



MERCAZ INSPIRES NEW WZO HEBREW PROGRAM

Ivrit Tsionit Modeled On Mercaz' Ivrit Masortit

"A decade ago, MERCAZ USA, as part of its ongoing agenda as the Zionist arm of the Conservative Movement, produced a new educational Hebrew language program, "Ivrit Masortit – An Exploration of Heritage Hebrew". Based on the exploration of Hebrew roots, the 10-part series was designed to introduce key value concepts in Judaism and a selection of words and phrases derived from the selected three-letter roots.

Now, ten years later, the World Zionist Organization has produced a new Hebrew language program, based on the format of "Ivrit Masortit", entitled "Ivrit Tsionit – Zionist Hebrew".

"Zionist Hebrew" is an exploration of the Jerusalem Program, the ideological foundation of the Zionist Movement, through an analysis of seven key words that underlie the preamble and six enumerated principles making up this basic unifying statement for all Zionist organizations and parties that are affiliated with the World Zionist Organization.

Written by Dr. David Breakstone, Vice Chairman of the World Zionist Organization and leader of MERCAZ Olami on the Zionist Executive, with help from Rabbi Miles Cohen, editor of the earlier MERCAZ Hebrew educational program, "Ivrit Tsionit – Zionist Hebrew" is, as Dr. Breakstone notes, "not going to make anyone fluent in either the Hebrew language or Zionist ideology. It does aim, however, to convey the vital importance of both to the future of the Jewish people."

Each of the seven lessons within "Zionist Hebrew" explores a different key Hebrew word which encapsulates an important value within the Jerusalem Program. Following the appropriate quotation from the Jerusalem Program, the program then provides a page-long exploration of the meaning

of the value concept, followed by a page of vocabulary terms that are derived from the key word and a final page of practice exercises.

In order to make the new Hebrew program as widely available as possible, the entire kit has been uploaded to the World Zionist Organization's website, www.wzo.org.il, for free downloads.

The new educational program formally acknowledges that "Ivrit Tsionit was inspired by Ivrit Masortit, a unit developed by MERCAZ USA, the Zionist arm of Conservative Judaism, to which the World Zionist Organization and the American Zionist Movement express their appreciation for its cooperation in the production of this kit."

As Dr. Breakstone writes, "in creating this unit, the World Zionist Organization . . . hope[s] to stimulate those using it to engage in a deeper exploration of the ideological underpinnings of Zionism and the richness of the Hebrew language and to see both as treasures to be embraced and embedded in their own lives." □

You are cordially invited to attend
MERCAZ USA's
Biennial General Council Meeting
Sunday, May 19, 2013, 11:00am-3:00pm
Bnai Zion Building
136 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016
*Program for the General Council includes the
Election and Installation of New Officers*
R.S.V.P 212-533-2061 or info@mercuzusa.org

MASORTI WELCOMES NEW KEHILLOT

The steady growth of the Masorti Movement in Israel continues unabated. From just a handful of congregations composed almost entirely of immigrants from English speaking counties, today, Masorti has close to 70 kehillot covering almost all of Israel's geography, including five new congregations just since the High Holidays, and the bulk of the new members are younger Israelis who do not want their children to grow up lacking Jewish identity.

Two of the new congregations are in suburban areas new Modiin, one in Shoham and another in Kfar Oranim. Ramat Aviv has a second Masorti kehilla, while two kibbutzim, Beit Keshet in the Galilee and Neve Eitan near Beit Shean, have established Masorti minyanim.

CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT *Trips 2013*

April 30 - May 13, 2013

Cong. B'nai Amoona, St. Louis, MO
Price per person: \$3,038 (land only)
Contact: Gerry Heller
(636) 728-1030
gerryh1@charter.net

April 28 - May 9, 2013

Temple Judea of Laguna Hills, CA
Price per person: \$2,835 (land only)
Contact: Sima Linson
(949) 830-0470
tjoffice@templejudealw.org

May 1 - 10, 2013

Tour to Budapest, Vienna and Prague
Price per person: \$2,999
Contact: Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins
Growth Associates Jewish Educ.
Consultants
(609) 497-7375
DPE@JewishGrowth.org

May 26 - June 5, 2013

Congregation Sons of Israel, Nyack, NY
Price per person: \$2,595 (land only)
Contact: Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
(845) 358-3767
CSIRabbi@optonline.net

July 17 - 29, 2013

Congregation B'nai Amoona,
St. Louis, MO
Price per person: TBA
Contact: Lynnsie Balk Kantor
(314) 406-1214
lynnsie@lynnsie.com

July 28 - August 8, 2013

USCJ Family Israel Experience
Price per person: \$2,380 (land only)
Contact: Rabbi Charles Savenor
(212) 533-7800 ext 1124
Savenor@uscj.org

October 30 - November 11, 2013

Seaboard Region FJMC Israel Tour
Price per person: \$4,000 (land only)
Contact: Jim Sloan
(703) 561-0775
Seaboardisrael2013@gmail.com



REPORT OF THE MERCAZ NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following slate of officers has been proposed by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Stephen Wolnek, for approval at the MERCAZ USA General Council Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2013, in New York City.

President	Janet Tobin
Vice-Presidents	Rabbi Eytan Hammerman, Scott Kaplan, Dr. Marilyn Wind, Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg, Michael Mills, Rabbi Gerald Skolnik, Richard Skolnik, Rita Wertlieb
Secretary	Gloria Cohen
Treasurer	Stephen Steckler

According to the MERCAZ USA By-Laws, Article 6C(I): Additional nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee, care of the MERCAZ USA office, up to 30 days prior to the General Council Meeting by means of a written petition from at least two members in good standing from each of at least 5 regions of the United Synagogue. The consent of any such nominee shall first have been obtained in writing and attached to the petition.

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to enroll online on our secure membership website for the new 2012/2013 fiscal calendar. Annual dues are \$54 for families, \$36 for individuals and \$12 for students.



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