

It's Your Choice – How to Support the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel

2. Israel Bond Donation to Masorti - This year we have begun a second avenue of support to Masorti through the donation of Israel Bonds to Masorti. The idea is that, just like a gift that you would make to a B'nai

1. Traditional Direct Donation to Masorti -

Traditionally, we have suggested direct donation to the Masorti movement. These funds go directly to Masorti to fund their operations. To donate go to donate@masorti.org or use the form below.

Mitzvah student, you designate Masorti as the bond recipient. The benefits to Masorti are: a more predictable stream of funds that they can plan for over time, as opposed to depending on current-year donations, and Masorti starts to become a major investor in Israel, which in turn sends a powerful message to Israel's government. Donations start at \$100 and will be matched dollar for dollar (up to a specific level) by a group of committed Beth Shalom congregants. Donate at israelbonds.com.

3. E-Mitzvah Israel Bond Donation to Masorti –

These Israel Bonds begin at \$36, but are still donated to Masorti. Every little bit helps.

Whatever option you choose, your donation or investment sends a powerful message of support for religious pluralism, egalitarianism and inclusivity in Israel.

Today Rabah, and l'shanah tovah tikateiv v'tichateimu!

Rabbi Susan Grossman
Beth Shalom Senior Rabbi

Cheryl Gillette
Beth Shalom Israel Advocacy Chair

Gregory Corrigan
Beth Shalom Israel Bonds Chairman

Please fill out this form to make a direct donation to MASORTI
(Make check payable to MASORTI - return form & check to Beth Shalom)

Full Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregation: **Beth Shalom Congregation** City, State, Zip: **Columbia, MD 21044**

Donation Amount: \$360 __ \$180 __ \$108 __ \$72 __ \$54 __ \$36 __ \$18 __ Other _____

Check Enclosed: _____

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard AmEx Card #: _____

Expires (mm/yy): __/__/__ Signature: _____



Beth Shalom Congregation

Caring, Creative, Conservative

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Masorti Foundation

Masorti Israel Action Update for the High Holidays 5779

During a time when the values of pluralism, egalitarianism and inclusivity in Israel are being tested to the limits, there is a greater urgency than ever to strengthen the partnership between the Conservative Jewish community in the United States and our Masorti brethren in Israel. This united effort, based on core Conservative Jewish values, can create a powerful global movement to address dangerous fundamentalism while building indigenous, pluralistic Israeli institutions for the future.

Diaspora Jews are fortunate to have an active and growing Masorti movement in Israel – now nearly 80 kehillot strong - that is dedicated to Israel's original and eternal vision from its Declaration of Independence. Together, we can counter the frontal attack on the values that Israel's founders envisioned would guide the Jewish homeland.

In 5779, with our support, the Israeli Masorti movement will:

- ✧ Advocate for the right of all Jews to have full access to an egalitarian prayers section at the Kotel. The movement's "One Wall for One People" advocacy campaign is making an impact on Israeli politics and throughout Israeli society. There are over 1,000 egalitarian minyanim a year held at Azarat Yisrael, the Masorti Kotel, and this must continue to grow;
- ✧ Speak out to ensure that what happened in July to Rabbi Dubi Haiyun, our Masorti colleague from Haifa, never happens again. Our Masorti leadership launched a multi-prong campaign to protest Rabbi Haiyun's detention and questioning by police, and defend his and all Israelis right to weddings, conversions and other life cycle events according to their traditions. This ongoing campaign on behalf of Rabbi Haiyun, the Masorti community and all Israelis, needs our support;
- ✧ Ensure that Knesset members are held accountable to govern on behalf of all Israelis based on the Zionist ethos of equality, compassion and justice for all. This mission is advanced by Masorti's Jewish Pluralism Watch, which continuously monitors Israeli elected officials on their statements and votes on matters of state and religion in Israel;
- ✧ Create the next generation of Masorti leaders through the NOAM youth movement and Ramah camping program – over 1600 members and a record 711 campers this summer. NOAM's Year of Service expands on this work and engages young Israelis in social justice and educational activities, cultivating a deep appreciation for Jewish tradition, pluralism, and egalitarian practice, while nurturing leadership skills.
- ✧ Defend fundamental values of justice and equality. Examples include advocating to meet the humanitarian needs of Israel's asylum-seeker community, and fighting for Yosef Kabita and other members of the Jewish Abayudaya community from Uganda, many being Masorti converts, who are seeking equal rights under the law to live and study in Israel.
- ✧ Ensure that children with disabilities have the opportunity to fully participate in Jewish and Israeli religious life, often impossible under the ultra-Orthodox authorities. An array of Jewish empowerment and inclusion opportunities, including Bar and Bat Mitzvah learning and celebration, are offered by Masorti's ADRABA – the Shirley Lowy Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities.

Now is the time for all Conservative Jews in the United States to commit to a true partnership with the Israeli Masorti movement by providing the financial resources it needs and for increased community development, education and advocacy; and by standing in solidarity as we struggle together for a welcoming and inclusive Israel for ourselves, our children and future generations.