

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?  
And if I am only for myself, what am I?  
And if not now, when?"*  
**Pirke Avot 1:14**

## Patronato

### Cuban Jewish Community

I Street, 13 and 15  
Vedado  
10400  
Havana City  
Cuba

For the first time in the history two young representatives from the Cuban Jewish Community are attending a Tikun Olam Program in Israel, as part of their long term educational experience in the Jewish State, thanks to the generosity of MASA Israel, UIA Federations Canada through Canada Israel Experience, Cuban Jewish Connection INC., Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, BINA Center for Jewish Identity and Hebrew Culture, among others.

Since 1992 the Cuban Jewish Community has focused on gathering and bringing back the remaining Jewish population of Cuba that had drifted away from their religious roots during the previous 32 years. As many of you who have visited us are aware, this goal, with the help of many people in the International Jewish Community, has been largely accomplished.

Although Cuba severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 1973, during Yom Kippur War, the Cuban Jewish Community has been working trying to establish new links with the Jewish State. It was not until August 2003, that for the first time in the history 10 young people from the Cuban Jewish Community landed to Eretz Israel attending the Taglit – Birthright Israel program, a new era in the relationships between the Cuban Jewish Community and the State of Israel. Later on, in April, 2006, March for the Living was also established for Cuba. Up to date, it has been possible for more than 70 Jewish youngsters from Cuba to attend both: Taglit – Birthright Israel and March for the Living.

Our circumstances are different now, we have a better vision at the Cuban Jewish Community. Although we came from a Community which has kept their traditions without any Rabbi, Hazzan or Mohel, the nucleus of our lives, both spiritual and secular, remains at the synagogue.

We have now the possibility to train our local members by taking advantage of the programs established in Eretz Israel. MASA, a long term study program in Israel, will provide our future generations with the needed skills in order to keep Judaism alive in Cuba.

By supporting a local young Jewish student to attend Taglit – Birthright Israel, March for the Living or MASA program, you will be supporting both: The Cuban Jewish Community and the Jewish State.

For further information please contact:

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COMUNIDAD HEBREA DE CUBA  
1906-2006

## Cuban Jewish Community: **MASA ISRAEL**

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Sumiko Ruiz Zayon (left), 21, President Young Jewish Organization MACABI CUBA, together with Annet Pascual Avila (right), 26, Young Jewish Organization madricha, at the Tikun Olam Program in Tel Aviv, Israel. February, 2010.



Cuban representatives attending MASA Israel, among the Tikun Olam Program participants. Tel Aviv. Israel. February, 2010.

***You can help us to make this dream possible. Thank you in advance for your support.***

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