March 2, 2022

**TO: Members of NVHC participating in the series “Israel’s Changing Collective Identity**

**From: Prof. Fred Lazin**

**RE: Class on March 3, 2022**

Shalom,

The session will present an historical overview of the place, standing and influence of the religious Zionists and the ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities in Israel. At the time of Israel’s founding the religious Zionists were very much a part of the new Israeli society and political establishment. Ben Gurion delegated to their leaders “authority” over Jewish religious institutions in Israel. For example, they controlled the marriage and divorce of all Jewish Israelis. In contrast the very small ultra-Orthodox community remained on the periphery of Israeli society; they lived in separate communities and did not participate in most Israeli institutions. The standing and place of both groups in Israeli society began to change after the June 1967 Six Days War. Today, the ultra-Orthodox control Jewish religious institutions while a religious Zionist is Prime Minister.

For those with access to streaming movies the following Israeli film is recommended : Amos Gitai’s **Kaddosh** with the late Yael Abecassis. It deals with the status of women and the importance of **Mitzvot** in the ultra-Orthodox world.

**If you have any questions or comments about our zoom meetings/presentations please email me at**

**lazin@bgu.ac.il** **.**

I look forward to seeing you on zoom.

Take care.

Fred Lazin

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