows for many paths to God’s presence.”

The Union for Progressive Judaism, and the Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors joins with k’lal Yisrael – the entirety of the Jewish people and people of conscience around the world, in mourning his passing following a short illness at the age of 72.

The world is richer for the manifold contributions of this gracious, intellectual giant.

David D. Knoll AM

Robyn Goldman

We have lost a giant of Judaism the world is a sadder place. may his memory be a blessing.
Robyn and Bruce Goldman Melbourne Australia

Alex Goodman

I have met Rabbi Sacks ז"ל 2 times in Melbourne. One of the most brilliant & interesting Zadiks I have ever met. An incredible loss to World Jewry... Baruch Dayan Haemet ברוך דיין האמת

Rony Yousef

May his memories be a blessing to all humanity, we will miss him greatly. his spot will show for many years to come. I admire his passion for Jewish community and for life. B.D.E

George Foster

Having met Rabbi Sacks only once in Sydney, we were nevertheless touched by his compassion, erudition, knowledge and concern for humanity. His passing is an immense loss for the Jewish community worldwide and indeed for humankind as a whole. we wish his family a long life and that his life and legacy will be remembered for eternity. George and Margaret Foster, Sydney, Australia.

Helen Shardey

I met Rabbi Sacks "Z"l at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Shul built next to the Kimberley Gardens Hotel many years ago. I was still the Member for Caulfield. I recall an intelligent erudite man who managed to impart words of wisdom during our short conversation. The Jewish and broader world will miss a great man. Helen Shardey

Misha Clebaner

Rabbi Sacks was an innovator and a champion of tradition. The North Shore Temple Emanuel (Chatswood) sends our condolences to the entire Sacks family. May his memory be for a blessing. זכר צדיק לברכה.

Gary Robuck

I have held Rabbi Sacks' teaching in highest regard for many years. As a Progressive Rabbi, Rabbi Sacks z'l was a constant presence at our study tables and his insights inspired many of my students. I have incorporated his charming and deeply meaningful "doodly" video, "Why I am a Jew" in my Bar and Bat mitzvah instruction and it is now the culminating lesson required of all students and their parents. His weekly podcasts have accompanied me on many a morning walk. I will miss him far more than could be expected of a person I had occasion to meet only once during a visit to Sydney some years ago. A true ish devarim and a holy, ish ma'aseh. Thank you Rabbi for leaving us such a glorious legacy of learning.

Frank Selch

Rabbi Sack's writings have left a profound impression on my and my wife's life, worldview and thinking; especially his book "The Dignity of Difference". His memory will continue to a blessing. ברוך דיין האמת

Tony Jacoby

From Tony Jacoby and on behalf of the Jacoby family in Sydney, my father Bernie often spoke proudly of his cousin, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Although we didn't know Rabbi Sacks personally, we felt a strong connection through my father's words and thoughts. We wish you and your family a long life and best wishes.

Helen Brustman OAM

I wish Elaine and all the family, my deepest and heartfelt sympathy on the sad passing of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.. Such a brilliant Rabbi, Orator and author.....I enjoyed when you and him came to Melbourne.... My prayers of comfort are with you at this sad time.....It was an honour to meet such a brilliant Rabbi.....

I was so lucky to meet Rabbi Sacks 3 times.in Melbourne.... Such a great honour... A brilliant Rabbi, Orator and author, with a warm personality and so much charisma. My deepest sympathy to Elaine and all his family, who he was so proud of. My prayers of comfort are with you all. My warmest Helen Brustman OAM

Melinda Jones

My encounter with Rabbi Sacks z"l was, as it was for so many people, through the written word, the pages of his books and then his writings on the internet. His manner of explaining Judaism in the context of modern daily life was unparalleled. His secular learning informed his Jewish wisdom and his Jewish learning informed his principled understanding of the modern world. As

a spokesperson for the Jewish world, he will be missed. As a thought leader he will be missed. As a man who could share our distress at the loss of Leonard Cohen, among others, he will be missed. The Jewish women of Australia send our condolences to his family and share their sorrow at his loss. He will remain a light and a blessing. Melinda Jones, President National Council of Jewish Women Australia.

Ida Lichter

Sincere condolences to the grieving family of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and all best wishes for their long life and no further sorrows.

My family is inconsolable by the passing of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks!

His words resonated through the week and beyond after we studied his weekly Parashah. Our Shabbat guests were also deeply moved and often began their own studies through his work. Non-Jewish attendees asked to be re-invited so they could hear the Parashah and take part in the discussion.

Jo Fletcher

Had the pleasure of attending a couple of evenings at our son's school in London. He was the most engaging speaker. Such a Mensch. What a sad loss.

Vivien Brass

May His Memory Be A Blessing. Vivien Brass, Chair Asia Pacific Region, ICJW

Suzanne Aladjem

Loss of a unique man, loss to the world RIP

Jeffrey Appel

An inspiration person who shared with us his knowledge, insight and teaching for which I will be forever grateful. May his memory be a blessing

Renata Schnall

The world is a poorer place without Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. My condolences to the Rabbi's wife, children, grandchildren, family and congregation.

Gregory Rose

We sorrow at his passing.

Doreen Finkelstein

The speakers tonight have spoken for me. Rabbi Sacks inspired me, and I learnt so much from his weekly writings. As has been said, he spoke to me. My condolences to you, his family. I am thankful for his life.

Chanah Wainer

If the role of the people of Israel is to be an Or l'goyim, then it likewise is each of our roles to embody that... it's an honour and a blessing to be able to wear that mantle as it were... we say may his memory be a blessing, but it seems, through his way, he has made our lives a blessing.

Gary Inberg

Our thoughts are with Rabbi Lord Jonathon Sacks family. It was a privilege to hear him speak on the two occasions at The Great Synagogue, Sydney. Susan & Gary Inberg

Bathsheba /Juanita Alyozha

Jonathan I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love and praise HASHEM for your life. My heart breaks within me. From today I will live my life in your name and in your footsteps. Bathsheba Zizi Alyozha

Emmanuel Nathan

As a Catholic, I respectfully join with all Jewish communities mourning the loss of the great Rabbi Lord Sacks - may his righteous memory be for a blessing. His writings and his talks have inspired members outside of his faith community. We are the poorer for his loss. But we will continue to cherish his memory and study his writings. He inspired in us a love for Judaism and the Jewish people. Memory eternal.

Amanda Wright

Rabbi Sacks shared his struggle with me to support me working with other religions. He and Elaine opened their home to me for shavuot when I had nowhere else to go. I will never forget the kindness. Sending love to Elaine and the family. May Hashem hold you tight now.

Mary-Louise Mc Laws

Thank you for organising this opportunity to listen to these beautiful tributes. Rabbi Lord Sacks was a blessing not only to our community but also to all of humanity - his wisdom will be greatly missed.

Julie Leder/Stacey Ford

Thank you to Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. I am new to Judaism, and once I found his writings, videos and website, it was always my first port of call for studying the Parashah HaShavua. I

love his Makhrorim - have them all - the essays and commentaries are fascinating, uplifting and enlightening. Thank you.

Judy Greenberg

A sad loss of an incredible human being. RIP.

Frits Trijbetz

Thank you to the family of our leader to allow Rabbi Sacks the time to share his wisdom with us. time for us, was at the expense of your family time, but extremely well spend. May your pain be exchanged into energy to continue building on his achievements.

Bernard Fridman

Rabbi Lord Sacks has left a incredible legacy of human dignity and respect. He was a man of G-d whose voice and writing up lifted all humanity irrespective of their religion. A unique Man R.I.P. was respected

Dianne Kuchar

A thank you for a most fitting tribute to Rabbi Sacks״. Beautiful words from the spectrum of our local Jewish Australian community.

Rachel Caplan

I was privileged to hear Rabbi Sacks z"l speak in Melbourne a number of years ago. I am a long-standing admirer of his wisdom and teachings. May his memory be blessed. My condolences to his family.

Ralph Schaefer

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has given the most insightful explanations of how to deal with or even understand this confusing world we live in. It's really hard to believe that his insightful contributions will now cease.

May his family find strength in his wonderful legacy. Baruch Dayan Ha Emet.

Susie Langley

When I learnt of Rabbi Sacks' passing I felt incredible sadness. I was deeply moved by his kind face. My deepest condolences to all his family. RIP, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Ronny Schnapp

Rebbetzin Sacks, I once had the privilege of meeting your husband not long after my husband and I were married, and I asked him what he thought was the secret to a long and successful marriage. He told me to think of something you are grateful for every day in your spouse, and to tell your spouse about it. I remember reflecting at the time how sincere he was, and thinking

what a beautiful, loving and respectful marriage you must have. I cannot imagine the grief you, and your family, are feeling now. Thank you for sharing your husband with the world. His writings were meaningful, thought-provoking and challenged us all to live a life of activism, where we aim to contribute to the world in a meaningful way. He will be sorely missed by us all, but our thoughts are with you and your family. May his memory be a blessing. Dr Mel Drinkwater, Ronny Schnapp and family.

Stephen Perry

I first encountered Rabbi Sachs at The Great Synagogue in Sydney and was so impressed with his engaging message and his gentle delivery. Since then I've been following his written words where I can. He is an inspiration. My sincerest condolences to his family. Baruch Dayan Ha Emet.

Suzanne Rutland

Rabbi Sack's z"l was an inspiration to all of us. He touched so many hearts and minds across the Jewish world. This was true not only for myself but also for my young students at the University of Sydney. His books were so central to the understanding of Modern Judaism and crucial to assist those starting on their university studies to understand what Judaism was all about. His is, indeed, a great loss to not only the Jewish world but for humanity in general. However, he has left a legacy not only in his writings but in the many talks which have been recorded so that his memory will continue to be a blessing for generations to come. Baruch Dayan Emet.

Hiam Sharp

May the wisdom of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks continue to enlighten us all for generations to

Karen Schwartz

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks will be very sadly missed.

Eva Fischl

There seems no adequate epitaph to describe Rabbi Lord Jonathon Sacks. He was a towering figure in the intellectual life of both Britain, and World Jewry. He was indeed once in a Century Figure.

I had the privilege of hearing him address the JDC Convention In the Knesset in Israel, and we all knew immediately that we were listening to no ordinary Speech... His message left a lasting impression.

Interestingly enough, the word used often in reference to him is "Light"...He brought Light into an often dark world and his words changed and enlightened the world by the power of his ideas.

We, at JDC like to think that for the last 106 years we "Light the Way" and in fact Channukah the Festival of Lights is the Chag we have chosen to represent us, as JDC by its actions, Lights the way for all the vulnerable Jews in 70 countries of the world.

Rabbi Jonathon Sacks, was not only a Light unto the Nations, but he made us proud of our faith, and taught us the intrinsic value of what it meant to be Jewish.

Personally, I shall always remember, his following words

“Some are born great, some achieve greatness. But if you are a Jew, you have greatness thrust upon you.”

With these words, we acquire not only the pride of our Judaism, but at the same time the obligation that we are the descendants of the most influential man who ever lived .. Moshe Rabbeinu...

And he inspires us to both acknowledge our heritage and to live up to it.

With his passing, a certain Light has faded from our Universe.

Jane Levi

The teachings and works of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks will be part of my life and my family's and all who have learnt from his life's work, both in the Jewish world and the non-Jewish world. He was a man for all humanity. Thank you Rabbi Lord Sacks for your wisdom and your inspiration. The books "The Dignity of Difference" and "Radical Then, Radical Now" are masterpieces. –

Eli Levi and Ezra Wexler (Sydney, Australia)

Learning from Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"L was a privilege, and even more so the Torah he shared – whether on the weekly parsha, on modern society and its values, or really on any topic – was so clearly grounded in a desire to make Judaism and its traditions accessible to everyone. Not just to those who had an upbringing immersed in Jewish practice; not just to those who could speak or read Hebrew; and not just to those who were born Jewish – to everyone. Rabbi Sacks' dedication to the pursuits of learning, education, harmony and justice is and will always remain inspiring. We are honoured to have many of Rabbi Sacks' works in our library at home. To Elaine, Joshua, Dina, Gila, and your entire family – May Rabbi Sacks' memory be a blessing always to you all.

Harry Chaim Oppermann

I was in tears when I heard the news about Rabbi Prof. Sacks.ztsl

He was one of my principal mentors in my personal faith and in my interfaith work, in which context hundreds more have heard his wisdom. His messages were so understandable to non-Jews.

R. Sacks often pointed out that although Judaism was not a universal religion, its teachings were universalising.

For me, he emphasised the humanity in the teachings of Judaism and the importance of being a peacemaker amongst the divisions in the world, and in our Jewish world.

I often quoted his homily that:

"This unique ethical vision: the love of G-d for humans and of humans for G-d, translated into an ethic of love toward both neighbour and stranger – is the foundation of civilization and its abiding glory. "

His message to young Jews in his YouTube " The Jewish Algorithm" is inspirational. His BBC debate with biologist Richard Dawkins demonstrated his chochma, skill, respectful attitude (even with an opponent,) and his huge intellect in refuting the claims of Prof Dawkins.

I attach two excerpts from lectures I prepared for the Canberra Interfaith Forum based on Rabbi Sacks' teachings:

"..the story of Abraham, commanded to be different, to show that G-d loves difference....

We can now summarise the human story as told in Genesis:

There are two perennial dangers:

The first is the lawlessness and violence we see in failed and failing states, that lack the rule of law.

The second is imperialism, the attempt to impose a single culture on a plural world.

Read this way, the Bible teaches that G-d creates cultural diversity just as He created biodiversity.

There is only one G-d but there may be more than one path to his presence.

That is what makes respect between faiths both possible and necessary.

It is a lesson we must never forget."

And his famous homily: What does it mean to be human?:

"to be human is to recognise the humanity of others, ...of those who are not like me, who do not live as I live - or believe as I believe - but who carry within them the mark of their Creator. Those who are not in my image are none the less in G-d's image. That is the vast proposition with which the Bible begins, and without it there cannot be a world of justice to the human condition."

Sincerely and in sorrow.. May his soul have an Aliyah

Harry Chaim Oppermann

Vice Chair of the 12 faith Canberra Interfaith Forum