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Reform community village

The Reform Movement, which has two kibbutzim in the Arava, is to set up a community village in central Galilee (as reported in our issue of October 23). Our report did not mention that information can be obtained from:

Haim Sharett, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 838 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10021. Tel: (212) 249-0100.

Itzhak Aharoni, Israel Action Group of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, 80 East End Rd., Finchley, London N3 2SY. Tel: (01) 349473.

Nathan Hecker, Zion Centre, P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg, 2000. Tel: 29 0417.
Miki Zimrin, NETZER, P.O.B. 128, St. Kilda, Victoria, 3182. Tel: (03) 51 1488.

NEWS REPORT

Fourth Israeli Reform rabbi ordained

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Moshe Yehudai, 43, of Ra'anana, last week became the fourth Israeli to be ordained as a Reform rabbi. Yehudai was ordained by Hebrew Union College President Alfred Gottschalk, at the college's Jerusalem campus. The ceremony was attended by members of the HUC Board of Governors and members of his family.



Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, ordains Moshe Yehudai. Right: A nameplate is fixed for the Reform Movement's community village in Galilee. Report below.

Yehudai, who for several years has served as spiritual leader of the Reform community in Kiryat Ono and Netanya, said that a rabbi in Israel must raise social issues before his congregants and point out all injustices. "From the attack on Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek by extremists last Shabbat, to the far-away Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun's sentence, to wrongdoing on the West Bank..." After thanking his close relatives, Yehudai proceeded to thank the head of the Pacifists' Union in Israel for "sharpening my moral senses." Yehudai spent six years in a development town after refusing, "as a pacifist" to serve in the Israel Defence Forces.

Gottschalk, who placed his hands on Yehudai's shoulders as a symbol of ordination, outlined his biography: Yehudai was born in Jerusalem in 1940; attended the Rubin Academy of Music; refused to be drafted but offered to serve double time in a development town, an idea which the IDF finally accepted; graduated from Ben-Gurion University; went to Toronto to live but returned when the Yom

Kippur War broke out; settled in Beersheba; received an MA from the Hebrew University; and started taking rabbinical courses at HUC. Gottschalk described Yehudai as having grown up in a "humanistic, traditionally observant home. His mother came from a long line of rabbis in Russia. He moved from socialism and pacifism to pacifism and *halachically* based humanistic Judaism."

Meanwhile, the groundbreaking ceremony for a \$25 million complex to include a library, youth hostel, archaeological research centre and classrooms for the Reform movement was held last week next to the Hebrew Union College facility in Jerusalem.



The buildings, designed by Moshe Safdie, will be constructed individually, as donors for the project are found.

Yaacov Friedler adds:

It's a long way from pledging to settle in Galilee during a weekend conference in Massachusetts to trekking to see the bare hilltop in Galilee earmarked for the settlement.

The four delegates, sent to spy out the land by the September weekend inauguration conference of Mitzpeh Halutz, are firmly committed to the scheme after two visits to the site recently. The Reform Movement community village is to be built on the Halutz hill, halfway between Acre and Safad in central Galilee.

The delegation was brought to Israel by Haim Sharett, the United Kibbutz Movement *shlich* to the Reform Movement in the U.S., who initiated the scheme.

They intend to start settling at the site early in 1985. So far 24 families have joined the *garin* (settlement group), among them six families that include at least one former Israeli.

There is no land for farming at the site and most of the residents will work in neighbouring towns like Carmiel and Safad, or at the new Tefen high technology industrial complex.

The Reform Movement has two kibbutzim, Yahel and Lotan, in the Arava.