



Hannaton's New Program Brings Together Israeli and Diaspora Teens

Kibbutz Hannaton, the first and only kibbutz affiliated with the Masorti Movement, will be welcoming its pioneering cohort of North American high school graduates this coming September in its new "Mitzpeh BaGalil", a new gap year program.

Mitzpeh BaGalil has been designed to be a pluralistic post-high school framework in which participants will study, tour, and do community service in Israel for 10 months.

But what truly sets this program apart from so many others is that it is designed from the start to run in parallel to the established "Mechina" post-high school pre-army service program at Hannaton for Israeli teens preparing for the IDF service. This means that Mitzpeh participants will develop friendships with their Israeli peers through shared projects and activities, creating a true "community" between US and Israeli teens within a pluralistic Jewish environment.

The core values of the new program are Jewish learning, pluralistic religious expression, developing Jewish leadership, community service and "yedi'at ha-arezt", a familiarity with the Land of Israel. Students interested in the program may apply for a special fellowship which would lower their participation cost to \$7000. For more information, contact Rabbi Shawn Simon, Coordinator for Mitzpeh BaGalil, ravshawn@echannaton.org.

In other news from Kibbutz Hannaton, plans for a new educational campus have been announced thanks to a \$2.5 million contribution made by a generous anonymous donor. The new campus will include up-to-date offices, classrooms, community meeting places, a "contemplation area", an outdoor amphitheatre and more. In the spirit of the principles of the traditional kibbutz movement, the architectural plans will combine modern methods and materials that will fully integrate with the kibbutz's green Galilee surroundings.

The new educational campus envisioned with the new donation follows the recent announcement of a new Beit Midrash building which will join the already existing Mechina area built two years ago.

The new \$2.5 million donation comes with a unique challenge: find matching donors to meet Hannaton's required \$10 million full campus budget and the donor will contribute another \$2.5 million. Those wishing to help Kibbutz Hannaton meet this challenge may contribute online at www.echannaton.org or by check to the Masorti Foundation, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 832, New York, New York 10115. Please make your check payable to the Masorti Foundation and designate your tax-deductible gift to the Hannaton Educational and Spiritual Center.



ZIONIST ELECTION UPDATE

After more than three months of campaigning during the formal registration and voting process, the American elections for the World Zionist Congress came to an end on April 30th. MERCAZ USA thanks all of the arms of the Conservative Movement for their help and support in this movement-wide effort which saw the beneficiary organizations of WZO and Jewish Agency funding – MERCAZ Olami, Masorti Olami, Schechter Institutes and Masorti Movement – providing significant resources for the MERCAZ electoral campaign. While at the time of the printing of this newsletter, the official results have not yet been announced, pending the investigation of certain alleged irregularities in registration and voting, MERCAZ feels confident that every possible effort was undertaken to match or exceed the 22% vote won in the last election in 2006. Among those activities were special "Vote MERCAZ" sessions at synagogues across the United States, including this one at Temple Israel in Great Neck. Pictured here is Jonathan Bloom registering.

Mazal Tov

To Rabbi Avi Novis-Deutsch, who has been appointed as the new Dean of the Rabbinical Seminary at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. A graduate of the Schechter rabbinical school, Rabbi Novis-Deutsch has served as the spiritual leader of the Masorti congregation of Kfar Veradim in the Western Galilee. Previously, he taught Talmud and Halachah at the Schechter Seminary and was the Head of the Human Rights Yeshiva.

To Rabbi Joshua Adler, a Conservative rabbi ordained by JTS in 1958, who participated again this past Yom HaAtzmaut as one of the judges for the televised World Bible Contest held in Jerusalem. Rabbi Joshua Adler served as a US Army chaplain and congregational rabbi in Harrisburg, PA, before making aliyah in 1972. He is currently a lecturer on Jewish subjects and managing editor of the Jewish Bible Quarterly in Jerusalem.

To Rabbi Gordon Tucker, William and Susan Yarmuth and Yizhar Hess, who were honored at the recent Masorti Foundation's Tribute Gala. Tucker, spiritual leader of Temple Israel Center of White Plains, is a former Chairperson of the Masorti Foundation. The Yarmuths, lay leaders from Congregation Aduth Jeshurun in Louisville, KY, are generous donors to the Foundation, while Yizhar Hess has worked as the Executive Director of the Masorti Movement in Israel since 2007.

To Devora Greenberg, former Aliyah Shlichah (2004-2006) to the Conservative Movement in North America, who recently began work as the director of the new Rav Siach program, a joint project of the Ministry for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs and the Masorti Movement in Israel to strengthen and deepen the relationship between Conservative communities in the Diaspora, Masorti communities in Israel and the State of Israel. Greenberg, who holds an M.A. from Hebrew University in Contemporary Judaism, has been working since her return from shlichut with Ramah Programs in Israel and the National Ramah Commission. For more information about the new Rav Siach program, contact devora@masorti.org.il.

To the Schechter Institutes which are celebrating the 30th anniversary of their founding with a special celebratory mission to Israel arriving this June to cap the festivities. Today, six hundred M.A. students call Schechter their academic home, with alumni of the graduate and rabbinical programs numbering more than 1500. In addition, there are more than 250 TALI schools and pre-schools administered by Schechter, with 1,000 monthly participants in the various Neve Schechter programs. For more information about Schechter, go to www.schechter.edu.



CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT

Israel Trips 2015

June 21 – July 3, 2015

B'nai Jeshurun Cong., Cleveland, OH
 Price per person: \$2,920 (land only)
 Contact: Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria or
 Diane Shalom
 216-831-6555
info@bnaijeshurun.org

June 24-July 4, 2015

Cong. Tifereth Israel, Glen Cove, NY
 Price per person: \$2,399 (land only)
 Contact: Jessi Chodos
 (516) 676-5080
office@ctionline.org

December 20 - 31, 2015

Cong. Ohev Shalom/Marlboro JC
 Marlboro, NJ
 Price per person: \$2,598 (land only)
 Contact: Rabbi Michael Pont
 732-536-2300
rabbipont@mjcni.com



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