

Rav Ari (Chwat) Shvat



Rav Ari (Chwat) Shvat is director of Rav Kook's archives in Beit HaRav, and is a world authority on Rav Kook's writings and philosophy. He served for several decades as one of the heads of the Israeli and overseas one-year Seminary programs for young women at the Orot Israel College and other programs for higher education. Raised in Riverdale, New York, Rav Ari did the Hesder Program at the Ohr Etzion and Kiryat Arba yeshivot, where he received smicha and served as a sergeant in Tzahal. He is also the author of "LeHarim Et HaDegel - The Israeli Flag and Hebrew Language in Judaism", and co-author of "Haskamot HaReiya"- Rav Kook's Letters of Approbation; "Otzrot HaReiya"- Unpublished Letters of Rav Kook; and the Ministry of Education's Educational Guide on "The Jewish Family". He holds a B.A. in Tanach and an M.A. in Jewish History and Talmud, and enjoys using his music as an educational medium. Rav Ari is currently a senior lecturer at Orot Israel College and lectures in many well-known educational institutes.

Rav Ari is a popular international lecturer, and has addressed hundreds of communities in Israel and abroad as Scholar-In-Residence, and for the Jewish Agency, O.U., Bnei Akiva, Mizrachi, Rabbanei Tzohar, and other religious and Zionist organizations in the U.S., Canada, Russia, France, England, and Switzerland. The Rav's warm personality, informal manner, and music, along with his philosophy and teaching style, have helped thousands of students from abroad deepen their connection with the Land, the People and the State of Israel. Rav Ari lives in Kochav HaShachar with his wife Tzvia and their seven children.

Lecture Topics

- Reassessing the Religious Relationship with the Secular State of Israel
- Judaism Without Israel – “Like an Ocean Without Water”
- Rejuvenating Zionism as a Gateway to Godliness, Morality and Monotheism
- The Anti-Zionist Religious and the Anti-Religious Zionists in Israel - A Practical Solution for Unity
- Could Zionism be Just Another False Messiah?
- “Lashon HaKodesh”- Strengthening the Role of Hebrew in American Jewish Education
- Appreciating the “Minutiae” of Rabbinic Mitzvot in the Eyes of HaRav Kook
- Tolerance as a Central Ideal in Judaism
- Youthful Idealism as the Basis of Education and Developing New Communal Leadership
- How Do We Know Religious-Zionism is Correct?
- Physical Fitness and Sports - Why Are the Heroes of Tanach also Military Heroes?

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