



**Masorti Olami
& MERCAZ Olami**



2011
Annual Review
Our year in pictures



מסורתי עולמי

**World Council of Conservative
/ Masorti Synagogues**

**Consejo Mundial de
Sinagogas Conservadoras**

**Conseil Mondial de
Synagogues Massorti**

January
&
February



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(1) The second **Abayudaya Youth Association Convention** took place from January 12th to 16th in Nabugoye Hill, Uganda. The Abayudaya community follow Masorti Judaism, and this convention focused on empowering their youth and connecting them with the wider Jewish world.



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(2) In December and January, nearly 2,000 Masorti youth participated in **NOAM summer camps in Argentina**. Pictured above is the madrichim (counselors) camp where programming and educational ideas were shared ahead of the summer camps.



3

(3) 50 young leaders from the **Darkei NOAM Leadership course** in Buenos Aires, Argentina came to Israel for a three-week leadership program in January. The 15 to 17 year olds' program combined touring with a seminar about leadership and Masorti Jewish identity.

In January, Masorti kehillot around the world came together to **celebrate Tu Bishvat** in traditional and creative ways. Trees were planted, Tu Bishvat seders were held, and people learned about the significance of the festival.

Pictures from the following kehillot:

- (4) Comunidad Hebrea de Guadalajara, Mexico
- (5) & (8) Dor Chadash, Budapest, Hungary
- (6) Kehillat Netzach Israel, Ashkelon, Israel
- (7) Maayane Or, Nice, France
- (9) Masorti Cheder, Bournemouth, UK
- (10) Masorti Kindergarten, Berlin, Germany



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There seems to be no limit to fun and exciting ways that Masorti kehillot around the world celebrated Purim in March. Kehillot celebrated with Megillah readings, costume parties and performances of all kinds sharing the spirit and joy of the festival with large numbers of community members and visitors. Pictures from the following kehillot:

- (1) Adath Shalom, Paris, France
- (2) Congregacion Bet El, Madrid, Spain
- (3) MAROM Budapest & Dor Chadash, Budapest, Hungary
- (4) NCI Montevideo, Uruguay
- (5) Comunidad Bet El, Mexico City, Mexico
- (6) Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue, Berlin, Germany
- (7) Kehillat Nitzan, Melbourne, Australia
- (8) Comunidad Israelita, Concepcion, Chile



(9) & (10) In April, the **Nofim - Machon leManhigut** reopened for its 2011 program in Santiago and Vina del Mar, Chile. More than 40 young people participated in the third year of this leadership training program for future leaders of the Jewish community in Chile. Sessions are practical, instructive and spiritual, giving participants a wide skill-set for their current and future work.

4 Ways of Connecting your Seder to Israel!

1 Freedom for Gilad Shalit
 Suggested poem to be read: *Freedom for Gilad Shalit*
 On the Seder night, Gilad Shalit will have been in captivity for 1,758 days. That's equal to nearly 4 years and 10 months. Gilad was born in Ashdod in the Western Galilee on August 28th, 1980 (the second child to Aviva and Isaac. He went to the regional Tzoref High School at Elot Village, where he received his Bar Mitzvah at the Masorti synagogue. Gilad loves all sports, especially basketball, and is a well-mannered but shy young man. Gilad began his military service in July 2002, and was captured at the Koren Shikma border crossing near Be'erot, Israel and Gaza on June 23rd, 2006. He is known to be held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. However, he does not believe his capture was a result of his military service, but an diplomatic action that was successful in providing access to him, or conditions for his release. In September 2009 a video of Gilad showing him still to be alive was made by his captors and handed over to the Israeli authorities.

2 To dream of freedom: Herzl as Moshe
 Suggested poem to be read: *To dream of freedom: Herzl as Moshe*
 Can you imagine the Jewish people still being slaves in Egypt? Even though the journey for the Jewish people began with the Exodus, it actually only began once they started to act upon their desire for freedom, turning to God for help. As we read in Exodus 2:23, "I long since other than the king of Egypt died. The Egyptians were all groaning under their bondage and cried out, and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to God."

3 Every generation needs an Exodus

4 Dayeinu I Are we truly free in Israel?
 Suggested poem to be read: *Dayeinu I Are we truly free in Israel?*
 Understably in Israel today, religious practices barely exist:
 - Conservative / Haredi and Reform Rabbinic are not recognized by the Chief Rabbinate
 - Non-Orthodox synagogues receive no financial support from the State.
 - Weddings in Conservative and Reform synagogues are not approved by the Rabbinate.
 - Women are not accepted as equals in religious practice, even leading to being arrested for praying in public places like the State (Western Wall).
 So, this year, as we recount the wonders that God bestowed upon us in the time of the Exodus, let us add some new lines to the Dayeinu song.

In April, Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami published **4 Ways of Connecting Your Seder to Israel**. Available online in English, Hebrew, French, Spanish and Portuguese, this publication gave Masorti/Conservative Jews around the world a direct way to add readings, poems and questions connected with Israel to their Seder. The publication was enjoyed in thousands of Seders at synagogues as well as at private homes. The first reading was a prayer for the safe return of the captured Israeli soldier **Gilad Shalit**. Thankfully our prayers were heard, and Gilad was returned during the festival of Sukkot. Read the full publication at www.masortiworl.org/4ways

May
&
June

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(1) & (2) The largest Masorti kehillah in Europe, **New North London Synagogue in London, UK**, opened its custom-built synagogue in May with several thousand people attending opening events during the first few weeks of the synagogues' operation. Pictured are the two new sanctuaries.

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(3) 16 leaders of NOAM from Argentina, Brazil and Chile took part in a **NOAM AmLat Leadership seminar in Buenos Aires, Argentina** in May. The seminar was successful in building future structure, purpose and means of collaboration for the NOAM movements in the region.

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In June, more than 40 Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami delegates from seven different countries took part in **the President's Conference, the Va'ad HaPoel of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency Assembly**. Our delegation was welcomed to Jerusalem on June 22nd in a program at **Kehillat Shevet Achim** in Gilo, Jerusalem (Picture 9). At this evening, **Marty Davis** and **Marion Mayman** were presented with the very first MERCAZ Olami awards for their dedication to Zionism in the Masorti world (Picture 4). Also pictured:

(5) Delegates voting at the Va'ad HaPoel.
(6) Shacharit services at the Va'ad HaPoel.
(7) Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami delegates with MK **Ronnie Bar-On** at the Va'ad HaPoel opening at the Knesset.
(8) MERCAZ Olami President, **Dr Steve Wolnek**, with MK **Eli Eflalo**.
(10) MERCAZ Olami representative and World Zionist Organization Vice Chair, **Dr David Breakstone**, addresses the Va'ad HaPoel.



1 In July, the **Masorti kehillah MAROM Moscow** held another of its picnics for families. The picnic in the Dedovsk area of Moscow included games for children and a lecture on Jewish history for adults.



2 **Carlos, Manuela** and their son **Rafael** – members of **Kehillat Beit Israel in Lisbon, Portugal** completed their conversion in July. **Rabbi Jules Harlow** (pictured with the family at their Beit Din session in London) and his wife **Navah**, have been working with the community of **Bnei Anusim** in Lisbon since 2005.



3 In August, **Rabbi Adam Stein** was installed as the new **Rabbi of Kehillat Nitzan in Melbourne Australia**. Visiting from Israel, **Rabbi Reuven Hammer** conducted the ceremony. Rabbi Stein graduated from the **Zeigler Rabbinical School** in 2009 and comes to Australia from his previous post in **Kansas City, Missouri**.



4 **Comunidade Shalom** in **Sao Paulo, Brazil** hosted an **International Symposium on Masorti Judaism** in August in their newly inaugurated synagogue. Guest speakers include **Rabbi Elliot Dorf, Rabbi Jill Jacobs** and **Rabbi Alfredo Borodowski**.



5 **Congregation Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, Brazil** celebrated its **75th anniversary** in August with more than **1,400** people at the **Teatro Bradesco**.



6 On August 1st, **16-17** year old **NOAM** members from **Israel** and the **UK** came together for a **1-day Yom NOAM**. **80** of the participants were in **Israel** for **NOAM UK's** annual **3-week** educational tour, and the other **30** participants were all **NOAM Israel** junior **madrichim** (counselors).



7 From August 1st to 7th, **30** young volunteers met for "**Volunticipate!**", a project to build partnerships between the **Roma (gypsy)** and **Jewish** communities organized by **MAROM**, the **Masorti** young-adult organization. **Volunticipate!** coincided with **MAROM Budapest's third annual Bánkító Festival** at **Lake Bank**, which brings together over **4,000** activists, artists, students, and anyone interested in social change. **Bánkító** included a full schedule of activities with strong **Jewish** content, aimed at **Jewish** and **non-Jewish** participants.

September
&
October



(1) Children at the **Masorti kindergarten in Berlin, Germany** made Rosh Hashanah posters. The kindergarten teaches 75 children in bi-lingual German/Hebrew and German/English classes. Children and their families participate in Chagim celebrations throughout the year.



(2) In September, the first **NOAM Olami Shabbaton** for participants of **Long-term programs** was held at Kibbutz Almog near the Dead Sea in Israel. 65 young people, aged 18 and 19, from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Israel, UK and USA came together for a weekend which looked at the similarities and differences between Masorti/ Conservative Jews around the world.



(3) In September, **Comuindad Israelita do Parana in Curitiba, Brazil** inaugurated their new Bet Yaakov synagogue. Pictured are representatives of the local community blowing the shofar to signify the start of the new Jewish year and the new synagogue.



(4) In October, **Gill Caplin completed her term as President of Masorti Europe**. Pictured is **Rabbi Joel Meyers** presenting a plaque from Masorti Olami at a meeting in Madrid, Spain. **Joanna Kubar** from Nice, France has now taken the role as President of the region.



(5) One of two weddings that took place in September at **Shalom Independent Masorti Congregation in Johannesburg, South Africa**. The kehillah holds services every Shabbat evening and morning as well as on Chagim.



Masorti kehillot around the world celebrated the festival of **Sukkot in October**, some of them building their own Sukkah for the very first time. Pictures from: (6) & (7) Kehillat Beit Israel, Lisbon, Portugal (8) & (11) Judaica Marseille, France (9) Chir Hadash, Brussels, Belgium (10) Maayane Or, Nice, France (12) Centro Israelita, Porto Alegre, Brazil.



(1) The 4th Masorti AmLat meeting took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 10th to 16th. 40 adult activists and 50 young people from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay participated along with guests from Israel and North America.



(2) MAROM AmLat held a leadership seminar in Sao Paulo, Brazil at the end of October for MAROM activists and coordinators from the region. Sessions focused on *Dugma Ishit* – Leading by example, as well as Masorti ideology and values, and strengthening bonds with Israel.



(3) & (4) The Or Israel kehillah in Buenos Aires, Argentina celebrated 100 years this year. On November 6th, they celebrated their Centenary and opening of the newly restored sanctuary with more than 250 people attending.



An Evening of Tribute

Sunday, December 11th, 2011

HONORING

 Rabbi Vernon Kurtz <small>NSS Beth El, Highland Pk, IL</small>	 Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro <small>Cong. Beth El, Voorhees, NJ</small>	 Dr. Marilyn Wind <small>Kol Shalom, Rockville, MD</small>
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Masorti Olami will honor the three worthy and outstanding Jewish leaders listed above at the annual **Evening of Tribute** on December 11th at JTS in New York City. This year's honorees have helped raise the profile of the worldwide Masorti movement in their own communities, bringing in great support for our work. Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Vernon Kurtz, Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro and Dr Marilyn Wind.**



MERCAZ chapters around the world have worked hard throughout the year to promote Israel awareness and education in all our communities.

As part of this work, MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ Canada are jointly organizing **the first Israel Advocacy Training Seminar** for members of the Conservative movement. The seminar will be held in Baltimore on December 18th and 19th, and will train the volunteers who participate to organize and strengthen ongoing Israel advocacy in their synagogues and communities.



Masorti Olami & The Schechter Institute

Invite you to join the

UKRAINE MISSION

July 11-17, 2012



Tours of Jewish Odessa and Kiev
20th anniversary celebration of
Camp Ramah-Ukraine with
Masorti families

Installation of Reuven Stamov, the
first Masorti Rabbi in Ukraine



Full itinerary and registration form at
www.masortiworl.org/ukraine2012



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for information about Masorti kehillot around the world.

To help us continue our important work around the
world, you can make a US tax-deductible donation to
Masorti Olami at www.masortiworl.org/contribute
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Masorti Olami - Enriching Masorti Jewish lives around the world

18 Ha'Uman Street, Jerusalem, Israel 93420
Tel: +972-2-624-7106 Fax: +972-2-624-7677
Email: mail@masortiolami.org

3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027 USA
Tel: +1-212-280-6039 Fax: +1-212-678-5321
Email: worldcouncil@masortiworl.org

ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization



Masorti Olami acknowledges
major support from the World
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us to strengthen the Zionist &
Israel orientation of Masorti
Judaism around the world.