

THE ROAD TO SIXTY

A Conservative Movement Program for November '07 (and suitable for throughout the year)

Visit www.israelanniversary.org for more information and programs.

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GENERAL TIPS FOR PLANNING AN LCCJ SHABBAT

- **Create a LCCJ Shabbat Committee**
- **Determine scope of activities**
 - How much should your club try to accomplish?
 - What are your resources?
- **Build around the LCCJ themes**
- **Maximize participation and involvement**
 - Who do you want to acknowledge?
 - How can you provide recognition?
 - How many roles or tasks to assign?
 - How should you select and assign tasks?

Involve your rabbi and cantor

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INTRODUCTION

The Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism (LCCJ) has designated the month of November as a time to begin preparing ourselves to celebrate this coming May the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

To this end, the LCCJ is encouraging congregations to devote one or two Shabbatot during November to commemorate two important milestones that occurred on the way to Israel's creation: **1)** the 90th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration endorsing the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People [Letter of November 2, 1917] and **2)** the celebration of the 60th anniversary commemorating the passing of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 calling for the partition of the British-ruled Palestine Mandate into a Jewish state and an Arab state [November 29, 1947].

This Shabbat program has five main goals: to bring renewed awareness within the Jewish community and particularly among the younger generation of these important milestones - the Balfour Declaration Letter and the passing of UN Resolution 181 - leading to the 60th anniversary of Israel in 2008; to strengthen the membership of Conservative Jews in MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ Canada; to strengthen the fundraising campaign of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel; to strengthen the relationship of North American Conservative Jewry with Israel by having all synagogue arms "twin" with Masorti *kehillot* in Israel and around the world; to provide Israel programming for the month-long period that can be used year round in the synagogue environment; and finally, and most importantly, to encourage travel to Israel in order to behold the land and its beauty and at the same time to help support the Israeli economy.

LCCJ Israel's 60th Anniversary Committee

Stephen Steckler, Chair, Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs

Cantor Jack Chomsky, Cantors Assembly

Rabbi Robert R. Golub, Executive Director MERCAZ USA

Rabbi Vernon H. Kurtz, President MERCAZ Olami

Marion Mayman, President MERCAZ- Canada

Sharon P. Steinberg, Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Norman Stern, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Israel Commission

PART ONE

GENERAL QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, TIPS FOR PLANNING THE LCCJ SHABBATOT

- ***What is the LCCJ Shabbatot?***
An opportunity for synagogue congregants to lead Shabbat services at a time of celebration while hundreds of synagogues simultaneously rejoice at the 90th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and the 60th Anniversary of the passage of United Nation's Resolution 181. An ideal forum for supporting the State of Israel and demonstrating the important and vital role each arm of the synagogue plays in your congregation.
- ***When is it?***
The LCCJ Shabbat(ot) is/are scheduled to be held between November 3rd and December 1st.
- ***What if We Cannot Schedule the LCCJ two Shabbatot on the proposed dates?***
Not every synagogue can celebrate these two **Shabbatot** but regardless of your timing, we urge you to utilize the selected theme and adapt it to your needs.
- ***When Should We Begin Planning these Shabbatot?***
As soon as possible! Make this LCCJ **Shabbat program** the highpoint of the balance of this year's synagogue calendar.
- ***Is There a Specific Procedure for Conducting the LCCJ Shabbat(ot)?***
No. Each synagogue is free to do something different, though most synagogues tend to utilize the selected theme and corresponding material.
- ***What Materials Do We Need?***
This electronic manual should suffice.

GENERAL TIPS FOR PLANNING TWO LCCJ SHABBATOT

1. CREATE A LCCJ SHABBAT COMMITTEE

Appoint a Program Coordinator and committee. The more people involved in planning the event, the higher your attendance will be.

Who Should be on the LCCJ Shabbat Committee?

In addition to a diverse committee, include the rabbi and cantor who will be important advisors in the preparation of this Shabbat program.

2. DETERMINE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

How Much Should Your Synagogue Group Try To Accomplish?

Will you celebrate the LCCJ **Shabbat(ot)** on Friday evening, Saturday morning, or both? Can your members lead services? Who will sponsor a **Shabbat Dinner** or **Oneg Shabbat**? Can you add a synagogue choir? You may also consider holding a **Mincha/Ma'ariv/Havdalah** service in your programming. See the FJMC Havdalah material.

What Are Your Resources?

Consider the skills and abilities of the synagogue members and don't be afraid to ask them to participate. Check with the rabbi for honorees. People like to be asked. After the conclusion of the Shabbat, just remember to thank them.

3. BUILD AROUND THE LCCJ THEME

Be Creative, Take a Risk, and Try Something New!

What can you do to have a great Shabbat program to commemorate these two important events in Israel's history?

4. MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Along with the rabbi, who does the Synagogue Group Want to Acknowledge?

This is the perfect time to acknowledge past and current volunteers involved in Israeli affairs. No better place to show appreciation than this spiritual, public setting, on **the bimah** before the entire congregation

How can you provide recognition?

Offering an **aliyah** is a way to show appreciation. Consider the following roles, tasks and ideas, and freely add to the list:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Torah Readers | <i>at least 7 people</i> |
| 2. Haftorah Reader | <i>1 person</i> |
| 3. Acting Lay Leader(s) | <i>1 -3 people</i> |
| 4. Ba'alei Tefilah | <i>1 -3 people</i> |
| 5. Gabbaim | <i>2 people</i> |
| 6. Carrying the Torahs | <i>2-4 people</i> |
| 7. Dressing the Torahs | <i>2 people</i> |
| 8. Open & Close the Ark | <i>up to 4 people</i> |
| 9. Sermon Friday Evening | <i>1 person</i> |
| 10. D'var Torah Saturday | <i>1 person</i> |
| 11. Sitting On The Bimah | Discuss with rabbi |

Unlimited Honors

- Official Greeters/Hosts/Ushers
 - Those Who Will Give English and Hebrew Readings
 - Servers at *Oneg Shabbat*, Dinner and/or Luncheon
 - Synagogue Choir Members
 - Leader Special Program after Services
- ***How Many Roles or Tasks To Assign?***
Create as many roles and as many honors as possible. The more parts that are assigned the more exciting the service and the greater the number of attendees to these special services.
 - ***How Should You Select and Assign Tasks?***
Determine, with the help of your rabbi, who will serve as the lay leaders, read from the *Torah*, chant the *Haftorah*, and serve as *gabbaim*.

5. INVOLVE YOUR RABBI AND CANTOR

It is vital to involve your spiritual leaders when planning these special services commemorating these distinctive moments in the history of the State of Israel. Ask them who can lead services, read *Torah* and *Haftorah*. Ask them to suggest English readings that would be appropriate for this remarkable occasion. If your synagogue has a choir, the choir can be involved in the services with cantorial assistance with several tunes to commemorate those events 90 and 60 years ago.

6. PUBLICITY

- **Before the Event**
 - Write a Shabbat article for your synagogue newsletter
 - Place notifications and reminders in your weekly or electronic synagogue bulletin
 - If available, use email reminders to congregants
 - Send “Reminder Cards” to all prior to this special Shabbat program.
- **Publicity at the Event**

Take advantage of this opportunity to maximize congregants’ positive attitudes and goodwill toward the synagogue, its affiliated organizations, and the professional staff and our love of Israel and the Jewish people everywhere.

- **Consider:**
 - Prepare a distinctive pamphlet about these special Shabbatot. Include information on these two events as the synagogue celebrates the establishment of the State of Israel. In the pamphlet include the names and roles of all those being honored at Shabbat services. Distribute the pamphlets to everyone entering the sanctuary.
 - Set up an exhibition table outside the sanctuary (or at the *Oneg Shabbat* or luncheon) to display documents and other items related to these two events.
- **Scope of Activities**
 - What should your synagogue do to make these weekends successful?
 - What activities can you plan during this weekend(s) that will foster identification with the State of Israel.
 - What types of supplementary activities should the synagogue Sabbath committee initiate to achieve these goals?
- **Consider the following ideas:**

Friday Evening

There are congregations that prepare a Shabbat Dinner or have a caterer arrange one. This is an excellent opportunity for utilizing the FJMC's **Art of Jewish Living: Shabbat Seder** program at the Shabbat dinner prior to the service.

- Utilize this opportunity to recognize the importance of Israel in our lives.
 - Consider the Friday evening service for congregants lead *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Shabbat Ma'ariv* Services
 - Who will be serving as ushers?
 - Who is sponsoring the *Oneg Shabbat*? Will a discussion or presentation follow?
- **Shabbat Morning**

Are as many as possible of your synagogue members leading or participating in the service? Have *Aliyot* been distributed for *Torah* and *Haftorah* readers assigned? Is a congregant delivering a *D'var Torah* or perhaps running a brief panel discussion based on our theme? Do not forget the synagogue's choir participation in the service.

- Sunday Morning

Begin your program with *Shaharit* service with congregants leading it. This is an ideal opportunity for running a mini-World-Wide Wrap. Don't forget the *Birkat HaMazon* books and provide experienced members to serve as mentors for neophyte "bentchers".

SAMPLE BULLETIN INSERT

[INSERT SYNAGOGUE NAME HERE] will be celebrating this special *Shabbat* on Friday evening at

[INSERT TIME HERE], and Saturday morning at [INSERT TIME HERE].

[INDICATE OTHER EVENTS AND REFRESHMENTS, ETC. HERE].

The theme for this year is:

The members of the committee are: [INSERT NAMES & POSITIONS HERE].

Please join with the synagogue on these special *Shabbatot*.

Notes:

Include in your article the following information, if you wish:

- Any special *Kiddush* following services.
- Programs connected to the congregation's Shabbat, such as a speaker, Sunday brunch, etc.
- List those who will be participating in services.

- **Publicity and PR Materials**

Bulletin Article

Reminder Notice for Spiritual Leaders and all participants

7. TIPS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

- Get these special **Shabbatot** weekend clearly marked on synagogue calendar.
- Enlarge your committee; if possible assign each task to a different individual, the larger your committee, the greater the participation and attendance.
- Decentralize as much as possible. Let people do their jobs. If necessary have a follow up person do the expediting.
- When distributing Honors and *aliyot*, have the rabbi help in the selection process.
- When ordering food or making arrangements with the caterer, always order ten per cent more than you think you will need. Leftovers can always be used. Hungry people complain.
- Arrange to donate any leftovers to a local food pantry.
- Ask each participant on Sunday morning and in your publicity to bring an item of canned or boxed food.

PART TWO: THE DOCUMENTS

BALFOUR DECLARATION (November 1917)

[Foreign Office](#),

November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and [political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country](#)".

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely

[Arthur James Balfour](#)

UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (Partition Plan) November 29, 1947

The General Assembly,

Having met in special session at the request of the mandatory Power to constitute and instruct a Special Committee to prepare for the consideration of the question of the future Government of Palestine at the second regular session;

Having constituted a Special Committee and instructed it to investigate all questions and issues relevant to the problem of Palestine, and to prepare proposals for the solution of the problem, and

Having received and examined the report of the Special Committee (document A/364)(1) including a number of unanimous recommendations and a plan of partition with economic union approved by the majority of the Special Committee,

Considers that the present situation in Palestine is one which is likely to impair the general welfare and friendly relations among nations;

Takes note of the declaration by the mandatory Power that it plans to complete its evacuation of Palestine by 1 August 1948;

Recommends to the United Kingdom, as the mandatory Power for Palestine, and to all other Members of the United Nations the adoption and implementation, with regard to the future Government of Palestine, of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union set out below;

Requests that

- a. The Security Council take the necessary measures as provided for in the plan for its implementation;
- b. The Security Council consider, if circumstances during the transitional period require such consideration, whether the situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to the peace. If it decides that such a threat exists, and in order to maintain international peace and security, the Security Council should supplement the authorization of the General Assembly by taking measures, under Articles 39 and 41 of the Charter, to empower the United Nations Commission, as provided in this resolution, to exercise in Palestine the functions which are assigned to it by this resolution;
- c. The Security Council determine as a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter, any attempt to alter by force the settlement envisaged by this resolution;
- d. The Trusteeship Council be informed of the responsibilities envisaged for it in this plan;

Calls upon the inhabitants of Palestine to take such steps as may be necessary on their part to put this plan into effect;

Appeals to all Governments and all peoples to refrain from taking any action which might hamper or delay the carrying out of these recommendations, and

Authorizes the Secretary-General to reimburse travel and subsistence expenses of the members of the Commission referred to in Part 1, Section B, Paragraph I below, on such basis and in such form as he may determine most appropriate in the circumstances, and to provide the Commission with the necessary staff to assist in carrying out the functions assigned to the Commission by the General Assembly.*

The General Assembly,

Authorizes the Secretary-General to draw from the Working Capital Fund a sum not to exceed 2,000,000 dollars for the purposes set forth in the last paragraph of the resolution on the future government of Palestine.

PLAN OF PARTITION WITH ECONOMIC UNION

Part I. - Future Constitution and Government of Palestine

A. TERMINATION OF MANDATE, PARTITION AND INDEPENDENCE

1. The [Mandate for Palestine](#) shall terminate as soon as possible but in any case not later than 1 August 1948.
2. The armed forces of the mandatory Power shall be progressively withdrawn from Palestine, the withdrawal to be completed as soon as possible but in any case not later than 1 August 1948.
The mandatory Power shall advise the Commission, as far in advance as possible, of its intention to terminate the mandate and to evacuate each area. The mandatory Power shall use its best endeavours to ensure that an area situated in the territory of the Jewish State, including a seaport and hinterland adequate to provide facilities for a substantial immigration, shall be evacuated at the earliest possible date and in any event not later than 1 February 1948.
3. Independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem, set forth in Part III of this Plan, shall come into existence in Palestine two months after the evacuation of the armed forces of the mandatory Power has been completed but in any case not later than 1 October 1948. The boundaries of the Arab State, the Jewish State, and the City of Jerusalem shall be as described in Parts II and III below.
4. The period between the adoption by the General Assembly of its recommendation on the question of Palestine and the establishment of the independence of the Arab and Jewish States shall be a transitional period.

Adopted at the 128th plenary meeting:

In favour: 33

Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Byelorussian S.S.R., Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian S.S.R., Union of South Africa, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: 13

Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen.

Abstained: 10

Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.

THE DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL (May 14, 1948)

Text:

ERETZ-ISRAEL [(Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, *ma'pilim* [(Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the [Balfour Declaration](#) of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the [Mandate of the League of Nations](#) which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and

mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE "ROCK OF ISRAEL", WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

As leader of the [Yishuv](#), [David Ben-Gurion](#) was the first person to sign. He was followed by:

[Daniel Auster](#), [Yitzhak Ben-Zvi](#), [Mordechai Bentov](#), [Eliyahu Berligne](#), [Fritz Bernstein](#), [Rachel Cohen-Kagan](#), [Eliyahu Dobkin](#), Rabbi [Yehuda Leib Hacoheh Fishman](#), Rabbi [Wolf Gold](#), [Meir Grabovsky](#), Dr [Abraham Granovsky](#), [Yitzhak Gruenbaum](#), Rabbi [Kalman Kahana](#), [Eliezer Kaplan](#), [Abraham Katznelson](#), [Saadia Kobashi](#), [Moshe Kolodny](#), Rabbi [Yitzhak Meir Levin](#), [Meir David Loewenstein](#), [Zvi Luria](#), [Golda Meyerson](#), [Nahum Nir](#), [David-Zvi Pinkas](#), [Felix Rosenblueth](#), [David Remez](#), [Berl Repetur](#), [Zvi Segal](#), [Mordechai Shatner](#), [Ben-Zion Sternberg](#), [Bechor-Shalom Sheetrit](#), [Haim-Moshe Shapira](#), [Moshe Shertok](#), [Herzl Vardi](#), [Meir Vilner](#), [Zerach Warhaftig](#) and [Aharon Zisling](#)

PART THREE: RABBIS & CANTORS

A-THE RABBI'S VIEW

There are a number of places during the Shabbat Services to Study or Reflect on the Balfour Declaration, the UN General Assembly Partition Plan and/or the Declaration of Israel's Independence

A. Evening Service

1. Between *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Barchu*, in place of the *mishnayot* and to be followed by *Kaddish Derabbanan*
2. In place of or within *Ahavat Olam* (before Shma)
3. In place of or within *Emet Ve'Emuna* after Shma
4. Before *Kiddush*
5. Following *Aleinu*
6. Preceding closing hymn (*Yigdal* or *Adon Olam*)

B. Morning Service

1. Before *Yishtabach* and/or *Barchu*
2. In place of or within *Ahavah Rabbah*
3. In place of or within *Ezrat Avoteinu*
4. Before start of Torah service
5. After Haftorah, together with the Prayer for the State of Israel
6. Before Musaf Amidah
7. Following *Aleinu*
8. Preceding closing hymn
9. Before Kiddush

B- THE HAZZAN'S PLATFORM

Prayer for the State of Israel (Avinu Shebashamayim). Well-known versions of this prayer include those by Sol Zim and Meir Finkelstein. Cantor Jack Chomsky composed a simple version with a congregational refrain that is below.

Hatikvah is also likely to be a possible part of a service. In addition to the almost universally known Israeli national anthem, there is a beautiful setting of a piece called *Hatikvah Hanoshana* by David Burger. Written for the 50th anniversary of *Hatikvah*, it incorporates some of the additional language of the original Naftali Imber poem.

Cantors could also consider using material contemporary to the events that we are commemorating. For example, such famous songs as **Eli Eli** (Kurt Schindler) and **Hamavdil** and Rumshinsky's musical operetta **Shir Hashirim** appeared in 1917 or not long before. These songs and musical works often express the longing for a homeland that was beginning to be realized in ways that few contemporary witnesses could have imagined.

There is a fascinating collection of song lyrics from popular culture in the years immediately preceding the Balfour Declaration which lends quite a taste of public attitudes in the time near the events of the Balfour Declaration. The website <http://128.36.236.77/workpaper/pdfs/MESV5-13.pdf> will yield a paper entitled "When Palestine Played the Palace: Vaudeville Interprets the Balfour Declaration" by Charles A. Kennedy. It is "a selection of songs about Palestine and the end of the Ottoman Empire that were played on the vaudeville circuits between 1912 and 1922, the years just before the Balfour Declaration and down to the Treaty of Lausanne."

When commemorations of the U.N. vote take place, it would be appropriate to incorporate any of the many songs associated with the early days of the State of Israel, available in many different musical collections.

PART FOUR: PROGRAMS ON ISRAEL

Films or Videos. Have a dinner featuring Israeli food followed by a movie. (Some of the movies might be available in your local video store or from a community Jewish library.)

HaTikvah: The Hope (48 min.) This 1936 documentary was produced by the German Zionist Union in an effort to inspire German Jews under Nazi rule to make *Aliyah*. It chronicles the earliest period of Zionist history and focuses on some major personalities of the Zionist Movement, the constructive work carried out in Palestine by the first waves of immigration, and the religious life of Jews from diverse backgrounds. (rental is \$72 from the National Center for Jewish Film.)

A Wall in Jerusalem (91 min.) A documentary about the beginnings of Zionism and the creation of Israel; narrated by Richard Burton. (#211 \$59.95 Ergo)

Weizmann (57 min.) The story of Israel's first president from his early Zionist activities. Produced for the Cultural Affairs Dept. at the Consulate General of Israel, NY (free through Alden Films)

David Ben Gurion (29 min.) A portrait of this Zionist leader who became Israel's first Prime Minister uses rare archival photos. Produced for the Cultural Affairs Dept. at the Consulate General of Israel, NY (free through Alden Films)

They Were Ten (101 min.) This first feature length film made entirely by Israelis recreates the establishment of a 19th century settlement in Palestine by ten Russian Jews. (#521 #39.95 Ergo)

Exodus (208 min.) Film adaptation of Leon Uris' novel about the establishment of the State of Israel. (#S02338 \$19.98 Facets)

The Wordmaker (90 min.) A dramatization of the life of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the “father” of Modern Hebrew. (rental \$200 from the National Center for Jewish Film)

A Woman Called Golda (192 min.) An Emmy-winning program about the life of Golda Meir and her contributions to Zionism and Israel. (S20834 \$69.95 Facets)

The Masorti Movement in Israel (8 min.) How the Masorti Movement is developing Masorti Judaism, with its Kehillots, from nothing to something against all odds to make Masorti Judaism the mainstream of Israeli Judaism. Available in video, DVD, and CD format.

Sources for films:

Alden Films, PO Box 449, Clarksburg, NJ 08510, tel. 908-462-3522

Ergo Media, 668 American Legion Dr., PO Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 07666, tel. 201-692-0404

Facets Video, 1517 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60614, tel. 800-331-6197

National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University, Lown 102, Waltham, MA 02254-9110, tel. 617-899-7044

The Masorti Foundation, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 832, New York, NY 10115-0022

Israel Fair. If there’s one event that can drum up support for Israel, this is it. It would entail having several booths or stations around the auditorium dealing with various aspects of Israel. Among the booths could be: a travel agent specializing in tours to Israel; a booth with Israeli food; Israeli products for sale; slides or a movie about Israel;

Subsidies for Youth Travel to Israel. You might add a couple of “strings” to the subsidies by requiring the father of the teenager getting the subsidy to be a Men’s Club member and also requiring the teen to do something during the course of the year to help the Men’s Club, such as helping to stuff Yom Hashoah candles into boxes or helping to usher at services.

Youth Art Contest. Sponsor an art contest with the cooperation of the Religious School with Israel being the theme. Award prizes according the grade level. NOTE: The greatest interest will be among children through grade 7.

Solidarity Hot-Line. Set up a procedure through the synagogue so that congregants can respond to a crisis in Israel by calling a “hot-line” to donate food, money, etc.

Furnish Israeli Reminders to the Religious School. Donate Israeli flags, travel posters, and Israeli symbols to the school; arrange for Israel screen savers on computers; provide Israeli-made snacks to pre-school students.

Adopt-a-Synagogue; Adopt-a-School. Each Arm of the synagogue could “twin” with an Israeli Masorti synagogue in the World Wide Wrap and also make a donation. Each Arm could also donate funds for a specific project at Israeli TALI schools (Masorti religious schools). [Checks for Masorti synagogues should be made payable to the

Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 832, New York, NY 10115 with an indication of which Masorti congregation the money should be earmarked for. Checks for TALI schools should be made payable to The Schechter Institutes Inc., Box #3566, P.O. Box 8500, Philadelphia, PA 19178-3566 with an indication that the money should be earmarked for the TALI Education Fund or a particular TALI school.]

Adopt-a-Family. Promote a project in the synagogue or the Religious School to “twin” with an Israeli family. This is especially good for children to exchange information by e-mail.

Briefing/Reception with an Israeli Official. If your club is in or near a city that has an Israeli embassy, consulate, or office, get a representative of the Israeli government to give a briefing on the latest news on the situation in Israel followed by a question-and-answer session and a reception. In Washington, DC, the embassy allows such briefings at the embassy itself.

Brief Israel Update at Sisterhood/Men’s Club Meetings. Have a chairman of Israeli Affairs to give a regular news update on Israel at each meeting, promote Israeli affairs in the community, or offer 10-20 minute activities to create a broader understanding of Israel. This could include Israeli trivia; map drawing to come up with acceptable borders for resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian impasse; or an explanation of what Masorti and MERCAZ USA are.

Offer Conversational Hebrew Course for Those Traveling to Israel. If your synagogue or community is having a group going to Israel, offer a one-session course on some key Hebrew expressions that will be helpful on the trip.

Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Problem. This isn’t a glib comment. Advertise this as an effort to draw boundaries that will be acceptable to all sides. Divide the audience into groups with about five people in each group. Give them maps of Israel with the various Israeli and Palestinian settlements along with information on various peace proposals of the past and ask the groups to come up with a consensus on how to deal with the issue of borders. Also provide each group with different colored Magic Markers to demonstrate their decisions on the map.

Sponsor a Trip to Israel. Since it’s unlikely that one Men’s Club or Sisterhood would have enough people willing to go at the same time, you should also consider opening it to others in the congregation or to other Sisterhoods/Men’s Clubs in your community. In planning the trip, try not to make it simply sightseeing. Contact MERCAZ USA at info@mercazusa.org to see if your group can have one or two briefings on Israeli culture and history and its political and religious problems while there.

Skits after Saturday Morning Kiddush. Have an after-kiddush skit to portray the problems and issues currently faced by Israelis. Possible topics: the religious problems posed by the Orthodox, the Conservatives/Reformed, and the secular; the Israeli-Arab

issues; the problems posed by the import of foreign laborers; Israel as a democratic state; Israel-Diaspora relations

Have Israeli foods at Men's Club functions. Instead of cream cheese and bagel breakfasts, have salads, hummus, pita bread, and baked goods, and advertise it as an authentic Israeli breakfast.

Create an Israeli Affairs Committee for your Men's Club and Sisterhood. At every meeting have a briefing about recent news items and have a mini-program, such as Israeli Jeopardy trivia competition; exercise on Israel-Diaspora relations; exercise on drawing boundaries for Israel and Palestinians.

Israeli Investment Club. Get several people together who are willing to make regular investments in Israeli enterprises.

Purchase trees in Israel as "Thank You's". Instead of a certificate or some innocuous gift, purchase trees from the Jewish National Fund in honor of your congregants. Ask for the large-sized certificates so that you have space to type on them that a tree has been purchased in honor of a particular person in recognition of his work on behalf of your synagogue, sisterhood, or men's club.

Israel Experience Night. Anyone who has been to Israel is invited. Each person is to bring one item related to Israel that is special to him. Bring photos and a favorite Israel story. You will need a moderator to keep things moving, since you are likely to get a large number of people, and you may not have time for everyone in one program. You might also consider asking high schoolers and their parents to attend in order to get them interested in participating in the USY Israel pilgrimage.

Bring Israeli educators to your synagogue. Contact Melitz Centers for Jewish-Zionist Education (www.melitz.org.il) or your local Jewish Federation to see if Melitz will be bringing educators to your community for learning experiences extending over days or weeks. Topics can vary. Melitz has an excellent group of speakers. If you can get one, grab him or her! Here are some examples of what they can talk about:

- "Coping and hoping – how Israelis live with terror and what can we learn from them" (perhaps with a group of seniors)
- The limits of Jewish power – politics and the military in Israel" (perhaps a lunch and learn with local lawyers)
- "The peace process – where to from here?"
- "Fun in the Sun or Sacred Duty? The role of Israel missions"
- "Israel update – the 'situation' as it is today"
- "Israel in the media – fighting back"

Send resource packet to college students. The packet could include historical data about the Arab-Israeli conflict, methods of presenting the case for Israel to other students, places to contact for help and further information, websites for news and information, and posters.

Create an “Israel corner” in the synagogue lobby. This might include: a large map of Israel with a weekly update of where newsworthy events took place; photos of congregants who traveled to Israel; information about trips being organized to Israel and about USY Israel pilgrimages; and information about Israeli giving opportunities.

Israeli wine sale. This could include wines that are kosher for Passover and those for use during the rest of the year.

Multi-session seminar on understanding Israel. This is a program to discuss all aspects of Israeli society from the religious to cultural and from the historical to the political. Since one session will build on the previous ones, registration for all of the sessions is recommended. See below for a suggestion on how to set it up.

Books and Bucks for Kids in Israel. This is part of a worldwide “Books for Israel Project.” You would collect “gently used” books in English plus \$1 to cover shipping, and these books are sent to Israel for use by children learning to read English. For additional information, see www.edu-negev.gov.il/bs/b4i/.

PART FIVE: Suggested Activities

Below are suggested activities by all segments of the congregation.

1- Religious School Director could include in the school’s curriculum information on the “The Balfour Declaration” and the “United Nation’s approval of Resolution 181”. The school could also have a Youth Art Contest with Israel being one theme. The drawing should be posted on the walls through the November 30th weekend. Winners should be acknowledged at the special Shabbat services mentioned above. Another event could be a mother/child or father/child arts and crafts project to create your own Israeli flag, or your own mizrach, or creating your own ????. For the post b’nai mitzvah students, prepare a bible contest. [Questions would have to be on their religious/education level.] Again, winners should be acknowledged at the special service.

2- Each congregation during this month should sponsor a Film and Video evening(s) with possibly coffee and cake, cookies, etc. For example, **HaTikvah: The Hope** [48 min] is a 1936 documentary produced by the German Zionist Union in an effort to inspire German Jews under Nazis rule to make aliyah. [This film can be rented from the National center for Jewish Films at Brandeis University for a fee.] Another possibility is **A Wall in Jerusalem** available for purchase from Ergo Media is a documentary about the beginnings of Zionism and the creation of Israel.

3- The congregation and its Israeli Affairs Committee should work to “Twin” with an Israeli Masorti Kehilla. The Masorti Movement website, www.masorti.org, includes a map of Israel with each Kehilla shown. Also, a listing of each Kehilla with its address and a contact name and telephone number and e-mail address so that congregations can contact the Kehillots. The congregation and/or its religious school can also sponsor “twinning” with an Israeli family.

4- Establishment of an “Israel Corner” in the synagogue [lobby] that would include a map of Israel with weekly updates of where newsworthy events took place in Israel; photos of congregants who traveled to Israel; information about trips being organized; and other information about Israel including USY Israel Pilgrimages; and other information. [Each congregation should sponsor a trip to Israel during 2008, its 60 anniversary year. This trip can also be sponsored by all the different affiliates of the congregation such as the men’s club, sisterhood, Hazak, Israel Affairs Committee, etc]

5- The College Student Committee could mail packets about Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, methods of presenting Israel’s case to other college students; places to contact for help and further information; news and information website; and posters prepared by certain organization such as the American Zionist Movement or the Israel Project

6- During November through December 2007, the Congregation, men’s club, sisterhood, etc. could sponsor speakers, including Israeli officials to give a briefing on the latest news and its impact with a question and answer session followed by a reception. Speakers could also address the importance of a broader understanding of Israel and to increase Israel awareness.

7 - The men’s club and the sisterhood could have an “Its Academic Contest.” about Israel, Judaism, and Zionism. Questions such as “In which of the Torah’s first five books is Moses not mentioned?” [The answer is Genesis (Berayshet)] or “The Bible mentions the Sea of the Philistines. What is it know as today?” [The answer is the Mediterranean Sea.] Below are 25 questions and answers to show the types of questions to be asked.

8 - The sisterhood along with the men’s club could sponsor an essay contest. The monetary value for the winners could be doubled if they take a USY Wheels trip or travel to Israel. The essay classification could be grades to 4, group I, then 5 through 8, group II, and high school, group III. The number of words in each essay would increase for each group. For example, 200 words for group I while group II is 375 words and group III would be 500 words.

9 - The men’s club, sisterhood, congregation, and rabbi’s discretionary fund could support congregational teenagers going on Conservative/Masorti trips to Israel with stipends based on certain parameters.

10 - The Congregation should provide information about the importance of : a) MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ Canada; The Masorti Movement in Israel; Jewish National Fund; Federations; Masorti Olami, and MERCAZ Olami [All congregants should

become a member and/or donate funds to these Masorti organizations.] Also, mission and goals for the World Zionist Organization; the Jewish Agency for Israel. A map of Israel with the Masorti Kehillots and each congregation's contact information should be available inside the congregation's walls.

11 – B'nai Mitzvah Activities

- Donate some of your b'nai mitzvah money to Israel. Examples are:

A- support the Masorti Movement's Bar/Bat Mitzvah program for the special child;

B- support the 100 Jewish Agency's unique cause projects;

C- The Masorti Movement runs a gamut of national programs, reaching out not just to Masorti members and their families, but to the wider Israeli public and to help community services provided by the *kehillot* (congregations).

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

“It's Academic” Sample Judaica Questions

1. Who was the first American president to visit Israel while in office?

ANSWER: Richard NIXON

2. The only Jewish gold medal winners at the 2000 Olympics were Americans Anthony Ervin and Lenny Krayzelburg. In what sport did they compete:

ANSWER: SWIMMING

3. In which movement of Judaism were the following three men prominent: Max Lilienthal, David Einhorn, and Samuel Hirsch?

ANSWER: American REFORM Movement (Reform is acceptable)

4. Who first played the title role in the Broadway play Golda?

ANSWER: Ann BANCROFT

5. What disease were early settlers in Palestine afflicted with more than any other?

ANSWER: MALARIA

6. What female convert to Judaism said, “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God”?

ANSWER: RUTH

7. What is the path one must take to walk to the top of Masada?

ANSWER: The SNAKE PATH

8. What countries were separated before 1973 by the Bar Lev Line?

ANSWER: ISRAEL & EGYPT

9. What Jewish playwright authored *Toys in the Attic*, and *The Children's Hour*?

ANSWER: Lillian HELLMAN

10. What is the poet Naphtali Herz Imber, who died in 1909, most famous for?

ANSWER: He wrote the song "HATIKVAH"

11. What woman, according to legend was angered by her exile from the Garden of Eden and became a vengeful demon, tempting pious men to sexual desire?

ANSWER: LILITH

12. The son served as Deputy Commissioner of Major League Baseball from 1989-93. The father was the first Jew to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Name the common last name.

ANSWER: GREENBERG (Steve and Hank)

13. What NFL owner traded the Baltimore Colts for majority ownership in the Los Angeles Rams in 1972?

ANSWER: Carroll ROSENBLOOM

14. In the 1890s, owner Andrew Freedman fought an Oriole for using anti-Semitic language. His team got the last laugh, buying the Orioles' best players only a few years later. What National League team did he own?

ANSWER: New York GIANTS

15. Who served until 1963 as first commissioner of the NBA?

ANSWER: Maurice PODOLOFF

16. Two answers required. What two Jews are among the top ten NBA coaches in terms of career victories?

ANSWERS: Red AUERBACH and Larry BROWN

17. Who is the only Jewish head coach to lead his team to the Super Bowl four times?

ANSWER: Marc LEVY

18. What Jewish coach won the NCAA tournament in 1950, as well as the NIT, with CCNY?

ANSWER: Nat HOLMAN

19. Winning a silver medal for the US in 1976, this basketballer went on to become a number one draft pick, tour with the Harlem Globetrotters, and become coach and general manager of Detroit for one season. Name her.

ANSWER: Nancy LIEBERMAN-Cline

20. He was deprived of an opportunity for an Olympic gold medal in 1936 in track, for what he believed to be anti-Semitic reasons. Name this longtime New York Jets sportscaster.

ANSWER: Marty GLICKMAN

21. What country ordered the death by torture of Sara Aaronsohn in 1917 for espionage activities while assisting the British liberation of Palestine?

ANSWER: TURKEY

22. Name either of the two Haftarat that are chanted in part to Eicha trop?

ANSWER: TISHA B'AV AND DEVARIM

23. What Jewish comedian was taken off the air when he asked his "kiddy viewers" to look in their parents' handbags and send him some of "that green stuff"?

ANSWER: Soupy SALES (Milton Hines)

24. What was the distinction in the Conservative Movement that Amy Eilberg achieved in 1985?

ANSWER: She became the Movement's FIRST FEMALE RABBI.

25. Who was the recipient of the 1976 Nobel Prize for Literature who wrote a critically acclaimed personal account of his visit to Israel?

ANSWER: Saul BELLOW (The book was *To Jerusalem and Back.*)

PART SIX: Groups Supporting Israel & Masorti Judaism

A – MERCAZ USA

THE MISSION

MERCAZ USA is the Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement, representing Conservative Judaism within the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

MERCAZ USA sees Zionism as an invaluable tool for strengthening Jewish identity and combating assimilation. It calls for linking Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora with Israel through tourism, Jewish education, Hebrew language study, "people-to-people" partnerships, short-and long-term Israel programs and Aliyah.

Conservative/Masorti Judaism was the first of the modern religious movements to embrace Zionism and has steadfastly remained at the forefront of the effort to promote its values: the

centrality of Israel in the life and consciousness of the Jewish People and the unity of the Jewish People wherever they may live.

Our connection to the Land and State of Israel and its capital Jerusalem begins first and foremost with our People's 4000-year covenant with the Divine. This covenant has imposed upon us the responsibility not only to support and defend the State of Israel but also to create in Zion an exemplary Jewish society that is a national home — democratic and pluralistic — for all Jews, secure and at peace with its Arab neighbors, committed to protecting its environment and natural resources, respecting the rights of all of its citizens and supporting all streams of Jewish practice.

MERCAZ USA works in cooperation with all the other arms of the Conservative Movement including the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Rabbinical Assembly, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, Cantors Assembly, Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, National Ramah Commission, Jewish Educators Assembly, North American Association of Synagogue Executives and Solomon Schechter Day School Association; is affiliated with MERCAZ OLAMI and the other MERCAZ chapters in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Ukraine and Uruguay; and is supported by individual and family memberships in its annual membership campaign.

YOUR AFFILIATION WITH MERCAZ IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE OF THE JERUSALEM PROGRAM, WHICH DEFINE THE FOUNDATIONS OF ZIONISM:

- The unity of the Jewish people, its bond to its historic homeland Eretz Yisrael, and the centrality of the State of Israel and Jerusalem, its capital, in the life of the nation.
- Aliyah to Israel from all countries and the effective integration of all immigrants into Israeli Society.
- Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state and shaping it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character, marked by mutual respect for the multi-faceted Jewish people rooted in the vision of the prophets, striving for peace and contributing to the betterment of the world.
- Ensuring the future and the distinctiveness of the Jewish People by furthering Jewish, Hebrew and Zionist education, fostering spiritual and cultural values and teaching Hebrew as the national language.
- Nurturing mutual Jewish responsibility, defending the rights of Jews as individuals and as a nation, representing the national Zionist interests of the Jewish people, and struggling against all manifestations of anti-Semitism.
- Settling the country as an expression of practical Zionism.

B - Masorti Foundation

MASORTI, meaning traditional, is the Hebrew name for the movement of Conservative Judaism in Israel. The Masorti Movement, founded in 1979, is the umbrella organization of Masorti *kehillot* (congregations), which foster the practice of traditional Judaism among Israeli men and women while embracing modernity. In promoting the combined values of Conservative Judaism,

religious tolerance and Zionism, the Movement strives to nurture a healthy, pluralistic, spiritual and ethical foundation for Israeli society.

Approximately 50,000 Israelis are members and affiliates of our *kehillot* and national programs, which engage some 125,000 Israelis each year. More than sixty percent of the Masorti community are native-born Israelis or come from lands in which English is not their native tongue.

The Masorti Movement in Israel comprises some 50 *kehillot* and *havurot*, the Religious Affairs Bureau, a kibbutz, a moshav, the NOAM youth movement, IDF Garinim (Masorti groups in the army), the Marom students and young adults organization, programs for children with special needs, regional and local educational learning centers for adults as well as pre-school programs. We are currently developing programs in the fields of family education, and leadership and community development. This is in addition to our ongoing synagogue services, events and social activities.

Legal advocacy is one of the central roles of the Movement, which represents the religious rights of Masorti and Conservative Judaism before the Israeli establishment, including government ministries, the Supreme Court and municipalities.

The Movement is deeply involved in the absorption of new *olim* - immigrants - from Latin America, as well as from countries of the Former Soviet Union. Masorti's inclusive and pluralistic approach is attractive to many *olim*, who might otherwise take little or no interest in Judaism. A number of Masorti *kehillot* operate special programs for *olim*, as well as programming for the integration of *olim*, run by NOAM and Marom.

The Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel supports the work of the Masorti Movement, raising funds to enable the Movement to further its activities in Israel. The Foundation also serves as the Movement's voice to American media, public officials and Jewish leadership.

PRINT OUT THE FOLLOWING FIVE URLs

<http://www.masorti.org/congregations/map.html>

<http://www.masorti.org/congregations/central.html>

<http://www.masorti.org/congregations/jerusalem.html>

<http://www.masorti.org/congregations/northern.html>

<http://www.masorti.org/congregations/southern.html>

C- MASORTI OLAMI

The World Council of Conservative Synagogues [Masorti Olami] builds, renews and strengthens Jewish life throughout the world, with efforts focusing on Europe, Latin America, the Former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Masorti Olami conducts its activities within the context of the overall Conservative/Masorti Movement and in close cooperation with its affiliated organizations in North America and Israel, in order to advance the values, principles, and interests of Conservative/Masorti Judaism. Together, they will continue to foster the development and growth of Masorti kehillot throughout the world communities which reflect a commitment to Jewish knowledge, study and practice, guided by halacha in modes that enable our timeless values to resonate in today's time and place. Visit the Masorti Olami website, www.masortiworld.org for a full listing of Masorti congregations around the world.

PART VII: MOVEMENT RESOLUTIONS

OUR ARMS RECENT RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL, MERCAZ USA AND THE MASORTI FOUNDATION

FJMC MISSION STATEMENT ON ISRAEL (November 2003)

It is the mission of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs ("FJMC") to support the Jerusalem Program and to provide our members with information on Masorti organizations involved in helping Masorti Israelis. We express our deep love, support, and commitment to the land, the people, and the State of Israel, and to participate in building and maintaining a strong and vibrant Israel.

We support and advocate for pluralism in Israel and work to secure a fair share of Jewish communal funding for the Masorti Movement and related institutions. We suggest approaches to our constituents and advise them to support those organizations that champion the cause of Masorti Judaism in Israel. We envision the FJMC as a conduit of programming ideas to our members and seek to transmit any unique products and services provided by Israeli companies to our clubs through our regions.

In achieving this mission, the FJMC will embrace these guiding principles:

- To urge all international officers, members of the executive committee, members of the FJMC Board of Directors, the Presidential Cabinet and the regional presidents and the regional boards' officers and board members to become a member of MERCAZ USA or MERCAZ – Canada and other Masorti organizations. To encourage all Men's Club

members to become members or to contribute to MERCAZ. This Masorti connection is an integral and valued component of the men's club experience with the FJMC.

- To promote the Israeli economy by purchasing Israeli products and services, whenever possible, to help support the Israeli economy. One way the FJMC's supports the Israeli economy is to purchase New Year's Cards, Yom HaShoah candles, and tefillin for our store from individuals and Israeli companies. We can shop in Israel through the use of our computers. Thus, we encourage men's clubs to work with their synagogues to develop web sites to find Israeli products and services that are used by the synagogue members that are available in their area. To encourage men's clubs to work with their synagogues to twin with Israeli synagogues so that long-term relationships can be developed as identified by having the "twinned" synagogue's name placed on the synagogue's stationery.
- To provide a message of solidarity to our Israeli brothers and sisters that our embrace of Israel is authentic and eternal because we are lovers of Zion by supporting journeys to Israel organized by the men's club, the synagogue, or Conservative/Masorti organizations. As G-d's call to Abraham beckons us still, Lech L'cha! Go forth! Go ahead from your home and travel to Israel.

Approved at the November 2003 Chicago Meeting

FJMC MISSION STATEMENT ON WORLD JEWRY (July 2004)

It is the mission of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs ("FJMC") to support the Jerusalem Program and to provide our members with information on Masorti organizations involved in helping Masorti Jews around the world [Latin America, Europe, Former Soviet Union, Australia, Asia and Africa]. We express our deep love, support, and commitment to the Jewish people wherever they choose to reside, and to participate in providing the option of Masorti Jewish religious life for them.

We support and advocate for religious pluralism within every Jewish community throughout the world, and work to secure a fair share of Jewish communal funding for the Masorti Olami (World) Movement and related institutions. We suggest approaches to our constituents and advise them to support those organizations that champion the cause of Masorti Judaism throughout the World. We envision the FJMC as a conduit of programming ideas to our members and seek to transmit any unique products and services provided by Masorti communities globally companies to our clubs through our regions.

In achieving this mission, the FJMC will embrace these guiding principles:

- To urge all international officers, members of the executive committee, members of the FJMC Board of Directors, the Presidential Cabinet and the regional presidents and the regional boards' officers and board members to become a member of MERCAZ USA or MERCAZ – Canada and other Masorti organizations. To encourage all Men's Club

members to become members or to contribute to MERCAZ. This Masorti connection is an integral and valued component of the men's club experience with the FJMC.

- To promote the economic endeavors of Masorti communities throughout the world, by purchasing products and services, whenever possible, that help to support Diaspora Jewish life. We encourage men's clubs to work with their synagogues to develop web sites to find Masorti global products and services that are used by the synagogue members that are available in their area. To encourage men's clubs to work with their synagogues to twin with World Masorti synagogues so that long-term relationships can be developed as identified by having the "twinned" synagogue's name placed on the synagogue's stationery.
- To provide a message of solidarity to our Masorti brothers and sisters throughout the world by supporting journeys to visit these communities organized by the men's club, the synagogue, or Conservative/Masorti organizations.

Approved at the July 2004 Baltimore Meeting

RA RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL (April 2007)

"...if I do not keep Jerusalem in memory even at my happiest hour." (PS. 137.6)

Whereas in the coming year (2007-2008) the Jewish People will mark the following historic events:

the 40th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem (May 17, 2007):

the 90th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration (November 2, 2007);

the 60th anniversary of the UN Partition Plan (November 29, 2007):

the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel (May 2008);

WHEREAS the Conservative movement has historically espoused Zionism and the rebuilding of the Jewish State and its rabbis and leaders have been pillars of the Masorti movement, Schechter Institute, TALI schools and the Fuchsberg Center; and

WHEREAS the Conservative movement has sponsored such programs as USY Summer Pilgrimage, the Conservative Yeshiva and Ramah Israel Seminar with great pride.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rabbinical Assembly urge congregations, schools and other institutions to plan educational, communal and cultural programs and activities in honor of the upcoming events including trips to Israel, special Shabbatot on the themes of Israel and Zionism as coordinated by MERCAZ and the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism; and

Be it further resolved that members of the Rabbinical Assembly initiate MERCAZ membership drive in their institutions, and fundraising efforts on behalf of Masorti institutions in Israel.

Passed by the Rabbinical Assembly Plenum April 30, 2007

PART EIGHT: The Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism

Cantors Assembly, *Cantor Joseph Gole, President*

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, *Norman Kurtz, President*

Jewish Educators Assembly, *Lonna Picker, President*

The Jewish Theological Seminary, *Professor Arnold M. Eisen, Chancellor*

Masorti Foundation, *Gloria Bieler, & Earl Greinetz, Co-chairs, Board of Directors*

Masorti Olami, *Alan H. Silberman, President*

MERCAZ USA, *Dr. Stephen S. Wolnek, President*

NAASE, *Neal S. Price, FSA, President*

Rabbinical Assembly, *Rabbi Alvin Berkun, President*

National Ramah Commission, *Dr. Charles T. Mann, President*

The Schechter Institutes, *Rabbi David Golinkin, President*

Solomon Schechter Day School Association, *Andrew Cohen, President*

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, *Dr. Raymond B. Goldstein, President*

Women's League for Conservative Judaism, *Cory Schneider, President*

Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, *Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean*