

# MASORTI MATTERS: HOW MERCAZ-CANADA & CANADIAN FOUNDATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL



If you ever wondered what impact Conservative Jews can have in Israel.

Check out Shirat Machar, the Noam Youth Movement's professional Singing Group.

## *Shirat Machar Sings for Equality*

**Shirat Machar**, the co-ed performance troupe of Masorti's **NOAM national youth movement**, is singing for equality and pluralism.

Recently Israel President Shimon Peres attended the 35th Anniversary dinner in honour of the Masorti Movement. In opening remarks, the President made reference to *Shirat Machar*, the Masorti NOAM singing group and said he had come "to hear women singing." *Shirat Machar* is today the only co-ed religious movement performing group in Israel. It was also the first time an Israeli president addressed a Masorti group.



Hundreds fill Zion Square on Dec. 7



The President poses with Shirat Machar.  
Photo by: Joshua Josef/Flash 90.

These talented teen vocalists have taken their message of justice and equality for women to Zion Square in Jerusalem and beyond for rallies to protest an increasingly intensive campaign by the ultra-Orthodox to marginalize women in Israeli society. Hundreds of Israelis were drawn to Zion Square in this third in a recent series of well-attended demonstrations, supported by the Masorti movement, the New Israel Fund and other organizations that share the vision of an inclusive, democratic Israel.

"We, women and men, secular and religious and also ultra-Orthodox, who are slowly joining in, are changing the rules of the game and the rules of public discourse," Jerusalem City Council member Rachel Azaria was quoted saying in an account published online by the Israeli daily, *Ha'aretz*. Ms. Azaria, who identifies as modern Orthodox, was present in the overflow crowd on the String Bridge at the western entrance to Jerusalem.

*Shirat Machar hopes to be able to bring a North American concert tour to a synagogue near you soon. To see a video of Shirat Machar, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuUx116eUWQ&context=C313e696AD0EqsToPDskKleUjEKYT63A65SpMmFENA>*

Please remind everyone of the importance of supporting Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism.

Help us assure the future for a democratic and pluralistic Jewish State.

Please support Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism.

To donate online, visit <http://www.masorti.ca/donate.html> today.

Keep our voice strong in the the WZO & Jewish Agency, join MERCAZ-Canada <http://www.mercaz.ca>



Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism ~ Supporting Masorti/Conservative Judaism In Israel  
MERCAZ-Canada ~ Your Voice in Israel

For more information about Masorti/Conservative Judaism in Israel

Contact Rabbi Jennifer Gorman, Executive Director

MERCAZ-Canada Canadian foundation for Masorti Judaism  
www.mercaz.ca (416) 667-1717 (866) 357-3384 www.masorti.ca

