

RABBI MICHAEL M. COHEN

Rabbi Michael M. Cohen received ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1990. He was the Rabbi of the Israel Congregation in Manchester Center, Vermont from 1990-2000 and now serves as the Rabbi *Emeritus*. He has also served as the President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

While on sabbatical from the Israel Congregation in 1996, Rabbi Cohen was a founding faculty member of The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (www.arava.org) located on Kibbutz Ketura in southern Israel. The Arava Institute is the premier environmental teaching and research program in the Middle East, preparing future Arab and Jewish leaders to cooperatively solve the region's environmental challenges. He has worked for the Arava Institute full-time since 2000, dividing his time between Vermont and Arava's Kibbutz Ketura campus. He is also the Chair of the Policy Committee for the Alliance for Middle East Peace, of which the Arava Institute is a founding member.

Rabbi Cohen is the author of numerous articles about the peace process, politics, and other topics that have appeared in *The Washington Times*, *Haaretz*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Jerusalem Report*, *Hadassah*, *The Palestine Times*, *The Israel-Palestine Journal*, *The Jordan Times*, *the Rutland Herald*, *Arab News (Saudi Arabia)*, *Today's Zaman (Turkey)*, *The Forward*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Jewish Currents*, and *the Huffington Post*. He was a contributor to President Obama's speech welcoming Middle East leaders to the White House in September 2010, and has worked on three Presidential speeches on the Middle East since then. He is also the author of *Einstein's Rabbi: A Tale of Science and the Soul*.

Rabbi Cohen grew up in Ewing, New Jersey. In 1976, while still in High School, he was awarded the Worthington Civic Award for establishing the first recycling center in Ewing. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont where he received a B.A. in History and the Paul Evans History Award for his honors paper on *Lenin's Theory of Self-determination and the Muslims of the Soviet Union*. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Burr & Burton Academy and the Energy Committee of the Town of Manchester. In 1993, he was awarded the *Unsung Hero Award* by the Town of Manchester. The past two years he has taught classes on conflict resolution at Bennington College.



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- Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization
- Jerusalem International YMCA
- Jerusalem Peacemakers
- Keshev-The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel
- Kids4Peace

- MAARAG: The Association for Advancement of Education in a Multicultural Society
- Masar Center
- MEPEACE.org
- Middle East Peace Dialogue
- Middleway
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- Net@
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- Ossim Shalom – Social Workers for Peace and Social Welfare.
- Open House (Friends of Open House)
- Palestine Agency for Food and Agriculture
- Palestine-Israel Journal
- Palestinian Peace Society
- Palestinian Youth Forum for Cooperation (PYFC)
- Panorama – The Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy & Community Development
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- Peace It Together
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- Peace Society for Strategic Studies (Peace Institute for Strategic Studies)
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- Peres Center for Peace
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- REGENERATION (Former Salaam Shalom Educational Foundation)
- Search for Common Ground
- Seeds of Peace
- Service for Peace in the Community
- Shorouq Society for Women
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