



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
World Zionist Organization



# WZO NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 10 JANUARY-MARCE 2018

## Message from the Chairman

This January, we held a series of events entitled "120 Years of Zionism" at an impressive gathering of many participants in Paris, kicking off Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> year of independence with events to be spread out throughout the year. We expect these events to strengthen the relationship between our brothers and sisters living in the Diaspora and the State of Israel and to awaken the spirit of Zionism throughout the Diaspora and Israel.

Israel's achievements in all fields are not something to be taken for granted and they serve all of us as a source of pride and inspiration, serving to educate countries and

countries and Individuals around the world and especially the Jewish world. Our fellow Jews should be introduced to the State of Israel, with an emphasis on its unique nature; and we must constantly improve our exemplary society that we are building here for the entire Jewish People, in the hopes that they will return and live in Israel in the near future.

The budget of the WZO was recently approved by the finance committee management; and currently, the departments are free to plan extensive and diverse activities for optimal results.

Best of luck,

Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdev)  
Chair of the World Zionist Organization

## WZO France



### "Zionism: The Ongoing Miracle

In honor of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Zionist Congress, this January 2018, WZO France held a seminar in Paris on the subject of: "Zionism Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – A Time to Reflect on Achievements and Perspectives"

Some 300 people, including representatives of the large community institutions, gathered in the municipal building hall of the 16<sup>th</sup> arrondissement. Moshe Cohen, WZO France representative, opened the event with words of welcome. Each of the senior members of the community who participated in the panel contributed his expertise to the fascinating and enriching intellectual discussion. Two parliament members, Claude Goasgen and Meir Habib, honored us with their attendance at the event and welcomed the participants. The successful day was summed up by WZO Chairman Avraham Duvdevani.

## Zionist Enterprises Department



### Exemplary Students on Zionist Leadership Day

The Department's flagship program – Mofet - The Social Accelerator, assists social entrepreneurs with groundbreaking ideas, in order to promote social justice and Tikun Olam, in the spirit of Herzl's vision of a model society. As part of this program, a Zionist Leadership Day was held in Jerusalem in which the participants learned about key points in Zionist history. The entrepreneurs visited the Central Zionist Archives and viewed the original manuscripts of our country's visionary, Binyamin Zeev Herzl. Subsequently, they visited the section of the Great Leaders of the Nation at the Har Herzl cemetery and were introduced to the visions of the figures who influenced the history of Zionism. They ended the visit with a tour of the interactive Herzl Museum.

**Herzl turned his vision into a successful social project – the State of Israel, which serves as a source of inspiration for the program's participants who dream of turning their vision into a reality!**



### The Shaping Holocaust Remembrance Conference

During this time in which Poland is ratifying a controversial law that prohibits laying blame on Poland and the Polish People for the crimes of the Holocaust, the Zionist Enterprises Department in cooperation with other organizations took part in the conference entitled: **Shaping Holocaust Remembrance – Remembering Responsibly**. Holocaust researchers and educators from around the world took part in the conference. The opening event was attended by Dror Morag and WZO Chairman, Avraham Duvdevani who spoke about the deep significance of remembrance in Judaism and Zionism.

## The Department for Diaspora Activities

### Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations in Israel

For the first time, the Department has established two Bnei Mitzvah programs for France at the same time – one for the Orthodox stream of Judaism through Consistoire and the other for the Liberal Movement. The programs, which were conducted thanks to the continued efforts of the Chair to raise earmarked funding and the work of the Department, were a great success. **The programs were adapted to the specifications of the teens and the diverse activity enthused and excited them.** The accumulated experience of the Department with these types of groups in recent years was a key factor in this program's success.



### Tu Bishvat Seders Around the World

In keeping with the tradition we started last year, we ran dozens of Tu Bishvat Seders around the world. **Our new and veteran Shlichim enthusiastically led the ceremonies which featured a Jewish religious aspect, as well as contemporary Israeli ecological content. This content was very relevant and interesting to the younger generation.** For the first time, this year we held a Seder in Hungary, led by the director of the Israel cultural center together with Department representative Adi Farkash.



## Settlement Division



### Utilizing the Settlement Division's Budget

**Following a long and challenging period, at the beginning of January, deliberations resumed in the Settlement Division's Support Committee.**

The Support Committee,, in cooperation with the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance is examining and evaluating the calls for proposals that were issued to the regional councils on three subjects: Society and Absorption, Construction Infrastructure and Specific Handling (localities in crisis) on the subject of society and absorption. The deliberations have concluded and the councils have received notification of support totaling NIS 17 million. This committee is scheduled to complete its other deliberations by the end of March in order to distribute funds totaling NIS 100 million. The Settlement Division has returned as a significant player and will continue to work to strengthen Israel's rural periphery.



### Tour of the Gaza Perimeter for representatives of the Finance Ministry's Accountant General

An important tour to introduce the Division's activity in the Gaza Perimeter and Egyptian Border. The visit was attended by Deputy Accountant General, Mr. Victor Weiss and his staff, and led by Director General, Mr. Tzviki Bar Hai and staff from the Southern District. The close direct collaboration between the Accountant and the residents, secretaries and rural development staff in the field will hopefully lead to demographic growth in the Negev.

## Herzl Center



### Herzl in Preschool

In February, the Herzl Center launched the Herzl in Preschool Program and hosted the first preschools as part of this program.

**The program offers preschools an interactive visit on the subject of Dream and Actuality, a short visit to Har Herzl and a creative activity.**

All preschool teachers in the Jerusalem District have attended in-service training on the subject at the Har Herzl educational center.



### How Do We Cultivate Leaders?

An innovative tour that was created especially for Tu Bishvat that tells the architectural and design story of Har Herzl.

The tour combines botany, architecture, design and commemoration using these elements.

## Aliyah Promotion Department



### Bonus Lesson

The Department for the Promotion of Aliyah operates hundreds of Ulpan Hebrew classes nationwide. Recently, the director of the department, Marina Rosenberg-Kortini, established a new program called Bonus Lesson. **The main aspect of the program is the encounter between the students and Israeli figures who represent a contemporary Zionist endeavor, and sometimes even an Aliyah story that serves as a symbol of success – and all of this in Hebrew!**

On March 7<sup>th</sup> of this year, a Bonus Lesson was offered at the Doctors' Ulpan in Paris by the Department director, who spoke of her journey to Israel and her work in the Department for the Promotion of Aliyah.



### Ulpan Classes in South America – Reaching Field Cities

The new session of Hebrew Ulpan classes was successfully opened in South America. Classes were opened in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil; and for the first time – classes are scheduled to be opened in the field cities of Curitiba and Recife. **In total, there are 20 classes in Brazil. The Department operates another 30 classes in Argentina, with classes in both the capital and in field cities, including Mendoza, Rosario, Cordoba and others..**

## Department for Israel and Countering Anti-Semitism

### Special Discussion in the Knesset Committee for Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs on the Subject of Anti-Semitism

Department Chairman, Mr. Yaakov Hagoel was invited to a special discussion on anti-Semitism held by the Knesset Committee for Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs.

During the committee meeting, participants were presented with the results of an online questionnaire and a discussion ensued. **Every year prior to International Holocaust Remembrance Day (in January), the Department for Israel and Countering anti-Semitism conducts an online questionnaire to examine trends of anti-Semitism dealt with by our fellow Jews in the Diaspora. The questionnaire was completed by 1,500 Jews from around the world, who relayed their personal experiences related to anti-Semitism in their area of residence. The questionnaire was analyzed and trends of anti-Semitism in various areas around the world were presented.**



### The Struggle Against Anti-Semitism Conference in Jerusalem

In January, the Department held a conference on Countering Anti-Semitism and the BDS, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The conference was held at the Yad Yitzhak Ben Tzvi Institute in Jerusalem and was attended by more than 300 participants, including the WZO Chair, Minister of Economy and Industry, and the Deputy Chair of WZO and event chair - Yaakov Hagoel. **Hagoel revealed the disturbing results of the survey conducted by the Department on the subject and pointed out a disconcerting trend of people not reporting anti-Semitic incidents, which we have witnessed for several years, due to their lack of trust in the judicial and enforcement systems.**

Dr. Mordechai Keidar, Middle East expert and lecturer at Bar Ilan University's Arabic Department gave a lecture at the event. During the last part of the conference, there was a symposium of experts on countering anti-Semitism.



## The Har Herzl Leadership Center

### Leadership in Atlanta

During the month of February, Dr. Simcha Leibowitz, Director of the Leadership Center, led many diverse regional sessions in Atlanta, Georgia in the US. In total, during his stay, he met with 300 participants who were introduced to the activities; a third of the participants were students and the rest were adults who work in various leadership roles in the community.

#### Central topics selected for the seminars were:

- To Cultivate and Nurture – Implementing the Lubavitcher Rebbe's philosophy for fostering leadership: Motivating and empowering others to action in the Jewish community
- Developing an awareness of the 'strengths within you' as a basis for empowerment and motivating your surroundings.
- Use of the principles of transformational leadership to impact and empower others.

#### Among the many sessions that were conducted:

- Seminar on transformational leadership for 18 department heads and program directors of leadership development programs at KSU University.
- Regional seminar for 20 Shlichim working in the state of Georgia, with a focus on the three topics mentioned above.
- Seminar for Jewish federation directors on the subject of motivating volunteers to undertake meaningful activity.
- Leadership seminar for students at Georgia Tech on the subject of leadership and motivation and many other excellent sessions!



## Department for Orthodox Religious Affairs

### The State of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence

120 Rabbis from 41 countries participated in the World Rabbinical Conference of the Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, this year focusing on the State of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence.

During the conference, the Rabbis heard lectures on the security challenges of the State of Israel, its spiritual achievements over its years of existence; and they discussed current problems faced by the Orthodox community. **A special day was dedicated to a tour of the Jordan Valley. The Rabbis walked along the eastern border and were briefed by General (Res.) Uzi Dayan and General (Res.) Gershon Hacohen. They learned about Israel's defense challenges in the field, and climbed Mount Sartaba, where they were given a comprehensive brief on the Jordan Valley, its settlement, water problems and the importance of the valley to Israel's security.**



### Commandments that apply to the Land of Israel – Tour of Rabbis from the RCA

At the beginning of March, an initiative of the Center for Religious Affairs led by Rabbi Yehiel Wasserman and Rabbi Reuven Tradburks of the RCA featured a tour for Rabbis of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA).

The tour was organized by the Center's director, Mr. Yitzchak Stiglitz and the Center's outgoing director, Yishai Boni and was run by Rabbi Moshe Blum, training coordinator at the Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel and the Alei Katif – Chasalat Company. **The Rabbis learned about the commandments that apply only to the Land of Israel and agricultural - Halachic (Jewish law) issues; and they toured the Chasalat factory and greenhouses of Moshav Givolim.** The participants received a gift of produce grown by Chasalat.



## Masorti Olami



### Meeting of the Leaders of the International NOAM Youth Movement Branches

In January, in Nice, France, 34 leaders of the International NOAM Youth Movement branches from 12 countries and 5 continents met for an international seminar. **The participants learned how to integrate Israel and Zionism into group activities at the branches, where the emphasis was on using current events to discuss issues related to religion and state in Israel, incorporating Hebrew into the activities – and in honor of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> year of independence – 70 different topics for activities related to Israel, including: desert agriculture, kosher technology, the Israel Trail, etc.**



### Treasure Hunt on the Banks of the Dnieper River

**Fifty teens from across the Ukraine participated in the NOAM Ukraine Winter Seminar in the forests on the banks of the Dnieper River.** Activities during this week included daily prayer services, Israeli music, cooking, arts and crafts and a nighttime treasure hunt that used educational methods with the participants solving riddles. The camp ended after a Shabbat experience that included festive meals, Shabbat songs and a moving Havdalah service.

## Education Department

### Herzl and Korczak visit Pittsburgh and Cleveland

In February 2018, actor Amichai Perdo traveled to the US to appear in solo performances of two children's plays entitled: "Herzl – A Dream Come True" and "Korczak – 10 Match Boxes created by the Orna Porat Theater."

The joint project of the Education Department with the Orna Porat Theater and local federations and organizations was held for the fourth time: During the past two years, Amichai has performed in North America, Venezuela, Australia and Romania on behalf of the WZO Department of Education. His performances were warmly received and led to further demand for the plays. The most recent trip was to Cleveland and Pittsburgh. In nine days, Amichai gave 23 (!) performances to diverse audiences: at Jewish and non-Jewish schools, Jewish community centers (JCC), synagogues, youth movements, etc.

The plays were enthusiastically received and received moving praise: After seeing the Herzl play, Rabbi Matt Eisenberg and Edna Talmor Akrish (Cleveland) wrote that the performance that breathed life into the image of the father of modern Zionism was interesting and enjoyable and left a strong impression on the audience. **"We sing Hatikva every week at school, followed by If You Will It – It is Not a Dream. When the pupils sing Israel's national anthem and the song with great admiration, with a profound understanding of the historical context and with a loud voice – this is evidence of the important impact of the play on our pupils."**



### Teaching with Renewed Energies

The delegation of Hebrew teachers from the Diaspora visited Israel for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, after last year's success. **23 teachers from 8 countries took part in a rich and diverse program that included participation in the annual Hebrew conference in Rishon L'Zion, sightseeing, visits to central educational institutions, workshops, etc.** At the end of the seminar, Ilana from Canada wrote: "The organization was flawless. Everything was coordinated, flowed and hit the mark. We learned, taught, experienced, were moved and moved others, and my dream is to meet again as part of another seminar."



### Leadership and Zionism with the Magshimim Movements

**The World Zionist Organization successfully organized and ran 33 seminars with 1,152 young participants from the World Magshimim Movements.** The Finance Department, Diaspora Activities Department and Department of Education divided the responsibilities for running the seminars between them and executing the budget, which was comprised of balances that were not utilized in 2016.

The Finance Department was in charge of 10 leadership seminars held in Israel, the Diaspora Activities Department was in charge of Keep in Touch – 15 Zionist seminars in the Diaspora, and the Department of Education was responsible for Summer in Israel – 10 youth movement camps overseas with activities focusing on Zionism. The World Zionist Organization can be proud of the production and partnership in this important Zionist enterprise that combines the best of Jewish youth from around the world in activity that strengthens their affiliation to the State of Israel and the Zionist vision.

## ◀ EMPLOYEE DAY 2018 ▶

We met, left, traveled, arrived and ate **delicious** food! We presented awards for excellence, split up into groups of different colors, wore the colors, competed, counted, calculated, solved, ran, built from mud, translated from Amharic and ate spicy food. We dressed up in costume, presented, filmed, drew the insignia, ate sunflower seeds and ended the event breathless. We won and also lost (and appealed), rested a bit and then ate **delicious** food again!

We won a prize, sang, fooled around, laughed and slept. Good night! We woke up early, showered, marched and saw the desert at dawn!! We visited a hut, heard about bungee, rode camels, took a jeep tour, baked bread using a taboun oven, learned about palms, brewed medicinal herbs, and finally, ate again.

**And the food was really delicious this time!**

**We returned exhausted but very satisfied. It was amazing!!**

**Endless thanks to Ronit, Haya, Anna and Eli!** And also, and most of all: To the committee and executive, which made all this great stuff possible with all their heart and attention!

