



MASORTI

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Monthly Newsletter

Update of Activities



Masorti Olami The world Council of Conservative/Masorti Synagogues

Monthly Newsletter/Update of Activities December 2007 – Kislev 5768

Masorti European Conference in Paris

220 representatives from Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and UK, along with representatives from Israel and the United States, participated in the **Masorti Europe Conference** held in Paris from November 2-4, 2007. An additional 50 members of MAROM (Masorti young adults) also participated. The purpose of the conference was to strengthen the European Masorti region, set common goals, and plan for future growth and development of our movement in Europe.

The conference took place at Congregation Adath Shalom, the French Masorti flagship community in Paris. Participants spent a joyful Shabbat together, with beautiful prayer services led by Chazzan Sol Zim and members of MAROM, *divrei* Torah, informal discussions, singing and a stimulating walking tour of Jewish Paris led by Adath Shalom Est president and historian, Philippe Bourkara.



Cantor Sol Zim
(Aline Benain copyright)



Masorti European rabbis (left to right):

Jon Wittenburg (UK), Jules Harlow (visiting rabbi in Lisbon) Ron Hoffberg (Prague), Joe Wernik (Israel), Gesa Ederberg (Germany), Yeshaya Dalsace (Nice), Chaim Weiner (UK), Joel Meyer (Director Int. Rabbinical Assembly), Floriane Chinsky (Belgium), Rivon Krygier (Paris) (Aline Benain copyright)

Masorti Olami – The World Council
of Conservative Synagogues

In Zusammenarbeit mit/ Partner of:
The Jewish Theological Seminary
of America, New York

The Schechter Institute
of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

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On Sunday, a full day of workshops and study sessions was offered on topics including leadership and community development, Israel and Zionism. Guest speakers included Zeev Bielski, Chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel and World Zionist Organization, and Ivan Leva?, journalist and editor of Tribune Juive.

Chazzan Jaclyn Chernett officially inaugurated the European Academy of Jewish Liturgy with Cantor Sol Zim offering a master class to rabbis, cantors and students along with a performance of the Adath Shalom choir



Rabbi Gesa Ederberg from Berlin confers with Alan H. Silberman. (Aline Benain copyright)



Zeev Bielski, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization

During the conference, Masorti Europe announced the affiliation of its newest community, “Centre Juda?ca” - Communaut? Massorti Marseille-Provence. (*see article in "Kehillot" section below*)

Michael Gluckman, Director of Assembly of Masorti Synagogues in UK, reported, "Being in Paris with Masorti Jews with from all over Europe was a very valuable experience...On Shabbat afternoon, people from each of the countries spoke about their experiences of establishing a community. Their stories were extremely moving. The sheer tenacity of these people is staggering. Some have developed communities under very difficult conditions where there are hardly any Jews – for example, Spain and Portugal. Some are communities of central Europe where the flame that the Nazis tried to extinguish is beginning to burn brightly once more. A critical aspect is the facility to network. This started from the very first conversation over a buffet style Friday night dinner and continued right up until the last moments of the conference when the extended Jewish goodbye came into play as we bid farewell to a whole range of new friends from across the Masorti world. Work is already continuing through the contacts that were made."

Thank you to Claude Machline, President of Masorti Europe and Gill Caplin, Vice President, the professional staff and dedicated lay leaders of Adath Shalom Paris, Rabbi Chaim Weiner, Director of Masorti Europe and the European Beit Din, for their efforts that went into making this conference such a success. The experience of studying together, learning from one another and building closer ties advances our goal of strengthening and developing Masorti Europe.



Claude Machline (President Masorti Europe) (left) with Rabbi Joe Wernik, past Executive VP of Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami. Rabbi Wernik's efforts in beginning the Masorti Movement in Europe were recognized during the conference and a Marom Scholarship Fund was established in his honor.
(photo by Anne Baer)

We are grateful to the World Zionist Organization and MERCAZ Olami for their support for this conference.

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