



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**  
FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

## PRESENT THEIR BIENNIAL ESSAY CONTEST

**AWARDS:** FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE AMOUNTS OF: \$1,000, \$600, \$400 and \$250 (2X)

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants must be 14-19 years of age; applicants must be members of a Conservative congregation; and the scholarship will apply to any Conservative Movement sponsored Israel program (including Israel programs taking place from June 1, 2012 and on).

**THEME OF THIS YEAR'S ESSAY COMPETITION: "Making the Desert Bloom"** — David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, spoke of "making the desert bloom." Researchers and companies in Israel have taken this message to heart and have built upon it, making Israel a world leader in "green" technology, a hot topic on today's world stage. A web search for green technology in Israel will produce over 62,000,000 hits. For many Conservative Jews, "green" technology is also a fulfillment of the Halakhic requirement to care for the earth (Genesis 1:28). MERCAZ represents the interests of Masorti/Conservative Judaism in Keren Kayemet LeYisrael (Jewish National Fund). Since the 2002 World Zionist Congress, MERCAZ has teamed up with the Green Zionist Alliance, a US based environmentally-oriented Zionist organization, offering GZA two seats on the Keren Kayemet LeYisrael (JNF-Israel) board.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 1: **Judaism & the Environment:** <http://more.masortiworld.org/environment/index.html>
- 2: **Green Zionist Alliance:** [www.greenzionism.org](http://www.greenzionism.org)
- 3: **Green Zionism:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=haraU3UFvAo&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haraU3UFvAo&feature=related), from a presentation by Noam Dolgin, a Jewish environmental educator and the executive director of the Green Zionist Alliance (GZA).
- 4: **Land of Milk, Honey, and Green Technology:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMNkycQiA\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMNkycQiA_o)
- 5: **A New Leaf: Israel's Green Movement:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQqWoxNkrGc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQqWoxNkrGc)

**ESSAY FORMAT:** Choose one green technology breakthrough developed in Israel within the past two years that you deem to be most significant. Answer both of the following two sections:

- 1: **Part One:** Give a short description of the technology you chose. Considering Israel's history, society, and physical geography explain why you believe this breakthrough to be important for Israel and its significance beyond to the world.
- 2: **Part Two:** Imagine David Ben-Gurion visiting Israel today. Write up an interview with David Ben-Gurion discussing your chosen technology in relation to his desire to make the desert bloom.

## ESSAY CONTEST

### SCHEDULE:

- 1: Opening of Essay Contest:** February 15, 2012: Go to [www.mercazusa.org](http://www.mercazusa.org) or [www.mercaz.ca](http://www.mercaz.ca) for your entry form or see page 3.
- 2: Deadline for Entries:** Postmarked no later than March 30, 2012
- 3: Announcement of Winners:** Winners will be announced publicly during the Women's League convention, December 2012. (Those applying for Israel programs taking place during summer 2012 will be notified privately by May 15th.)

**FORMAT:** Up to 500 words – typed and double-spaced, accompanied by a passport-size photo.

### MAIL ESSAYS TO:

MERCAZ USA/CANADA/Women's League Essay Contest, 136 East 39th Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10016  
**OR** 1000 Finch Avenue West, #508, Toronto, Ontario M3J 2V5

(It is also recommended that the essays be sent in electronically to [info@mercazusa.org](mailto:info@mercazusa.org) for the United States or [mercaz-masorti@intrr.net](mailto:mercaz-masorti@intrr.net) for Canada).

### MUST INCLUDE:

Entry form (on page 3), which must serve as title page.

Entry forms are also available from:

- 1: The MERCAZ USA website:** [www.mercazusa.org](http://www.mercazusa.org) (tel: 212-533-2061)
- 2: The MERCAZ-CANADA website:** [www.mercaz.ca](http://www.mercaz.ca) (tel: 416-667-1717)
- 3: The Women's League website:** [www.wlcj.org](http://www.wlcj.org) (tel: 212-870-1260)



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## ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE or PROVINCE**

**ZIP or POSTAL CODE**

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONGREGATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE or PROVINCE**

**ZIP or POSTAL CODE**

**CURRENT SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL: ISRAEL PROGRAM(S) YOU ARE APPLYING FOR (Scholarships may be used on future programs):**

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