Masorti Olami
Enriching Masorti Jewish Lives Around the World

Where Tradition & Modernity Meet

2018 Annual Review
WHO WE ARE

Masorti Olami means Conservative Judaism around the world. We are Jews across six continents committed to placing our traditions at the center of our modern lives.

OUR HISTORY:

Founded in 1972 as the World Council of Synagogues, Masorti Olami was born from the dream of making Conservative Judaism a worldwide force in the Jewish world. Together with our North American partners in USCJ and Masorti Israel we represent nearly 2 million Jews around the world who self-identify as Masorti/Conservative.
Welcome!

Masorti Olami exists for the purpose of helping Jews around the world bring our traditions into the center of their modern lives. With communities on six continents, Masorti Judaism is truly a global force within the Jewish world.

Over the past year Masorti Olami has significantly increased its worldwide activities. The Latin America region has begun a complete restructuring. Two seminars, one in Chile and one in Peru, brought together our Rabbis and lay leadership from across the region to divide Latin America into four functioning sub-regions, examine our ideology and communications strategy and elect a new board.

Masorti Europe is also continuing to expand with new communities, schools and NOAM camps across the region. Earlier this year we inaugurated a new NOAM Winter Camp in Ukraine, witnessed the opening of a new Masorti school in Berlin and Masorti Spain welcomed new communities in Barcelona and Oviedo. The only constraints to our ever-increasing presence across both Eastern and Western Europe are the resources needed to fill the demonstrable need for Masorti Judaism in these areas.

The past year has also seen the growth of collaborations within the movement. Along with our partners at the Schechter Institutes we launched Masorti Ukraine in March with the communities in Kiev, Chernivtsi and Odessa and two months later Masorti Olami and Marom Olami launched a partnership to bring American Rabbinical Students to spend time in Masorti communities and Marom chapters across Europe. This collaboration aims to provide tomorrow’s Masorti leadership with a deeper understanding of the worldwide movement and personal connections to our global communities. We have also partnered with Marom Olami to bring the young leadership of Mexico’s Bet-El community to Israel to learn about hi-tech, community and social start-ups in Israel and we brought young people from around the world to Israel on our outstanding Onward NOAM Olami program.

We invite you to join us on this journey as we work to unite our communities around the world and bring pluralistic and relevant Jewish practice to Jews wherever they may be.

Rabbi Mauricio Balter, Executive Director

Gillian Caplin, President
**MASORTI AMLAT**

Masorti AmLat is the regional organization representing our communities throughout Latin America.

**Bringing Torah Into Our Daily Lives**

*Shnia* is a new initiative by the Masorti Movement's NOAM youth group, which takes place weekly at ORT Argentina, the country’s largest Jewish school. Over 40 students gather to eat lunch together while studying Torah and engaging in lively debate over the weekly text.

**Listening to Women’s Voices**

Women Rabbis from across Latin America wrote essays reflecting upon each month in the Hebrew calendar from a Masorti feminist perspective. The resulting collection, Sefer Rosh Chodesh was initially published in Spanish and in response to its popularity, in February an English version was released.

**Spreading our Love for Israel**

A year before drafting into the IDF, two Israeli NOAM graduates are volunteering for a service year or “Shnat Sherut” via the Jewish Agency as youth emissaries to Chile’s Masorti communities. Our “ShinShinim” teach about Israel, give Hebrew lessons, and are currently reinvigorating NOAM Chile.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Masorti community of Iquitos, Peru, located in the Amazon Rainforest is only accessible by boat or by air.
**Hitjadshut: Renewal**

Hitjadshut is the process of renewing Masorti in Latin America as a strong network of communities. Stretching from Mexico to Argentina, this huge region contains a cultural and linguistic diversity making regional unity a challenge. Masorti Olami began the process of restructuring the region at the 2017 Hitjadshut meeting in Chile and wrapped up the process at the August Hitjadshut II meeting in Peru. Ninety lay leaders, youth and rabbis from across the region gathered in Lima to examine the movement’s ideology and communication strategy, elect a board, and divide Latin America into four sub-regions.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Masorti is the largest Jewish denomination in Latin America.
Focusing on our Future
Masorti Germany has opened its long-awaited primary school in Berlin. Starting with 22 students, the school anticipates eventual enrollment of 140 students in grades 1-6. The trilingual (German, Hebrew and English) curriculum will integrate Jewish studies throughout and students will reach fluency in all three languages by 6th grade. The school’s opening coincides with the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht and celebrates the unlikely rebirth of Jewish life in Germany.

Our Movement is Growing
In 2018 two new communities joined Masorti Spain—Beit Emunah in Oviedo and ATID Barcelona. In October, Rabbi Mauricio Balter visited the ATID Barcelona community and in July NOAM Olami director Reut Yahav and two Israeli NOAM leaders attended ATID’s summer camp to introduce campers to the NOAM youth movement and Masorti values. Their activities included Masorti Judaism's approach to Halacha, Israeli history and modern day life in the Jewish state.

DID YOU KNOW?
Masorti is the second fastest growing Jewish denomination in Britain.
**Making Vacation Count**
In January, 70 campers attended NOAM Ukraine’s first-ever Winter Camp for six days of daily tefillot, games, Hebrew study and Jewish education. All meals at camp were supervised by Ukrainian Masorti Kashrut supervisors, graduates of last year’s Hashgacha course.

**Bringing Families Together**
80 parents and children explored Jewish practice together at Masorti Ukraine’s Family Camp. The weeklong camp celebrated Israel’s 70 Birthday and campers ate Israeli breakfast and sang and danced to Israeli songs as costumed actors taught them about famous Israeli figures from the Bible to today.

**Knowing our History**
30 Masorti Europe members visited our communities in Kiev and Odessa for a seminar on Israel education. The group explored Jewish history with visits to the site of the Babi Yar Massacre, a lesson on Hassidism at the grave of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov and traced the roots of Zionism in Odessa.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Europe’s only commercial factory under Masorti Kosher supervision is in Kiev.
Masorti Communities Around the World

- Masorti Olami
- USCJ
- Masorti Israel
LATIN AMERICA (71 communities)
Argentina - Buenos Aires & interior (40)
Bolivia – La Paz (1)
Brazil – Sao Paulo (4), Porto Alegre (2),
Rio de Janeiro (1), Curitiba (1) , Bahía (1)
Chile – Santiago de Chile (4), Viña del Mar (1)
Colombia – Bogotá (1), Barranquilla (1), Cali (1)
El Salvador – El Salvador (1)
Cuba – Havana (1), Camaguey (1), S. de Cuba (1)
Honduras - San Pedro Sula (1)
Mexico - Mexico DF (2), Guadalajara (1),
San Miguel de Allende (1)
Orajenstad (1)
Paraguay – Asunción (1)
Peru – Lima (1), Iquitos (1)
Uruguay – Montevideo (1)

EUROPE (34 communities)
Czech Republic – Prague (1)
France – Paris (2), Aix en Provence (1), Lille (1),
Marseille (1), Nice (1), St. Germain-en-laye (1)
Germany - Berlin (1)
Hungary – Budapest (1)
Spain – Madrid (1), Barcelon(1), Oviedo (1),
Valencia (1), Alicante (1)
Sweden – Stockholm (1)
The Netherlands - Almere (1), Deventer (1)
UK - London (7), Edgware (2), Elstree and Borehamwood (1), Ilford (1), Oxford (1), St Albans (1), Leeds (1),
Liverpool (1)

OTHER COUNTRIES (14 communities)
Australia – Melbourne (1), Sydney (1)
India - Ahemadabad (1), Alibaug (1), Mumbai (1),
New Delhi (1)
Japan – Tokyo (1)
Russia – St Petersburg (1), Moscow (1)
South Africa – Johannesburg (1)
Uganda – Namakwekwe (1)
Ukraine - Chernivtsi (1), Kiev (1), Odessa (1)
MASORTI AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA

Masorti Africa and Australia support pluralistic Jewish life in our remotest geographical regions.

Celebrating our Communities
In January, AYA (the Abayudaya Youth Association) held its annual AYA convention bringing youth together from the six Masorti communities in Uganda for a week of Torah study, Jewish learning, dancing, games and socializing.

Learning from Each Other
In April, three NOAM Shlichim spent six weeks in Uganda teaching Hebrew, Tefillah and Torah in the Jewish schools in Uganda and practicing spoken Hebrew with Marom members ahead of their upcoming Birthright Israel trip. They also taught cantillation to members of the community in the year preceding their Bar and Bat Mitzvot and worked with AYA staff to develop a stronger network of informal education within the community.

DID YOU KNOW?
Masorti communities exist in Uganda, Kenya, Japan and Australia.
Working Together
In March Rabbi Mauricio Balter travelled to Ukraine along with Rabbi David Golinkin and Gila Katz from the Schechter Institutes to announce the formation of Masorti Ukraine. The new organization will be headed by Rabbi Reuven Stamov who will guide our thriving communities in Kiev, Odessa and Chernvitsi as well as three smaller minyanim across Ukraine.

Building Bridges for the Future
In May, Masorti Olami and Marom Olami joined forces to send American rabbinical students from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Ziegler School to serve in our communities and Marom chapters in Sweden, France, the UK and Hungary. This collaboration will open their eyes to the global Masorti movement and will serve to build bridges between our European communities and our future leaders in the USA.

Training the Leaders of Tomorrow
Mexico’s Bet-El community is investing in training its next generation of leaders. Bet-El partnered with Masorti Olami and Marom Olami to bring fourteen young adults from the community to Israel to learn about Israeli hi-tech, community and social start-ups and gain tools for their work at Bet-El.
**WHO IS ONWARD NOAM OLAMI?**

**David Kamotho** visited Israel for the first time as part of Onward NOAM Olami. He found it fascinating to finally see all the places he had grown up hearing about. His favorite parts of Onward were discussions on Halacha and Diaspora Jewry with Rabbis David Golinkin and Andy Sacks. He also found the trip to the Gaza border deeply moving.

Back in Kenya David works with 14 other members of the Jewish community on a one-acre farm that his community leases. While in Israel he had the opportunity to intern on an organic farm where he learned new farming techniques to bring home to increase yields on his community’s small plot. This will guarantee food security for his community and enable them to sell surplus crops.

**Jacky Mhitaryan’s** family is Russian with Armenian roots but she was raised in Spain and studied in Sweden. However, it was only when she arrived in Israel as a participant on Onward NOAM Olami that she felt that she had truly come home. During Onward, Jacky interned at Masorti Israel’s “Jewish Pluralism Watch”, a non-partisan Knesset watchdog group committed to monitoring the voting records of Knesset members and Israeli officials on issues relating to religion and state. This experience immersed her in some of Israel’s most contentious issues and highlighted the the dire need for change.

By the end of the six week program, Jacky decided to make Aliyah and remain in Israel. Onward had shown her a realistic cross-section of Israeli society and she embraced the mission to work to improve it. She is currently volunteering with the Masorti movement and seeks to work in a social change NGO.
Onward and Upward
In June and July, ten participants from Chile, Kenya, Sweden, UK, Uganda and Ukraine spent six weeks in Israel as part of Onward NOAM Olami. They worked in labs, farms, clinics and the Knesset and travelled the country learning about Israeli history and society, Masorti values, and preparing to share their new skills with their home communities and NOAM chapters.

A Global Movement
34 NOAM leaders from 12 countries gathered in Nice, France in January to plan the movement’s annual goals, share strategies and bring Israel’s 70th birthday into focus. The leaders discussed ways to incorporate Hebrew language into activities, teach current events in Israel and find innovative approaches to Israel education. The 2018 seminar resulted in exchanges between NOAM chapters in Argentina, Brazil, France, Spain and the UK, countless friendships and a stronger international youth movement.

DID YOU KNOW?
NOAM stands for Noar Masorti—Hebrew for “Masorti Youth”.
MASORTI OLAMI BY THE NUMBERS

**Masorti Olami**
Projected 2018 Expenses - $1,500,000

- Former Soviet Union 8%
- Masorti Europe 10%
- Masorti AmLat 10%
- Resource Development 10%
- NOAM/Marom Youth and Young Adults 16%
- Administration 27%
- Worldwide Events, Conferences and Publications 19%

**Masorti Olami Income**
2018 Forecast - $1,500,000

- KKL 15%
- WZO 51%
- MERCAZ 9%
- Private Donors 25%

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**In 2018 Masorti Olami had:**

- 6 Continents with Masorti communities
- 6 Small European communities receive cantors for the High Holidays
- 8 International Seminars
- 9 Full-time staff members
- 23 Masorti emissaries around the world
- 51 NOAM chapters around the world
- 119 Communities in 28 countries
OUR LEADERS

**Executive Board:**

Gillian Caplin  President
Alan Silberman  Immediate Past President
Mary Sanders  Treasurer
Rabbi Adam Baldachin  Vice President
Rabbi Alejandro Bloch  Vice President
Peter Miller  Vice President
Rabbi Phil Scheim  Vice President
Rabbi Mauricio Balter  Ex Officio / Executive Director
Rabbi Alan Silverstein  Ex Officio / President of MERCAZ Olami

**Board at Large:**

Michael Abadi  Harry Kelly
David Arias  Gloria Landy
Rabbi Ehud Bandel  Marion Mayman
Sandra Blankstein-Cohen  Gabriel PrisiallNi
Dr. David Breakstone  Bruce Rigal
Terri Davis  Rabbi Marcelo Rittner
John Furstenberg  Rabbi Charles Simon
Rabbi Felipe Goodman  Rabbi Gerald Skolnik
Oscar Gorodzinski  Michael Small
Rabbi Eytan Hammerman  Sandy Starkman
Rabbi Ari Isenberg  Dr. Marilyn Wind
FIND US ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!
Download the new Masorti/Conservative app produced by our partners at MERCAZ Olami.

Download MyMERCAZ
Your Masorti/Conservative App
Masorti Community Locator, News & Events

Vote MERCAZ in 2020 World Zionist Congress!!!
THANK YOU!

Masorti Olami’s work is made possible through the generous support of our partner organizations and individuals who want to ensure that Jews anywhere can approach their tradition in a modern and pluralistic way.

We want to thank our friends at the World Zionist Organization, KKL-JNF and MERCAZ Olami for their ongoing support of our programming. We would also like to thank our top supporters who donated to Masorti Olami in the past year:

**Top Donors:**

Bet El Mexico Community
Jane and Ned Gladstein
Gloria and Eugene Landy
Amy and Bill Lipsey
Lynette and JB Mazer
Park Avenue Synagogue
Penny and Claudio Pincus
Mary and Saul Sanders
Margaret and Alan Silberman
SUPPORT OUR WORK

Our work around the world relies on the generous support of individuals who feel that the growth of pluralistic Judaism around the world is vital to the future of the Jewish people. We invite you to join us on this journey as we work to unite our worldwide communities and bring pluralistic and relevant Jewish practice to Jews wherever they may be. Your donation will directly impact the lives and futures of Jews all around the world.

To donate, visit our website at masortiolami.org
OUR TEAM

Rabbi Mauricio Balter
Executive Director

Suzanne Farber
Finance Manager

Tehila Reuben
Director, Projects & Events

Reut Yahav
Director, NOAM Olami

Ariela Rosenberg-Garbatzky
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Louis Sachs
Development Coordinator

Or Wexler
Office Manager & Assistant

Shyra Gross
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Alla Fine
New York Office Manager