

יומן שג'ל

YOMÁN SHÉGGEL

Nº 2. Year 2. Issue 2013.

OUR WORK
AGAINST
RELIGIOUS
DISCRIMINATION
STRENGTHENS



EDITORIAL



This year 2013 was eventful and events high importance. In particular we had to confront serious effects on our integrity, which led us to helping for a help from control entities, police authorities and international organizations. Sad to see that as we move forward as a human community to a culture of interfaith peace, there are still some individuals who flaunting their unlimited political and socio-economic power, persist in kidnapping to

religion, attacking and trying to eliminate anyone who does not submit to their control, while they proclaim themselves the only one "official" voice of the exclusive and excluding of religions.

Given the seriousness of the situation, we had to resort to police, authorities of citizenship control and human rights NGOs due to the support and the judicial inquiries are made, in order to unmask to those responsible

However this has not stopped us in our determination to defend our religious identity and mission that God has entrusted to us, to work for peace among religions, as the basis for peace in the world ... and this year we have seen, more specifically, the support of God. From this, we give public testimony on this issue.

Shalom!

Rabbi RICHARD GAMBOA BEN-ELEAZAR
Manhíg of Shéggel

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YOMÁN SHÉGGEL

Year 2 Nº 2 5774/2013

Yomán Shéggel (Agenda Shéggel) is an electronic publication and free distribution of property of the SHÉGGEL Institute, which aims through her socializing activities, diffuse their thoughts and promoting a culture of worldwide interfaith peace.

SHÉGGEL is an individual and public religious entity that is aligned in the Independent and Liberal Judaism of Interfaith Vision. In pursuit of world peace giving priority to establishing peace among religions, leads and supports various initiatives in this area, and provides the human community in general diverse academic and liturgical services.




SHEIRÚT GLOBALI L'SHALOM
(Global Service for Peace)

Rabbi RICHARD GAMBOA BEN-ELEAZAR
Manhíg

MAGNOLIA ROJAS CASAS
Drafting and Revising
Photo Compilation

ZAMIR GAL ITZUV
Concept and Layout

E-mail: manhig.sheggel@gmail.com
Twitter: @richardgamboa77
Fanpage in Facebook
Bogotá D.C., Colombia



THE DANGER OF THE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, ONLY AMONG «OFFICIALITIES»

With great difficulty and not without criticism and demonization, we have advanced in general to a stage in history in which it is becoming aware of the great importance of rapprochement between Religions in general to establish in the world a culture of peace .

Although the concept of "world peace" is commonly associated with phrases from drawer beauty queens, or in other cases as a utopia, the constant threat of a Third World War (a fact that we were a great chance to witness the almost-imminent American military intervention in the Syrian civil war, which led to fears the onset of a direct military confrontation with the Russian Federation republics), the continuing threat of nuclear war with the annual harassment of Pyongyang to the world if the United States persists in making military presence in the region, and the continued internationalization of regional conflicts, are events that in the SHÉGGEL Institute generate to us anxieties and move us to accelerate everything dependent of us, so that world peace is a reality to triumph in the world.

We do not tire of repeating the words of Hans Küng: "only be peace in the world if there is peace among the religions." The newly elected Pope Francis is aware of the urgency and has called to faith traditions to strengthen dialogue in order to achieve peace in the world. Even the Pope has gone further and has proposed dialogue with atheists. My teacher the Rev. Sun Myung Moon ZTz "L, echoes the intent of the Roman Pontiff saying:

«Examine the major world religions. All of them propose the ideal of world peace. Everyone wants a kingdom of heaven, a utopia or paradise. Religions have different names for this ideal, but all are basically looking for the same kind of world ... their goal is the Kingdom of Heaven and the world peace. It is the kingdom of love to heal the human heart» (Moon 2009,232).

This consensus is more or less favorable to appreciate the importance of interreligious dialogue, and the efforts of some religious authorities at the highest level, animation and development of this dialogue must be evaluated. But in the same way it is necessary to note that it is a serious act of exclusion, and therefore open religious discrimination, when the spaces and events of interfaith encounter are censored or restricted by certain leaders of certain religious institutions who consider themselves "the only one official voice, the supreme authority, exclusive and excluding" of religion they represent.

Professor Gavin Hyman, from the Department of Religious Studies at Lancaster University, sees a difficulty in this situation because, from his perspective, interreligious dialogue has been motivated by powerful sectors seeking interfaith cooperation for world peace, not as goal, but as the assurance of clerical power to the detriment of a truly interfaith dialogue:

*«There have been many voices - the east and west, north and south - have pointed out that, despite the best intentions, **the practice of interreligious dialogue has generally been composed of the arbitrary imposition of the assumptions of those who hold more power and wealth.** It is not simply the case that the powerful impose their position on the weak, who is refused to be listened, rather it is the very basis on which dialogue must have generally embodied the assumptions of the privileged. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that this privilege has operated invisibly. Thus the accusations against dialogue, as has been practiced in the past, not just about who has patently failed in finding a genuine exchange, determined by the frank encounter between the differences, but it has been inherently unfair» (HYMAN, Gavin. Prologue to GÓMEZ, Carlos. Interfaith dialogue: the problem of its common basis. Bogotá: Universidad del Rosario – CETRE 2008, p. 9).*



Interfaith dialogue can not be just a dialogue of "officialities" because they can not speak for all religious denominations, whether his own confession. Every religious denomination is an alternative expression of the same faith, a proposed reading and living creed that it represents, and that instead of distorting it enriches.

Interreligious dialogue, at least as "officialities" have been developing, is **discriminatory and exclusionary** because deliberately unknowns to other denominations of their own religion, and hence to other religious traditions (especially new faith traditions) and other spiritualities both ancestral and emerging (with or without legal personality) who claim the same right to be publicly recognized as such, and to participate actively in interfaith dialogue.

It is not waging war against religious officialities because that completely contradict the desire for peace and harmony we preach and those who are working, but it is also true that it is too difficult to talk to who we are denied something as basic as is the right to exist as a religious identity.

In fact, the problem is not religious officialities itself, because they are important expressions of faith that transmit such a fundamental value for the survival of any given faith as is the tradition ...

The problem is that some individuals whose hold bureaucratic managers and / or executives of those religious institutions, and in their immaturity, haughtiness, arrogance and prepotency adding to all this, the most common of psycho-spiritual disorders in religious groups, the obsessional neurosis), they self-proclaim "the only ones infallible authority, unquestioned, supreme," and they point of sect, pseudo or false to everything that is not subject to their empire... characters for whom everything out their control must be pointed out, censored, canceled, demonized, isolated, persecuted and in extreme cases, exterminated.

For religious officialities, is too dangerous to put in managerial or bureaucratic positions to this class of individuals with emotional disorders described above, and in addition to bureaucratic power, give spokesperson before other religions, since they generate disagreements, misunderstandings, divisions, scandals and lock communications between the diverse religious and spiritual expressions, and therefore disdain of public opinion towards religion that is supposed are representing "worthy" before the world.

Interreligious dialogue, therefore, should not cover exclusively to religious institutions with extensive experience (so-called "Great Religions" and its most powerful denominations), but must also accommodate the largest possible number of denominations of the same confession of faith, to the new projects of faith, ancestral and emerging spiritualities. Interfaith work must be fraternal, open, popular and inclusive. Nobody who wants to join the working heart for peace, should be left out of interreligious dialogue. On the contrary, should be welcomed to share with other faiths without losing their identities. To provide their wisdom to a culture of peace at all levels. Since all human beings are one family created by God, no one should feel discriminated or excluded. All of us put, all of us win!





2013: OUR WORK AGAINST RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION STRENGTHENS

In 2013 the SHÉGGEL Institute focused its work on the firm and fight against any discriminatory statement because belief, affiliation and religious practices.

In February, Rabbi Richard Gamboa became the only one religious leader in Colombia who en publicly confronted to the Attorney General's Office Dr. Alejandro Ordóñez, who asked the Constitutional Court to declare "unconstitutional" the Anti-Discrimination Act 1482 of 2011, claiming that the law violates freedom of conscience and free expression . Rabbi Gamboa asked the High Court does not comply with the request of the senior public official, explaining that the lawlessness would aggravate the social conflicts in Colombia.

Although attacks from some religious officialities against the Manhig of Shéggel, by what they considered "a perverse audacity", the Constitutional Court through the Judgment C-282/13, did ratify the constitutionality of the rule.



Fragment of the letter of the Manhig of Shéggel to the Constitutional Court of Colombia



December 2012: The Green Peace Foundation and the leader team of "Sing to Water Colombia" did invite to the Manhíg of Shéggel to participate in an interfaith blessing during the World Day of Trees Sowing, at the National Park in Bogota.



December 20, 2012: Rabbi Richard Gamboa accompanied to spiritual leaders, both ancient and emerging, and several environmental groups, to celebrate the arrival of the Mayan New Age, amidst a vigil held in the Bolivar Square in Bogota.



February 2013: The Manhíg of Shéggel did lead in Bogota the opening of the World Interfaith Harmony Week, calling on citizens at the Maloka of the Jose Celestino Mutis Botanic Garden. To the act of sharing sacred invocations attended Native American and Islamic delegations.



February 2013: Participation in an interfaith forum in the Al-Reza Mosque, on the occasion of the World Interfaith Harmony Week.



February 2013: Participation in an interfaith forum in CIEDI School, on the occasion of the World Interfaith Harmony Week.



February 2013: Closing of the Interfaith Week with a prayer service held at the Community of Hope Presbyterian Church, chaired by Rev. Luis Fernando Sanmiguel, President of the Teusaquillo Territory of Peace Corporation.



February 2013: The Manhíg of Shéggel was received in a Protocolar Audience by the Cardinal Rubén Salazar, Archbishop of Bogotá and Primate of Colombia. At the meeting, a special ratification of the importance and urgency of strengthening approaches and joint work between Judaism and Catholicism, as the common heritage shared by both religions held, and the search for peace in Colombia .

Also Rabbi Gamboa did celebrate a meeting with Mrs. Digna Hintzen, one of the global leaders of the NGO 'Initiatives of Change', who has worked for years in Colombia for the development and sake of the needy.



March 2013: In the frame of the World Journey «Sing to Water», Rabbi Gamboa was invited to sharing with leaders of the Muhysca Community a ritual payment at the Otter Well, in the Guacheneque Wasteland (birth place of the Bogota River). There, the Manhíg of Shéggel sung a *nigún* (a Hassidic melody without lyrics) to bless the water.

In Bogotá, the day March 22, an interfaith prayer of thanksgiving was held by the water behind the Coliseum El Campín.

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February - April 2013: Rabbi Gamboa was a frequent guest during the first semester of 2013 to several interviews, in order to sharing via radio and television his viewpoints with regard to peace, justice, culture of tolerance and human rights in Colombia . He was also invited to express their vision of Jesus of Nazareth in liberal Jewish key , in the frame of the Holy Week.



The Manhíg of Shéggel did not lose the opportunity to denounce, through the media, continued religious persecution still suffering people, communities and religious and spiritual institutions, society and called for full respect for religious freedom, conscience and worship.





April 8, 2013. Braving a cold snap, leaders of various religious beliefs answered to the call of the Manhíg of Shéggel to raising in the emblematic Square of the Child Jesus of the July 20th Neighborhood, prayers in memory of the victims of all violence, as a preparation for the National Day of Memory of the Victims.



April 9, 2013. The Office of Religious Freedom of the High Majority of Bogota did invite to Rabbi Gamboa to participate in the Interfaith Prayer for Peace, celebrated during the Great Walk for Peace at the Bolivar Square.

The Manhíg of Shéggel cried in front of over one hundred thousand people by the end of religious discrimination and brotherhood among all the representatives of the various religious and spiritual beliefs.

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May 2013. At the NCO Club of the Military Forces of Colombia, was held the wedding between David Ben-Barúj Berezovsky (USA Jewish) and Ms. María Constanza Franco (Colombian Catholic).

To the wedding was attended by members of both families and friends of the couple, all of them rejoiced because the interfaith message of love and peace proclaimed by the rabbi





June, 2013. Invited by the Dreamed Homeland Thought Development Institute, the Manhíg of Shéggel traveled to Asunción, Republic of Paraguay, tin order to exchange experiences of work for peace with diverse political and religious guests. Top left: with the Archbishop of Paraguay for the National Catholic Church, Msgr. Rafael Ruiz. Top right: with the Paraguayan Religious Affairs Vice-Minister, Dr. Luis Cáceres Brun, and his wife.



With the Former President of Colombia, Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano.



With the Former President of Guatemala, Mr. Álvaro Colón.



Left: With high officers of the Paraguay Army. Right: with youth political leaders of the National Republican Alliance (also called "The Red Party").





June 12, 2013. In the frame of the national celebrations of the Peace of El Chaco, Rabbi Gamboa did participate in an interfaith prayer. To the act attended the members of the Latin American Presidential Mission and another highest authorities of the Republic of Paraguay. The Manhíg of Shéggel did close the prayer giving his blessing (called in Hebrew ***Birkat Kohanim*** or the Priestly Blessing) to the assistants.



Giving a special blessing to Senator Lilian Samaniego, Chairwoman of the Republican National Alliance (Red Party).



With the Former President of Guatemala, Mr. Vicinio Cerezo.



Giving a special blessing to Governor of Alto Paraguay, Dr. Marlene Ocampo



June 2013: Along with religious leaders during an interfaith Conference sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Paraguay.



June 2013. The Manhig of Shéggel was invited to participate in the interfaith prayer with occasion of the Centenary of the Scouting Movement in Colombia. Top left: talking with the General Secretary of the Roman Catholic Bishop's Conference, Msgr. Daniel Falla. Up right: receiving a commemorative ribbon of the Scouting Centenary in Colombia.

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July 2013. Rabbi Gamboa was invited to participate in an interfaith roundtable discussion organized by the Council of Elders of the American Association of India Solar - MAIS. The Manhíg of Shéggel met there with various leaders of Amerindian ancestral spiritualities, and announced the imminent creation of a National Interfaith Council in Colombia.



Top left: accompanying the lighting of a sacred candle. Above: with Ati Quigua, spiritual spokeswoman of the peoples of the Santa Marta Snow Mountain. Left: participating in a love and light sacred circle.



August 2013. Rabbi Gamboa was invited by the Ahlul Bayt Colombia Islamic Cultural House, to a forum celebrated at the High Majority of Bogota in the frame of the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day, thus ending the fast of the holy month of Ramadan. In his speech, the Manhig of Shéggel denounced manipulations of the subject by aggressive Zionist sectors, expressed his appreciation to the State of Palestine, and called for nuclear disarmament in the world and reaffirmed his support for the fraternal co-existence between Israel and Palestine.

Right: Being interviewed by the Iranian TV. Down: supporting with his presence and words to the end of the war between Israel and Palestine and their fraternal co-existence



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August 2013. Faithful to his principles as a human rights defender, Rabbi Richard Gamboa joined the campaign to defend the rights of Colombian farmers and food sovereignty. The Manhíg of Shéggel denounced "kosher" approval by some rabbinical authorities, food produced with genetically modified seeds, which are harmful to human health.



August 2013. In an unprecedented act in Colombia, the Manhíg of Shéggel, supported by the Universal Peace Federation, paid tribute to the spiritual leaders of the Native American peoples at the Embassy of Peace in Colombia. At the event, Rabbi Richard spoke on behalf of the Abrahamic Religions and apologized for the crimes, abuse and indifference against the Amerindian People during 500 years. Is the first time in history that a Jewish rabbi does this kind of penitential acts and acknowledging the dignity of the Elders of indigenous peoples.



August 2013. The official radio-station of the Capital District of Bogota, *DC Radio*, invited to the Manhíg of Shéggel beside a Vasinava devote and a Muslim believer, to sharing their viewpoints of peace and offerings to a culture of reconciliation and justice in Colombia.



September 4, 2013. Rabbi Gamboa achieved to realize one of his biggest interfaith initiatives: with the support of Teusaquillo Territory of Peace Corporation, was installed at the American School of Bogota **the Colombian Assembly of Religions and Spiritualities**, an interfaith council that works to defend the religious freedom in the country and raising its voice to express itself about the various events affecting national life.

Various political authorities and community leaders attended the opening ceremony. The Former President of the Republic Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano, sent to the newly created national interfaith council, a message of peace and animation. The Assembly, meanwhile, presented to the public its first statement.



Speech by the Government Secretary of the District of Bogota D.C., Dr. Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo.



Speech by Honorable House Representative for Bogotá, Congressman Efraín Torres Monsalvo.



Speech by the General Secretary of the Colombian Communist Party, Dr. Jaime Caycedo.



Rabbi Richard Gamboa was appointed as General Secretary of the Colombian Assembly of Religions and Spiritualities.

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September 4, 2013. Challenging public order problems that were raised in Bogotá following protests by farmers the Manhíg of Shéggel celebrated the XIII Great Interfaith Liturgy for Peace at the Auditorium of the American School of Bogotá. This day became the world's largest interfaith prayer. to bring together 30 leaders of various Christian churches, other faiths and spiritualities

The impact of the Great Interfaith Liturgy for Peace made that the Reform Jewish Community of Colombia and the Inclusive Movement Sephardic adhere to this peace initiative led by Rabbi Richard. A Messianic Jewish community sent a greeting to the Manhíg of Shéggel with occasion of the Jewish New Year.





September 2013: The program "Lantern" from Radio Todelar, invited to Manhíg of Shéggel to share with the radio audience an analysis of the importance and challenges to facing with the newly created Colombian Assembly of Religions and Spiritualities.



October, 2013. The Old-Catholic Bishop Msgr. Gonzalo Jaramillo, invited to Rabbi Richard to co-celebrating an Eucharist, as a expression of reconciliation, fraternity and closing. The Holy Mass was chaired by Father Javier Montaña, Delegate of Ecumenism of the Church Old-Missionaries of Our Lady of Joy.



Above: The Manhíg of Shéggel adding a conference about artistic interfaith pastoral in the frame of "AviVarte Festival 2014" led by Corporación Minuto de Dios. Right: accompanying to the Old-Catholic Bishop Msgr. Gonzalo Jaramillo, to celebrate the Gold Anniversary Rocha Celis family, whom are members of our SHÉGGEL family.

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October 31, 2013. The Congress of the Republic of Colombia, through the House Representative for Bogotá, Congressman Efrain Torres Monsalvo, praised the interfaith and academic work of Rabbi Richard Gamboa and he was decorated with the **Order of Democracy "Simón Bolívar" in the rank of Officer Cross**. At the award ceremony, held in the Hall Luis Carlos Galan of the National Capitol, attended Gamboa and Casas families, artist Hector Buitrago (Aterciopelados), Muslim leaders, Christians and Buddhists, and close friends of Manhíg of Shéggel addition to local media.





November 2013: The Manhíg of Shéggel visited the Salesian Family to express his gratitude for the education and support given in his teens, reflected in the decoration granted by the Congress of the Republic. Left: with Father Raúl Rojas, SDB, Director of the Salesian Work of Child Jesus.



November 2013: Giving a talk on personal growth to the members of District Canoeing League.



November 2013: Rabbi Gamboa was invited by the ONG *Mencoldes*, from the Mennonite Church, to leading a devotional.

November 2013: The Manhíg of Shéggel was invited by the program "The Room" from San Pablo Radio, to sharing his experiences in Paraguay, his recent writings, researching, thoughts and goals achieved during the year 2013.

Right: to his right, Father Wilson Zuloaga Niño, director of the radio-station. To his left Mrs. Rocío Velásquez Romero, host of the program "The Room".





November 2013: Students of the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Xavierian University invited to Rabbi Richard Gamboa to share the vision of God from Judaism. To the forum, moderated by the titular professor of the course "Mystery of God", Rev. Fr. Ignacio Madera, also attended the Graduate Serkan Kokmen (native Muslim of Turkey) and Rev. Atahualpa Hernández, director of the Lutheran School of Theology.



November 2013: Reaffirming his commitment to Human Rights and Nature, Rabbi Richard Gamboa was present at a special day of "Sing to Water" performed in the Lagoon of Chisacá in Sumapaz, the planet's largest wasteland at 4000 meters height above sea level. Braving the rain, hail, fog and temperatures below 5 ° C, the Manhig of Shéggel raised a special blessing to the lagoon and the wasteland.





November 2013: The option of the Manhig of Shéggel to serving the society in general, with special priority to low-income communities, continues in response to discrimination suffered because of their socio-economic status.

Therefore he visited in the last week of November to the boys and girls of the Lozano Fabio Simonelli School, which is located in a high risk area of the locality of Usme, in southern Bogotá.



December 2013: Rabbi Richard Gamboa was invited by the group study Christology of St. Ambrose Parish, north of Bogota, to accompany a culinary workshop. The Manhig of Shéggel gave a brief explanation of the foods that accompany traditional Jewish Passover meal, in the context of the life of Jesus Christ.



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IN THE 21TH CENTURY

By Rev. Fr. JAVIER MONTAÑA

Delegate of Ecumenical Affairs from

Church Old-Missionaries of Our Lady of Joy

Official Web Page: www.sacerdotesveteros.com

E-mail: cristoveteroalegria@hotmail.com



The urgency of interreligious dialogue, to respect people of other faiths and churches and ways of interpreting spirituality, learn from others, is born from three ethical requirements.

The world we live is globalized, a world also threatened and moral ethical, and axiological danger was like never before. the role of religious leaders from different churches and interpretations of different faiths, such as:

1) mutual interfaith neighbors (several churches and religious denominations), 2) mutual interfaith peacemakers societies where we operate and 3) interfaith pilgrims next to each one of us for the common God who directly or indirectly we seek.

There have always been different religions in the world. But in the past, these different religions remained in "their own neighborhood", ie, within its own historical and geographical and cultural boundaries. These days, all that is changing. Many different religions are moving into our own societies and neighborhoods.

Those who believe differently, pray differently, dress differently, they no longer live on the other side of the world. They are beside us, we work with them. Their children go to school with our children and indeed their children could marry our (yes, it's possible). This diversity of religions and thoughts, is a more palpable reality in some countries than in others.

Here in Colombia, traditionally a Christian country, not only are there a wide variety of Christian churches (Catholic, Anglican, Old-Catholic, Lutheran, Protestant, etc.).

There is also a growing diversity of religions other than Christianity, like Judaism, Islam and other faiths which do not know each other very deeply, but we must understand and tolerate more, live among brothers with a common Creator.

Blessings!

TRIBUTES 2013



September 2013: The Manhig of Shéggel paid special tribute to Pastor Peter Wood Stucky, from the Mennonite Church and Co-Chairman of Teusaquillo Territory of Peace Corporation, giving him the title of **"Promoter of the Abrahamic Peace"** in recognition of their efforts to peace between Christians, Jews and Muslims.



April 2013: The Manhig of Shéggel conferred the **Honorable Mention "Osei Shalom"** to the Soto Zen Community in Colombia (Zen Buddhism) thanks to his faithful accompaniment to various interfaith activities. Receive recognition Rev. Dairen Jacome.



April 2013: Delivery of **Honorable Mention "Osei Shalom"** to the World Peace Youth Federation - Chapter Colombia, for their continuing support to interfaith work in Bogota. Get the distinction its chairman, Mr, William Rodriguez.



September 2013: The Manhig of Shéggel wanted to show his gratitude to the American School of Bogotá for their support in hosting for three years by the Great Interfaith Liturgy for Peace. Through the Honorable Secretary of the Central Presbytery of Bogotá, Mr. Alexander Sanmiguel, he gave the Solemn **Birkat Kohanim** (Priestly Blessing).

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April 2013: In order to recognize the hard work for youth in San Cristobal Location, he was presented to Aedil Edith Parada Caldas the **Honorable Mention "Osei Shalom"**.



September 2013: Delivery of **Honorable Mention "Osei Shalom"** to Dr. Magnolia Agudelo, Local Director of Education of Suba and member of Teusaquillo Territory of Peace Corporation, because her good offices to promote dialogue between religions and non-believers sectors.



September 2013: Delivery of **Honorable Mention "Osei Shalom"** to Reverend Naotaro Shimizu, of Colombia Tenrikyo Church, in recognition of his dedication and willingness in favor of an interfaith peace culture.

זיכרון לנשמה

IN MEMORY OF



February 2013. **Mrs. SILVIA DURE DE JIMÉNEZ.** Unificationist Missionary native of the Republic of Paraguay. Always she supported the mission of Rabbi Gamboa with her prayers and advice.

October 2013. **Most Reverend Msgr. OLAVIO LÓPEZ, O.A.R., Auxiliary Bishop of Bogota.** He was one of the biggest advocates of the Manhíg of Shéggel's apostolate when he was serving as the Chief Rabbi of B'nei Tzion.

