

כל מקום
שאני הולך
אני הולך
לארץ ישראל
רבי נחמן מברסלב

A Call to Action

Putting Aliyah *on the map*

The creation of the State of Israel is the most important and most exciting event to happen to the Jewish people in over 2,000 years.

Conservative / Masorti Judaism has supported Zionism and the State of Israel right from the start.

The Israel-based Aliyah Forum of Conservative / Masorti Judaism invites you and your congregation to be a part of this amazing accomplishment.

Israel Commitment

Establish and support an active Israel Committee

Ensure that Israel awareness and programming is high on the agenda of your congregation. Make sure an Israel Committee is elected and supported. Making the chair of the Israel Committee a member of the board can help ensure visibility for this important role.

Educate your congregation with Israeli speakers

The Jewish Agency Aliyah and Absorption Department, the USCJ Israel Commission, and MERCAZ can all help organize Israeli speakers on a variety of topics – from “Judaism and the Environment” to “Religious Pluralism” to “What is Zionism?” to “Insights into Life in Israel” and much more. Parashat Lech Lecha is an excellent opportunity to discuss Aliyah.

Encourage and organize missions to Israel

Annual missions to Israel strengthen the Jewish and Zionist identity of our congregations. Our professionals are a valuable resource in preparing and debriefing participants. A personal visit to Conservative congregations and a meeting with olim (perhaps with those who came from your own Kehilah) will greatly enhance the experience.

Encourage youth to visit Israel

Our youth are the future of the Jewish people. Encourage your teens and young adults to participate in one of the many Israel programs that are available. Time spent in Israel on one of the movement-sponsored programs, such as those offered through Nativ, KOACH, Ramah, USY, Marom Olami, Noam Olami, or the Conservative Yeshiva, will strengthen commitments to both Israel and to the Conservative Movement. You can encourage your young people through scholarships, honoring them in the congregation, and inviting them to report on their Israel experience when they return.

Follow up with the youth upon their return from Israel

Our young people return from Israel excited about their Jewish identity and connection to Israel. It is our job to keep the flame alive. Programs and out-reach activities, including weekends, seminars, and evenings can revitalize the congregation.

Zionist education

Teaching about Israel needs to be an important element of the Jewish educational program of every congregation. Teaching about Zionism should be as well. We can no longer take for granted that the underlying reasons for the need of a Jewish State are understood or that the potential Israel holds for Jewish renewal is appreciated. Offer a course on “The Jerusalem Program,” the official platform of the Zionist movement.

Israel Fulfillment

Aliyah as a real-life option

For those members of our congregations interested in exploring Aliyah on a practical level, we are available to help at every stage of the process, from deliberation to consummation. The Masorti Movement has many exciting new klita programs to assist your members in making their plans, and enabling us to extend a hand throughout their period of transition and absorption. Making Aliyah will help strengthen the Masorati/Conservative Movement in Israel and support Jewish pluralism.

Honor those families/individuals who are going on Aliyah

Those families making Aliyah should be honored with a special Shabbat and Kiddush, including a special feature in the congregational bulletin.

Keep connected with your Olim in Israel

Families that have made Aliyah are a valuable resource and connection for your congregation. They can share first-hand reports on life in Israel. It's always more meaningful to hear from a “landsman.” The Jewish Agency Aliyah and Absorption Department, Nefesh B'Nefesh and USCJ Israel Commission, can assist you in finding olim from your community.



Resources for your community

Shlichat Aliyah Naomi Freedman

Naomi Freedman is the Shlichah (Israeli Emissary) of the Jewish Agency to the Conservative Movement/MERCAZ USA. Naomi was born in the United States but made Aliyah to Jerusalem at a young age. After earning a BA in sociology, she became a licensed Israeli tour guide. Naomi has a great deal of experience in designing and conducting informal educational programs and activities. Together with the shlichim team in North America, Naomi looks forward to reaching out to congregations and communities, to educate and engage with Israel, and to support olim in their aliyah and klita.

■ www.aliyah.org ■ naomif@jafi.org ■ 212-339-6079

Jewish Agency for Israel



The Jewish Agency for Israel is the world's only global Jewish partnership, bringing communities and organizations together from around the world, with Israel as its central focal point. Our goals include:

Aliyah - Bringing Jews to live in Israel and ensuring their successful integration.

Jewish/Zionist Education - Connecting the next generation with Israel and Jewish peoplehood as a core part of Jewish identity.

Partnerships with Israel - Involving world Jewry with Israeli communities in shaping the future character of Israeli society.

■ www.jewishagency.org

World Zionist Organization



World Zionist Organization
Department For Zionist Activities

The WZO is dedicated to promoting Zionism as a vital and positive element of contemporary Jewish life. It strives to enhance the impact of Zionist ideology and activity in Jewish communities around the world by working through Zionist Federations and their constituent bodies, and by influencing the agenda of the organized Jewish community. It views aliyah as the ultimate fulfillment of the Zionist idea, and sees the bond between Israel and the Diaspora as indispensable to the flourishing of each. It is able to provide a wide variety of resources to those engaged in promoting this agenda.

■ **David Breakstone** davidbr@wzo.org.il ■ **American Zionist Movement** azm@azm.org

Nefesh B'Nefesh



Founded in 2002, Nefesh B'Nefesh is an organization dedicated to revitalizing Aliyah from North America and the UK by removing or minimizing the financial, professional, logistical and social obstacles of Aliyah. Through the support and comprehensive social services provided to its 18,000 newcomers, Nefesh B'Nefesh has ensured that 98% of its Olim have remained in Israel, and 94% of the families have one or both spouses employed.

■ www.nbn.org.il

Mercaz Olami



MERCAZ OLAMI is the Zionist organization of the world Masorti/Conservative Movement. We promote and support Zionist education, Israel programs and aliyah in our movement throughout the world and work to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Israel.

■ www.masorteworld.org ■ **Rabbi Tzvi Graetz** mercaz@masortiolami.org

MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ CANADA



MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ – Canada, as the North American affiliate of the MERCAZ OLAMI, MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ-Canada, support religious pluralism in Israel and work to strengthen the connection between Israel and the Diaspora through tourism, Jewish education, Hebrew language study, "people-to-people" partnerships, short and long-term Israel program and Aliyah.

■ www.mercazusa.org ■ www.mercaz.ca ■ www.linktoisrael.org

The Masorti Movement in Israel



The Masorti Movement in Israel
התנועה המסורתית בישראל

The Masorti Movement in Israel is the umbrella organization of the 53 Masorti kehillot, havurot and minyanim situated throughout Israel, facilitating the practice of rich and pluralistic Jewish experiences, which are both spiritual and egalitarian. The Masorti Movement operates many educational programs: children's programming, the NOAM youth movement, the Marom students organization, community batei midrash (study programs), and programming for adults

■ www.masorti.org.il ■ www.masorti.org

Israel Commission



The USCJ Israel Commission: Provides the United Synagogue Congregations, Regions and Departments information and programming concerning Israel. Offers user-friendly services to congregations, by facilitating contacts with extant agencies and resources. Encourages aliyah and provide olim from our movement with a Conservative contact in Israel. Develops support for other Israel-orientated agencies within and without the Conservative movement.

■ www.uscj.org ■ **Rabbi Paul Freedman, Dir.** freedman@uscj.org