

The Masorti Guide to Aliyah



התנועה המסורתית
The Masorti Movement

The Masorti Guide to Aliyah

The **Masorti Movement in Israel** seeks to welcome every new and or potential Conservative Oleh. Together with our sister organizations: Machon Schechter; the TALI Schools; the United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center; the Conservative Yeshiva; Ramah day camps; **Masorti is committed** to reaching out, even before the potential oleh has made his or her decision.

In that context, Masorti has a committee on **Aliyah and Klitah**. This booklet has been designed to offer the reader a brief capsule description of the many and rich available resources that are available to Masorti olim. The reader will find information and links, enabling him or her to download more information about our **Kehillot** (congregations), and institutions.

My thanks also to my committee that worked directly on this project with me: Josie Arbel, Judy Gray and Devora Greenberg. And thank to Yizhar Hess, Executive Director of the Masorti Movement in Israel, and Sophie Fellman-Rafalovitz, current Masorti president for their support and understanding.

Aliyah remains an option open to every Conservative Jew, wherever he or she is to be found. It is hoped that this booklet will, in some small measure, contribute to the process which ultimately results in **Aliyah** and a successful **Klitah**.

Readers are invited to contact me with suggestions for a future edition plus reactions.

Shalom from Jerusalem.

Rabbi Paul Freedman

Chairman

Committee on Aliyah and Klitah,
The Masorti Movement

Jerusalem, Israel

Telephone: +972-2-625 62 05

Mobile: +972-52-604 8292

Fax: 972 2 6222254

Email: nina_f@netvision.net.il

Table of Contents

- The Masorti Movement in Israel 4
- Masorti Principals 5
- Masorti Congregations 7
- Noam 9
- Marom 11
- Tali Schools 12
- The Schechter Institutes 13
- Fuchsberg Center 15
- Bar and Bat Mitzvah for Special Needs Children 16
- Jerusalem Day Camp 17
- Making Aliyah — Nefesh B'Nefesh, The Jewish Agency, AACI 18
- Useful Links 20



The Masorti Movement in Israel

The Masorti Movement is the umbrella organization of the **Masorti kehillot** throughout Israel. Masorti kehillot offer **spiritual egalitarian pluralistic** Jewish experiences. The kehillot promote hessed and social justice activities and encourage social study and action. Today, there are 80 Masorti kehillot, havurot and minyanim throughout Israel. Many synagogues boast members from 25 different countries although Masorti is a deep-rooted Israeli organization.

To help you learn more about aliyah to Israel and how **Masorti congregations** support new olim, take a look at this video, produced by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

[Click Here](#) to see the video!

Contact us at:

P.O. Box 7559, 21074.

Jerusalem, Israel.

Telephone: +972-2-624 6510 ext 27

Fax: +972-2-624 6869

www.masorti.org

Masorti Principles

The Masorti movement is a pluralistic, Israeli, religious movement which identifies with Conservative Judaism. The principles of the Movement, based on belief in God, combine devotion to Jewish tradition and halacha with an open and positive approach to the modern world, democracy and Zionism.

Masorti is committed to **halachah** and views it as a code of conduct expressing Jewish values. The Movement regards halacha as a **dynamic, evolving system**, shaped through constant wrestling with changing circumstances in time and place, and responsive to developments in moral and ideological positions.

Judaism:

- Belief in God is the foundation of the Torah: One God, Creator of the universe, Sustainer of life, who requires us to do that which is right and good. Jewish tradition interprets this belief in many ways.
- Recognition of the Torah, through its manifold ancient and modern interpretations, as the teaching derived from the continual search for the will of God.
- The Torah and Halachah are the heritage of all Jews, regardless of gender.
- Commitment to Halachah, emphasizing the concept of performing mitzvot.
- The fulfillment of faith through actions and daily moral behavior.
- Halacha, in its very essence, is dynamic and evolving; its principles take into consideration the changing circumstances in each generation.
- The study of Jewish sources should be rooted in love and respect for the traditional study methods, while embracing academic research tools that Jewish studies employ.
- Religious faith and science can coexist. Religion engages in values, life norms and ethics. Science engages in determining facts and presenting explanations for them.



Zionism:

- The Land of Israel, the state of Israel, the Hebrew language and the sovereignty of the Jewish people over its land are vital values for the continued physical and spiritual existence of the Jewish people.
- The movement calls upon the Jews of the Diaspora to participate in the challenge of aliyah and settling the land. Only in Israel does the potential exist for the total experience of the Jewish collective living with a responsibility to the entire society.
- Masorti is committed to strengthening ties between Israel and the Diaspora, through mutual enrichment and by strengthening pluralistic, Zionist, Jewish education in Israel and abroad.
- The state of Israel must be a model society and a spiritual and cultural Jewish center, illuminating the whole world.
- The state of Israel must respect Jewish tradition. The state should encourage Jewish culture and Jewish-Zionist education in all its diversity, allowing for their expression in both public and private life.
- Good citizenship means loyalty to people and state, respect for the law, honor for people in daily life, protection of the environment, volunteering for the wellbeing of society, and action for social justice and tikkun olam.
- Military/national service – defense of the State of Israel and the contribution to society are obligations that fall on every citizen, men and women alike.

Democracy:

- The Masorti movement emphasizes the Jewish belief that every human being (man and woman) is created in the image of God, and entitled to respect, liberty, equality, freedom of thought, freedom of faith and social rights.
- Masorti respects the democratic system, based on the acceptance of the majority decision while safeguarding the rights of the minority.
- The movement relates respectfully to members of other faiths and religions and encourages tolerance, good neighborliness and interfaith understanding.
- Masorti raises the banner of religious pluralism and welcomes every movement, community or stream that acts in its own way to strengthen Judaism; and encourages dialogue among diverse groups and “dispute for the sake of heaven.” Unity of the Jewish people is an important principle yet, it does not require uniformity

For more information go to [this site](#)

Masorti Congregations

The Masorti Movement's goal is to **promote and strengthen** a religious, communal, spiritual and pluralistic life in Israel. Proudly flying the flag of pluralistic and **inclusive Judaism**, the members, services and activities of the over 75 kehillot bring the message of **Masorti Judaism** to the wider communities in which they are located.

Masorti kehillot uniquely present traditional Jewish values in programs that transcend Shabbat and holiday services. Unlike most Israeli synagogues, Masorti congregations offer a broad range of social and educational programs with **Jewish content for members** and the wider community, from preschoolers to senior citizens. Programming includes lectures, study groups, family education and holiday celebrations. Masorti rabbis, together with the movement's Religious Affairs Bureau, provide for life-cycle events, such as circumcisions, bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings and burials.

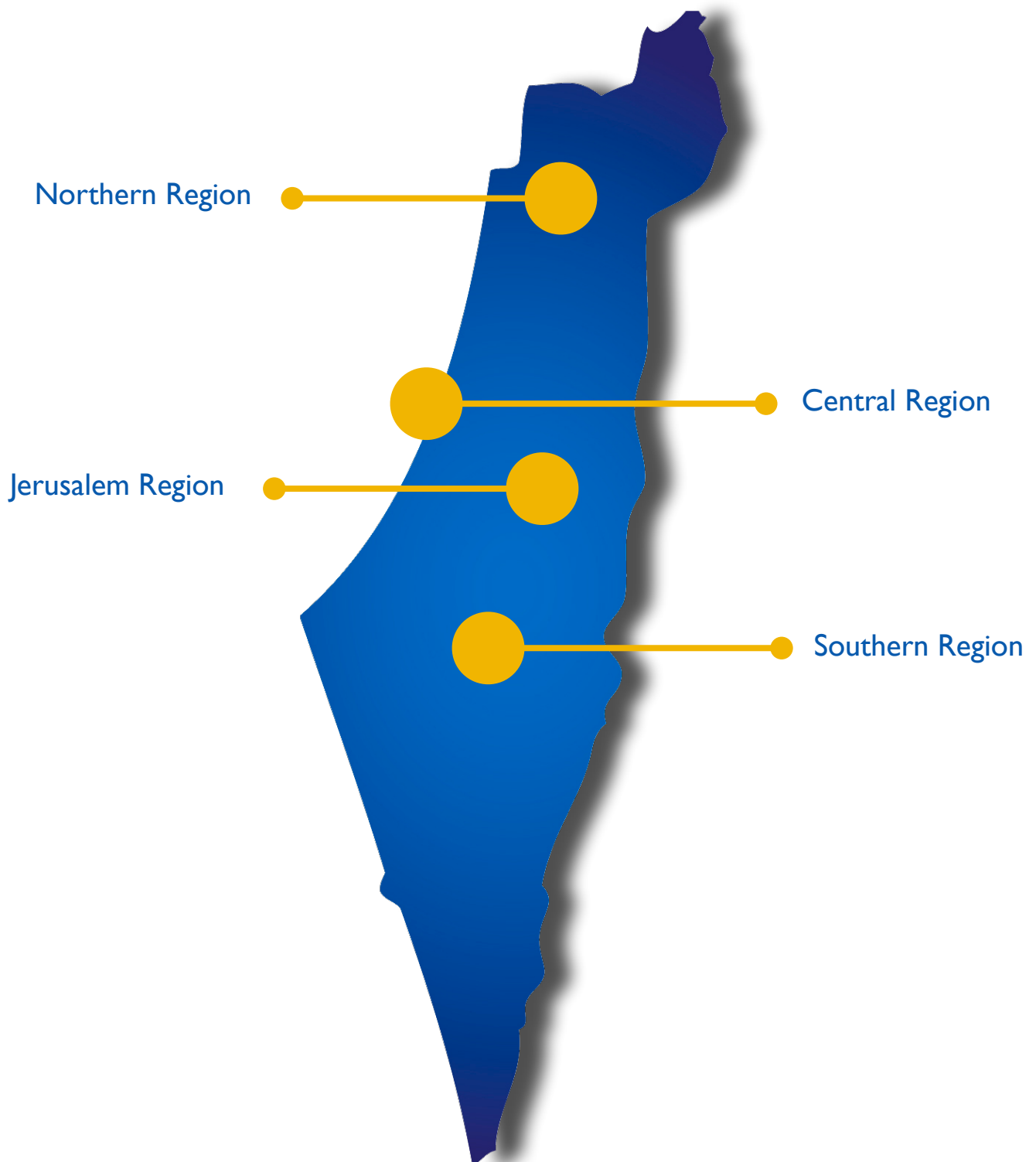
Our kehillot range from fully-fledged communities with their own synagogue buildings, regular services, weekly study programs and other communal activities to small havurot that meet in private homes or public bomb shelters. The Movement places great importance on the development of existing and new kehillot.

On your pilot trip, Masorti **invites you to contact a kehillah** near to where you are staying. Our kehillot are happy to receive guests and provide any help they can. Use the map on the **next page** to locate congregations according to region, or print out the list of all our kehillot.



View list with locations of Masorti Congregations in Israel - [Click Here](#)

For more information about Masorti Congregations in Israel - [Enter this site](#)



Noam - Noar Masorti

NOAM (No'ar Masorti, Masorti Youth), is a **nationwide youth movement** that unites youngsters, 10 to 18–years-old from Masorti kehillot and TALI schools where children from Orthodox, Reform and secular homes study. At **NOAM's** 20 branches, some 1700 young Israelis come together to experience the meaning of pluralism and tolerance.

NOAM members participate in weekly activities, Shabbatonim, seminars and tikkun olam – social action projects. Educational programming focuses on Jewish identity, Zionism, Jewish education, and more. All activities emphasize the importance of Jewish traditions infused with the pluralistic and inclusive outlook that characterizes **Masorti Judaism**. Every young person is made to feel welcome and acquires a sense of belonging.

Age-appropriate activities take place on both local and national levels. Participation in **NOAM** provides unforgettable experiences and the opportunity for friendship while instilling leadership skills and Jewish values.

Each year, a **NOAM** group volunteers for community service, following high school graduation. They may work as coordinators in **NOAM** chapters, fulfilling requirements for national service in the IDF.

NOAM also supports **IDF Nahal** (Pioneer Fighting Youth) units, in which members combine army service with community outreach. Graduates are well integrated into all programs of the **Masorti movement** and are often instrumental in helping the movement grow.

NOAM is run by a dedicated staff of professionals and **volunteers**, based in Jerusalem. Eleventh- and twelfth-grade **NOAM** members serve as counselors for the younger age groups, while members of **Garinim** (**NOAM** graduates) lead older **NOAM** groups.



Find a Noam Chapter

JERUSALEM REGION

- East Talpiot: Kehillat Moreshet Avraham, 22 Rehov Adam
- French Hill: Frenkel School, 20 HaEtzel Street
- Gilo: Shevat Achim, Tali School (Vardinon Street)
- Katamon: Kagan Center, Rabi 6 Tazodk Street

CENTRAL

- Hod HaSharon: Tali School, 4 Golomb Street
- Modi'in: Yachad School, 5 I Arvei HaNachal Street
- Ra'anana: Meged School, 103 Achuza Street
- Rehovot: Kehillat Adat Shalom Emanuel, 6 Miller Street
- Tel Aviv: 4 Elazar HaChorani Street

NORTHERN REGION

- Haifa: Kehillat Moriah, 7 Horev Street
- Karmiel: Kehillat Hakerem, Shizaf Street
- Kibbutz Hannaton
- Moshav Shorashim
- Zichron Ya'akov: Kehillat Ve'ahavta, Hashmura Street

SOUTHERN REGION

- Ashkelon: Kehillat Netzach Yisrael, Givati St, Corner Harel Street
- Beer Sheva: Kehillat Eshel Avraham, 72 Sderot Yerushalyim
- Eilat
- Kibbutz Ketura: D.N. Hevel Eilat
- Omer: Kehillat Magen Avraham, Marganit Street

For more information go to [this link](#)

Contact Information

Director: Yair Za'frani

Address: P.O. Box 37153, 91371 Jerusalem, Israel.

Telephone: +972 (2) 624 6850

Fax: +972 (2) 624 6871

Email: noam@masorti.org



Darchei Marom

MAROM is the Masorti Movement's organization for college-age students and young adults. It provides a bridge for young people, graduates of **NOAM** and other youth organizations who are not yet ready to join an **established kehilla**.

The goals and objectives of **MAROM** are: to provide a community for students and young adults of the **Masorti movement**; to spread the Masorti message of pluralism, openness and equality among this peer cohort; to promote volunteerism and the ethic of giving back to the community by organizing **tikkun olam – social action projects**, projects; to assist with immigrant absorption, especially of student olim; and to offer regional and national events on campuses and in other locations where young adults gather.

For more information, go to [this site](#).



Education

TALI Schools

The **TALI** (Hebrew acronym for Enriched Jewish Studies) network of schools provides a pluralistic Jewish Studies program 40,000 schoolchildren in **188 public schools and pre-schools** throughout Israel.

Established in 1976, TALI has been sponsored since 1987 by the **TALI Education Fund (TEF)** which is an educational organization operated under the academic aegis of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, supported by Jews and Jewish communities around the world, and by the Israeli Ministry of Education.

The Mandate of **TEF** is to provide 2,200 **TALI** teachers with the tools and training needed to create a Jewish environment for their school community by promoting expansion of the **TALI** school system, providing regular on-site pedagogical counseling for teachers, and publishing textbooks for teachers and pupils. **TEF** also sponsors leadership training programs for teachers and principals, and conducts teacher room workshops at the schools. **TEF** places **TALI** rabbis in schools to enrich Jewish content and experience, builds Jewish libraries for all **TALI** schools, and subsidizes family workshops on Jewish prayer and values. The mandate also provides for building parental leadership in the schools.

Olim chadashim with young children should consider sending their children to a **TALI** school. Before your pilot trip, it is possible to consult with representatives from the **TALI** Education Fund who will describe activities and the principles of **TALI** education as well as help guide you in choosing a school for your children. Once in Israel, make an appointment to visit a **TALI** school and meet with teachers, parents and children of the schools to help you understand the educational underpinnings of the school with its unique emphasis on a pluralistic Jewish studies curriculum. **TALI** schools are located throughout Israel and a pilot trip visit to a school can be coordinated.

For more information, [click here](#).

For specific information regarding schools all around the country, please contact TALI Education Fund at [TALI's website](#).



The Schechter Institutes

The mission of the Schechter Institutes is to help fashion an Israeli society and a Jewish world secure in its Jewish roots and strong in its democratic values. Its Jerusalem campus is home to the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies graduate schools, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, TAL Education Fund and Midreshet Yerushalayim – programs for Russian speakers.



Graduate School

The Schechter Institute Graduate School, the **largest Jewish studies program** of its kind in Israel, offers 14 innovative interdisciplinary M.A. degree programs, ([click here](#)), in Jewish studies that are designed to train Israeli teachers as **Jewish educators** and sponsors center and research institutes of applied Jewish

studies to serve Israeli society. With 1,100 graduates and over 600 students currently enrolled, the Schechter M.A. program has carved out a vital niche among Israeli academic institutions. The Schechter's M.A. program is set up to provide a broad, interdisciplinary background in **Jewish studies**, to be used by teachers in their classrooms, and **educational leaders** in community and governmental roles. Since a large percentage of the graduate students are educators, the knowledge they gain at **Schechter** has immediate impact on their work in the classroom on tens of thousands of pupils.

To enroll, go to the Schechter Graduate School Hebrew website at:

<http://www.schechter.ac.il/>

Or contact academia@schechter.ac.il.



Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Israeli Rabbinic Program

Since 1988, the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary has ordained **94 Israeli rabbis** who have taken their place as leaders in Israel and throughout the world. They are addressing growing educational and spiritual needs, as **spiritual educators** in Tali schools, in the advocacy of women's religious rights, in communities and **Conservative congregations** serving new immigrants and veteran Israelis, and in congregations abroad.



Mishlei

Mishlei is a Bet Midrash program, which combines study of Jewish sources with academic courses leading to an MA in Jewish Studies. Outstanding students may continue on for two years of full-time study with scholarships and stipends culminating in rabbinic ordination.

Chaplaincy Program

Schechter pioneered the first accredited chaplaincy program in Israel, and confers certificates in Clinical Pastoral Education.



The Shirley and Jacob Fuchsberg Center

The Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center campus in downtown **Jerusalem** is a center of Conservative Jewish life in Israel for English-speakers who visit and for those **who make Aliyah**. The campus hosts seminars, continuing education programs, cultural offerings, and social action programs. Programs and activities at the Center provide study opportunities, guidance, fellowship, hospitality, and experiences that strengthen bonds and **build bridges** between Conservative Jews in North America and Israel. Many Nativ or Conservative Yeshiva students see their experience as a stepping stone to aliyah. For more information, go to www.uscj.org.il/index.php or email at israel@uscj.org Check out the Fuchsberg Center on **Facebook**.

The Conservative Yeshiva

The Conservative Yeshiva of United Synagogue offers Jews of all backgrounds the skills for **studying classical Jewish texts** in a supportive and vibrant, open-minded, **egalitarian community** where students learn, practice, and grow together. Learning is lishma – for its own sake – without exams or papers. The study of traditional Jewish texts requires skills of language and methodology. The curriculum focuses on classical Jewish subjects including: **Talmud, Tanach, Midrash, halachah**, and Jewish thought. **The Conservative Yeshiva** offers, semester and short-term **options**, including a summer program. The Volunteer and Study program offers the opportunity of giving back to the Jerusalem community by volunteering half-day with an Israeli non-profit organization, while also studying half-day at the **Conservative Yeshiva**. Beginning and advanced students are welcome.

For more information or to apply, go to www.conservativeyeshiva.org.

Project Oded

The Jack and Sue Becker Project Oded Continuing Education program provides **continuing education enrichment** opportunities for English speaking olim and United Synagogue visitors in an open, **pluralistic and flexible framework**, in weekly ongoing courses. Classes are text oriented and on-going so that students may join us at any time during the year. The educational emphasis is based on Jewish literacy. Subjects include Tanach, Talmud, archaeology, history, philosophy, parsha hashavua, Hebrew for Hebrew speakers, field trips, and more.

For a schedule or for more information, visit this [this site](#).



Adraba Center

The Shirley Lowy Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities

Bar/ Bat Mitzva For Children With Special Needs.

This is the only national program working with 40 special education schools in Israel, touching almost 300 children each year. Since the program's inception, more than 3000 young Israelis and their families have celebrated this **Jewish milestone** in a way most never thought possible. The **special needs** program began in Holon and now it is a national program. They provide **Jewish enrichment** for youth and adults with autism, mental retardation, hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other special needs. The Bar-Bat Mitzva experience provides children and their families with a sense of pride, joy and **accomplishment** at this Jewish crossroad. The learning process culminates in a bar/ bat mitzva ceremony attended by family and friends in one of Israel's **Masorti synagogues**. For more information about the program, visit [this website](#).



אדרבא
Adraba
The Shirley Lowy Center
for Children and Youth with Disabilities



*Adraba (On the contrary), let it be in our hearts
that we shall see each of us the virtue of our fellows
and not their vices (Rabbi Simleoh of Lutzensk)*

Jerusalem Ramah Day Camp

An outstanding Israel summer experience for **English-speaking children** entering grades K-9. The campers are taken on outings in and around **Jerusalem**. When on campus they participate in a rich assortment of **fun-filled activities**: sports, arts and crafts, nature, music, drama, and swimming. Many of these are related to special themes which the campers explore each week. Age-appropriate informal educational activities are integrated into the camp program. **Hebrew** is introduced through songs and games.

For more information, [click this link](#).

In addition to summer camp, Ramah offers Chanukah and Pesach camps.



AACI has been serving the English speaking community since 1951. It offers useful information and advice, before, at and following aliyah; English libraries; a wide variety of programming; community services; and advocacy. AACI facilitates the absorption of English-speaking olim, enabling successful acclimation to Israel through services and programs including individual klitah (absorption) counseling; guidance in navigating Israel's health care system (through the Shira Pransky Project); and through a wide variety of social and cultural activities in branches in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Beer Sheva, Netanya and the north.

Website: www.aaci.org.il

Email: info@aaci.org.il



Making Aliyah

Nefesh B'Nefesh

Nefesh B'Nefesh provides new olim with employment resources, assistance with governmental absorption, community-based guidance and support and need-based financial aid in order to make each individual's aliyah as successful as possible. To begin your aliyah process, go to [this website](#)

Pre-Aliyah Guidance and Support

Nefesh B'Nefesh provides guidance through all stages of the aliyah process. People who are at the initial stages of aliyah planning can contact us with questions about applications, education and community options, assistance in planning pilot trips, information about Israeli citizenship and queries regarding Nefesh B'Nefesh financial aid and aliyah flights. In addition, staff members are regularly available for personal consultations in dozens of communities throughout the US, Canada and the UK. The call center is available during regular North American and UK business hours and maintains toll free phone numbers, providing maximal convenience for anyone with questions about aliyah.

Employment

Employment is a key consideration for most people who make aliyah. The Nefesh B'Nefesh employment department provides olim with assistance with the job hunt, offering information about retraining, business coaching, and matching olim with professional mentors after arrival in Israel. The employment staff conducts seminars for job seekers and is also available for personal consultations. For more information about employment opportunities in Israel, visit [this site](#).

Government Advocacy

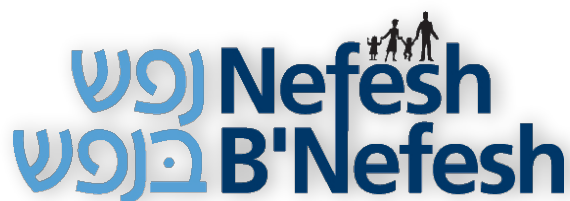
New olim are entitled to a broad range of government-sponsored *zechuyot*, or financial benefits, upon their arrival in Israel. Individuals who have questions about benefits or need guidance with any other element of government absorption can contact the Nefesh B'Nefesh government advocacy department for assistance at: advocacy@nbn.org.il.

Financial Aid

Nefesh B'Nefesh provides need-based financial aid to eligible aliyah candidates following submission of a detailed financial affidavit and supporting documentation (i.e., income tax returns and bank statements). All financial aid is vested after a three year period. Any aliyah candidate who emigrates from Israel within the designated three year period is obligated to return the financial aid to Nefesh B'Nefesh.

Online Resources

The Nefesh B'Nefesh website is constantly updated with current information about the aliyah process, resources, useful information and related links. Nefesh B'Nefesh discussion groups use social media to allow applicants, newcomers and veteran olim to exchange advice, contacts and community information. To learn more about aliyah, visit the Nefesh B'Nefesh Aliyahpedia. For a listing of online forums, see [NBN Online](#).



Useful Links

- AACI: The Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel
<http://www.aaci.org.il/>
- American Zionist Movement
<http://www.azm.org/>
- IDF: Israel Defense Forces:
<http://www.idf.il/english/>
- JNF: Jewish National Fund
<http://www.jnf.org/>
- Kibbutz Ulpan
<http://www.kibbutzulpan.org/page.asp?ln=eng>
- MASA: Israel Journey
<http://www.masaisrael.org/masa/english/>
- Masorti Israel
<http://www.masorti.org/>
- Mercaz Canada
<http://www.mercaz.ca/>
- Mercaz USA
<http://www.mercazusa.org/>
- Nefesh B'Nefesh
<http://www.nbn.org.il>
- The Jewish Agency For Israel
<http://www.jafi.org.il/JewishAgency/English/Home/>
- United Synagogue Israel Committee
freedman@uscj.org
- World Zionist Organization
<http://www.en.wzo.org.il/home/PI00.jsp>
- Masorti Olami
<http://masortiolami.org>

We hope this has been useful, we're here to answer any questions and help you. Please contact us:

The Masorti Movement in Israel

98 Derech Hevron

P.O.B. 7559

Jerusalem 91074

Israel

Telephone: +972 (2) 565-8000

Fax: +972 (2) 624-6869

E-Mail: masorti@masorti.org

