

[register](#)[login](#)[\[ about us | contact us \]](#)

# BALTIMORE Jewish Life

[HOME](#)[ALERTS](#)[MINYANIM](#)[PHONE BOOK](#)[NEWS](#)[FAMILY](#)[COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR](#)[MARKET PLACE](#)[REAL ESTATE](#)[SIMCHAS](#)[FOOD & DINING](#)[CHESED](#)[TORAH](#)[INSTITUTIONS](#)

## National News

[Sign Up For Alerts!](#)[+ Submit An Article](#)[advertise with us](#)

## Agudath Israel Responds to Recent Statement Regarding Organ Donation and Brain Death

By [Agudath Israel Statement](#)

Posted on 01/17/11 | [Comments \(1\)](#)



Agudath Israel of America issued a statement today regarding a recent statement by several rabbis on the topic of organ donation and brain death. The statement, which can be read at [Organ Donation Statement](#), was signed by over 100 rabbis from all over the world, and listed five position statements on the topic.

In response, Agudath Israel's release called the statement "*decidedly unorthodox in its approach to the halachic process. In fact, it makes a mockery of that process, by asking other rabbis to accept one particular halachic view regarding a complex issue pertaining to matters of life and death on the grounds that the times, in the signatories' estimation, require a certain result.*"

The Agudath Israel statement continues:

*For anyone, rabbi or layman, to decide that a perceived outcome should determine what halachic approach to take is something usually associated with Jewish movements outside of Orthodoxy.*

*Organ donation can and does save lives. Halachic authorities have ruled that, under certain circumstances and with proper safeguards, it is permissible and indeed laudable to be a live donor, and to bequeath organs after death. But defining death is a crucial halachic matter, not one to be "decided" on the basis of what some consider a societal need.*

*Compounding the statement's offensive embrace of a halachic position based on an extra-halachic rationale is its derision of those who take "a restrictive position regarding donating organs and a permissive position regarding receiving organs." That halachic position, held by a majority of major*


### Write A Comment

ADD YOUR COMMENT

### Reader Comments

I am curious if the Aguddath Israel statement also applies to the Charedi London Beth din and its Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks. It just issues a statement declaring that brain death is not death. "For anyone, rabbi or layman, to decide that a perceived outcome should determine what halachic approach to take is something usually associated with Jewish movements outside of Orthodoxy."

**LivingLife  
atTudorHeights**



**Kosher  
Assisted  
Living**

7218 Park Heights Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21208  
(866) 690-1528

**SHMUEL PERLMAN**



**TUFF & GUY  
PLUMBING**

**443-883-9202**

**Pikesville Pharmacy**



**410-653-8888**  
Free Delivery,  
3x a day!

**4x daily  
FREE DELIVERY**



**J's  
Discount**

Paper, Plastic, Aluminum,  
and Institutional Food Products  
at *below Wholesale Prices*  
**FRESH PRODUCE**

**410-358-4664**

*The Bais Yaakov Dolphin*



**KIDZ FOR  
HATZALAH**

**By Kidz For Kidz  
CHINESE AUCTION**  
*Benefiting HATZALAH*

**Sunday, January 30**  
**OVER 130 PRIZES**  
incl. 24 inch bike, ipod nano,  
cotton machine, American Girl Doll

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO**



**SHABSI'S  
JUDAICA CENTER**  
(410) 358-2200

**BALTIMORE'S BEST  
KOSHER PIZZA**


**-TOV-  
PIZZA-**



Log on for the latest  
coupons, daily  
specials and more!  
Serving Baltimore Since 1984

**TOVPIZZA.COM**

**PODIATRY CARE**



**Dr. Shapsy  
Tajerstein, DPM**

*Serving the community  
for 25 years!*

The Atrium at Greenspring  
**410.788.6633**



**Chai Lifeline**  
*Fighting Illness With Love*

**Click here to  
donate to  
Team  
lifeline!**

**Ben Zion Weiss  
One Man  
Orchestra**



**Hear Demos**

**JewishBandMan.com**  
**443.604.8683**

[REGISTER](#) | [LOGIN](#) | [WEBSITE SUPPORTED BY THE SPOKES AGENCY](#)

COPYRIGHT BALTIMORE JEWISH LIFE 2009 - 2010

#### HOME

#### News & Info

- LOCAL NEWS
- ISRAEL NEWS
- NATIONAL NEWS
- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
- TRAFFIC & WEATHER
- FINANCIAL
- LETTER TO THE EDITOR
- EDITORS' BIOGRAPHIES

#### Family

- HEALTH
- PARENTING
- MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIPS
- YOUTH

#### Community Calendar

- VIEW CALENDAR

#### Simchas

- ENGAGEMENTS
- WEDDINGS
- BIRTHS
- BRIS
- PIDYON HABEN
- UPSHERIN
- SIYUM
- GRADUATION
- BAS MITZVAH
- BAR MITZVAH
- HACHNASOS SEFER TORAH

#### Institutions

- SHULS
- SCHOOLS
- MIKVAH
- OTHER INSTITUTIONS

#### Market Place

- LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY
- FEATURED BUSINESSES
- COUPONS & DEALS
- EMPLOYMENT
- CLASSIFIEDS

#### Real Estate

- FOR SALES BY OWNER
- FOR SALES BY REALTOR
- HOME / APARTMENT RENTALS

#### Chesed

- HOSPITALITY
- IN NEED OF
- NICHUM AVEILIM
- GEMACHS
- RIDE SHARING

#### Food & Dining

- EDITOR'S "BITES"
- TASTE & TIPS
- EATING WITH ELI
- KASHRUS
- SHABBOS
- HOLIDAY
- SIMCHAS
- RECIPES

#### Torah

- ASK THE RABBI
- DAILY HALACHA
- PARSHAS HASHAVUA
- DIVREI TORAH
- SHURIM
- AUDIO ARCHIVE
- ALIYAH

