



MERCAZ-CANADA

The Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement

NEWS FROM MERCAZ-CANADA

June 2008 – Sivan 5768

MERCAZ-CANADA SHABBAT: We are proud of our initiative to celebrate Israel's 60th Anniversary and highlight the work of Mercaz-Canada and the Masorti Movement in Israel during our Mercaz-Canada Shabbat. Every Conservative congregation throughout Canada received brochures for distribution to their congregants on the Shabbat either before or after Yom Haatzmaut. Our Mercaz brochure detailed the work of Mercaz-Canada and a Masorti brochure highlighted the Chesed projects of Masorti kehillot in Israel. Thank you to the rabbis, presidents and Mercaz-Canada Board members who spoke on our behalf from their bimas.

MERCAZ-CANADA MATCHING SCHOLARSHIPS: Mazal tov to all those young people who applied for and received **MATCHING SCHOLARSHIPS** from **MERCAZ-CANADA** and their own congregations which helped subsidize their trips to Conservative sponsored programs in Israel.

MERCAZ/WOMEN'S LEAGUE ESSAY CONTEST

MERCAZ USA, MERCAZ-CANADA and Women's League for Conservative Judaism are organizing their biennial essay contest for teenagers to win scholarships for movement-sponsored trips to Israel. The competition, which will begin over the summer, will be dedicated to reflections on Israel @ 60. The deadline for the 500-word essays will be September 26, 2008. Details about the essay contest will be available by June 1st, on the ECRUSY website www.ecrusy.org or the Mercaz-Canada website www.mercaz.ca.

CONSERVATIVE TOURISTS WELCOME

The institutions of Conservative/Masorti Judaism in Israel, including the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, the Schechter Institute, the Masorti Movement, the Conservative Yeshiva, USCJ Israel Commission and the Neve Hanna Children's Village, are offering travelers to Israel a variety of options for visits, tours, study sessions, etc. *Whether this is your first time in Israel or your hundredth trip, whether you are travelling on your own or as part of a group, now is the time to visit Israel "the Conservative Way"!* Go to www.israelanniversary.org and click on the link for the [Menu of Options](#) to enrich your "Israel @ 60" visit.

UNITY MINYANS AT THE MASORTI KOTEL

Masorti/Conservative Jews who will be in Jerusalem during the month of July, either Wednesday, July 9th, or July 23rd, are invited to join together at the southern end of the Western Wall, the Masorti Kotel, for two special 7:30am morning *minyanim* organized by the Masorti Movement. On these dates, those in Jerusalem touring with groups, visiting privately, studying at the Conservative Yeshiva or living as residents are invited to experience the "*kavana*" (devotion) of an egalitarian morning service at this historic spot. Participants are encouraged to bring their own siddur, tallit and tefillin. Rabbi James Lebeau, Director of the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, will be coordinating the special services and may be contacted at +972-2-625-6386 or lebeau@uscj.org.

JOIN MERCAZ-CANADA ON-LINE AT OUR WEBSITE. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN TOO.

Go to <http://www.mercaz.ca/signup.html>. Annual dues are only \$9 per adult (over 18 yrs) or \$18 per couple. Your membership is vital. The more members we have the greater our influence in allocating much needed resources to our Masorti/Conservative Movement in Israel.

We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

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Marion Mayman, President

Marilyn Cohen, Executive Director