



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization



World Zionist Organization *Newsletter*

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Message from the Chairman

Shalom all,

We ended 2019 in a great wave of activity that took place in the last months of the year in different places around the world. We opened the Third Aliyah centenary events in Israel as part of the Storytelling Festival in Givatayim Theater, followed by the Zionist Archive centenary events. An interesting exhibition is currently on display at the Israel Museum about the ship Ruslan, the arrival of which at Jaffa Port marked the beginning of the Third Aliyah. During the year further events will take place on the theme of the Third Aliyah; all at the initiative of and with the involvement of the World Zionist Organization.

At the same time, hundreds of people recently participated in a number of conferences in varied fields that took place recently.

Altogether, thousands of people have been exposed to the WZO's activity in recent months. We thank all those involved in carrying out this important activity. Some of the conferences have already become a tradition and we would be very happy to see this continue in the future.

We are at the moment entering an election campaign in preparation for the congress. We hope that the World Zionist Organization's wave of activity will strengthen the organization everywhere and encourage more people to join the Zionist movement.

Sincerely,
Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdev)
World Zionist Organization Chair

Zionist General Council 37/5

"The Zionist Movement Vision – the Next Generation, Challenges and Actions"

The ZGC session convened this year in the capital of the Negev, Beersheba, marking 70 years of Negev development, with an emphasis on the 21st century. Trendologist Adi Yoffe talked about business futurism and Maya Wiesel spoke about "Pedagogical Innovation in Generation Y."

Throughout the session, young people from Israel and the Diaspora shared about the projects in which they are involved.

The ZGC members toured Gaza Perimeter localities, including Kerem Shalom, Nahal Oz, Be'erot Yitzhak, Sderot, and more. The tours concluded with a gala at which certificates of recognition were awarded to Maj. Gen. Hertzi Halevi, chief of the Southern Command, Brig. Gen. Eliezer Toledano, Gaza Division Commander, Eshkol Regional Council Head Gadi Yarkoni, and Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi.

Another special guest who "connected with the Negev" was author Eshkol Nevo, who read stories he'd written following a Gaza Perimeter tour of his own.

Among the events commemorated was the Central Zionist Archives' centennial, and an exhibition marking modern Beersheba's 70th anniversary.

People with disabilities were employed in the preparation of all ZGC member files.



WZO Chairman, Avraham Duvdevani, in Romania



Honorary Doctorate Conferred on Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdev)

On November 5, 2019, the President of the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) in Bucharest awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa to Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdev), Chairman of the World Zionist Organization.

The degree was awarded in honor of Duvdevani's efforts as Chairman of the Executive of the WZO, the organization that founded the State of Israel and whose institutions constituted the basis for the state institutions.

There was also recognition of SNSPA and WZO collaboration on the establishment of the Herzl Center and the Center for the Study of Israel and the Zionist Movements at SNSPA.

Ceremony participants included: Israel's Ambassador to Romania, David Saranga, the President of the Lauder-Reut Educational Complex, Tova Ben Nun Cherbis, Professor Dan Koren, and Dubi Bergman.

Audience with the President of Romania

During the trip to Romania, the WZO Chairman and Dubi Bergman met with the President of Romania, Klaus Werner Iohannis.

The President of Romania was gratified by our visit and found time in his busy schedule to meet with the Chairman of the WZO, the organization that founded the State of Israel. He noted the importance of the struggle waged by the WZO and the Romanian government against anti-Semitism.

President Iohannis told the WZO Chairman that Romania supports Israel and would be pleased to collaborate in a number of areas.



Fundraising Unit

From Vision to Zionism – First Herzl Conference on Contemporary Zionism

The Herzl Conference was organized by the Fundraising Unit, under Dubi Bergman, and aimed to assess today's Zionist balance sheet, activity, and strategy in light of Herzl's vision of 120 years ago. Speakers and panelists included senior Israeli academics, policymakers, economists, political scientists, and tech/biotech pioneers.

Herzl's heritage, Zionist vision and action, forecasts – all from past, present, and future perspectives – were discussed, with an emphasis on the future. The Zionist institutions' importance was noted, especially that of the WZO, which realized Herzl's vision of statehood. There was discussion of whether Israel is a model society that assures people's rights regardless of faith, gender, or race, and whether it is a "Jewish state" or the "state of the Jews."

The event was sponsored by President Reuven Rivlin, and featured such distinguished foreign guests as US Senator Joe Lieberman and Prof. Stanley Fischer, former Bank of Israel Governor. Senior academic attendees included Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Prof. Anita Shapira, Prof. Ariel Feldstein, Rabbi Dr. Benny Lau, and others. The economic sphere was represented by Bank Leumi CEO Hanan Friedman and former Bank Leumi Chair David Brodet, while biotech was represented by Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg, Prof. Amnon Shashua, and Shlomo Dovrat.

Many young people participated in the discussions, and a debate was held on the topic of "From Vision to Reality," featuring the Israeli World Universities Debating Championship team.

The two-day conference was planned for 200 participants but over 600 actually came. The Herzl Center provided a venue and support, thanks to generous donors, especially Dr. Nissim Levi. Prof. Itamar Rabinovich was the academic manager, aided by Prof. Dan Koren and Dubi Bergman.

The conference was financially supported by the Public Council for the Commemoration of Theodor Herzl, and Bank Leumi. We received numerous compliments on the conference; other such events are being planned, for Israel and elsewhere.



Department for Activities in Israel and Countering Antisemitism

Conference on Countering Antisemitism in Europe

Over 130 leaders from 16 countries attended the European Conference on Countering Antisemitism, organized by the Department for Activities in Israel and Countering Antisemitism. The conference was held in Paris, as the French National Assembly adopted a definition of antisemitism that encompasses hatred of Israel. Workshops were held by prominent scholars in the field. Israel's ambassador to France, Aliza Ben Nun, honored the conference with her presence and emphasized the importance of continuing the struggle, calling upon governments to enforce the law and to show zero tolerance for antisemitism.

Lecturers include Consistoire President Joël Mergui, Dr. Jacques Kupfer, Israel Hayom foreign affairs editor Boaz Bismuth, French academics, and representatives of France's non-Jewish communities.



Conference on Countering Antisemitism in South America

Over 120 Jewish leaders from across Latin America attended a conference on combating antisemitism and the BDS movements, held by the Department for Activities in Israel and Countering Antisemitism in San Diego, Chile last September. The conference drew organization and community heads, local leaders and activists who were informed about trends and ways of coping with rising antisemitism in Latin America and elsewhere. Israel's Ambassador to Chile, Marina Rosenberg, who honored the conference with her presence, has been subjected to antisemitic attacks via social media. Speakers included Catholic clerics, journalists, students, and experts in the field.

WZO Vice Chair Yaakov Hagoel, who headed the conference, said that "the participation of over 120 Jewish leaders from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama attests to the need and the desire to unite across South America to address this worrisome phenomenon. Together we will continue to fight antisemitism and the BDS movements, addressing issues at the right time and in the right ways."

The Herzl Center

Sigd at the Herzl Center

The Herzl Center marked Sigd by hosting teens whose parents braved hardships in order to realize their dream of settling in Israel. While Herzl, in Europe, dreamed of a Jewish state, Abba Mahari dreamed of the same thing in Ethiopia. Their dreams met here, in Jerusalem.



Pictured: children of Ethiopian olim at the monument for the Ethiopian Jews who perished en route to Israel

מרכז הרצל
מסדור ראשון

70 שנה למתן חוזה ההצטרפות
70 שנה למתן חוזה ההצטרפות
70 שנה למתן חוזה ההצטרפות

מחדשים את החוזה

שבועים שנה אחרי הפיכתו של הרצל לאייקון לאומי
במרכז הרצל אל סמפוזיום לעשות ציונות. פילון מחוד

Special Supplement for Mount Herzl's 70th

70 years after Mount Herzl became a national icon, the Herzl Center hasn't stopped doing Zionism. Details in a special issue of *Makor Rishon*.

http://www.herzl.org.il/files/articles/Mt_Herzl_70_magazine.pdf

An "Electrifying" Event at Mount Herzl

The Herzl Center again hosted its traditional Hanukkah candle lighting, with songs, sufganiot, and a Mount Herzl oil lamp tour.



Jerusalem Prize Awarded to Australia's Prime Minister

Last November, in Sydney, Australia, the head of the Department for Diaspora Affairs, Gusti Yehoshua Braverman, awarded the WZO's prestigious Jerusalem Prize to Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Morrison was presented with a silver shofar with an embossed olive branch. The prize was awarded in recognition of Morrison's support for Israel internationally, and his friendship for Australia's Jewish community.

iVision Conference

250 people from across Europe came to Marseilles for the Department's third conference. The wide array of participants, speakers, and workshops made for a meaningful experience with a strong sense of togetherness.

Guest of honor and Israel Prize laureate Miriam Peretz spoke movingly.



Conference: Walking a Fine Line: Israel-Diaspora, One People?

For a fourth consecutive year the Department held this conference in cooperation with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Hundreds of pre-army mechina students and a hundred North American "Shnat" participants attended. Shiran of Mechinat Tzahali summed up: "It was amazing. I learned a lot. [...] Now I think I'll be more aware and sensitive to Diaspora Jews!"



Zionist Enterprises Department

The Central Zionist Archives at the Israel Museum

We were honored to inaugurate Cultural Pioneers Aboard the Ruslan, an Israel Museum exhibition based on Central Zionist Archives collections. The exhibition marks the centennials of the CZA and of the SS Ruslan's arrival at Jaffa Port, an event that symbolized the start of the Third Aliyah. Through artworks, old film footage, photos, manuscripts, and historical documents from the CZA and other archives, most on display for the first time, the exhibition celebrates the contribution and influence of major figures in the development of Israeli society, culture, and art. We invite you to visit the Museum and view the CZA treasures on display in the exhibition, testament to a remarkable chapter in Zionist history.



Zionist and Democracy Conference

In November the Zionist Enterprises Department held its first Zionism and Democracy conference, highlighting the inextricable connection between democracy and Zionism. The conference sessions addressed the topic from legal, educational, political, cultural, and intellectual angles, driving a lively and constructive dialogue on burning issues in Israeli society. WZO Chair Avraham Duvdevani welcomed the attendees, noting that Israel "can't exist without democracy; we have to find and see all the points of tension and commonality between both," to ensure a better future. Hundreds of people attended the conference, making it a huge success!



Aliya Promotion Department



US: The Zionist Festival of Lights

During Hanukkah, while Aliya Promotion Department Director Marina Rosenberg-Koritny was visiting the US, 17 major events were held from coast to coast, with the participation of 4,000 (!) Jews. Via the Festival of Lights, aliya promotion efforts reached thousands of Jews for the first time in their lives. This year, one of the biggest and most impressive of the events was held on the West coast, On December 22 an Israel Fair was held in New York – a day of light, art, Zionism, and aliya promotion, which attracted 950 Russian-speaking Jews. Representatives of the Israeli diplomatic corps, Ofek Israeli, the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and, of course, the National Institutions, honored the event with their presence. In addition to lectures and seminars, the program included a culinary master class and a performance by the great Israeli violinist, Sania Kroiter.



France: Hebrew Club and Dozens of Hebrew Week Activities and Projects

In Late November, Hebrew Week was celebrated in France – a multidimensional and innovative project run by the Department's Hebrew ulpanim. The high point of Hebrew Week was a public dialogue among France's 120 thousand Jews. The program included dozens of activities, events, encounters, and new-project launches. Active participants in Hebrew Week included: Israel media personality Gil Hovav, the grandson of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda; Ofek Israeli CEO Shimon Cohen; Academy of the Hebrew Language president Moshe Bar-Asher; French-Jewish community leaders and organization heads, and others. Hebrew Week encompassed over 220 events in 15 cities, drawing over 10,000 participants from 40 communities and organizations, 120 Department ulpan classes, 40 synagogues, and 50 Jewish school classes. Thanks to a large-scale press and social media campaign, over 120,000 French and Belgian Jews were exposed to Hebrew Week topics, messages, and events.

Center for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora

Events and Personalities Booklet in Italian

To mark November 29th, the day the UN authorized Israel's founding, the WZO's Center for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora published an Italian version of *Events and Personalities in the History of the Zionist Movement*.

Over the past two years, the publication has been issued in six languages: Hebrew, English, Russian, Spanish, French, and German. The booklets have been sent to hundreds of Jewish communities.

The Italian booklet was distributed this week in a gala ceremony to pupils at the Jewish high school in Rome.



Pictured: Rabbi Reuven Colombo (the principal), Rabbi Yehiel Wasserman, Ilan Friedman, and Hanan Magel, Ben Ami Shaliach in Italy

Jewish-Zionist Library Dedicated in Wrocław

At the initiative of the WZO's Center for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, a dedication ceremony for a Jewish-Zionist library was held in Wrocław, Poland.

The library, which was donated by the Center, offers a core collection on Judaism in Hebrew and English, as well as books on Zionism and the State of Israel.

There were dozens of attendees, including: Klara Kwajejska, president of the Wrocław Jewish community and head of the city's Union of Jewish Communities; Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich; Wrocław community Rabbi David Bassuk; and Rabbi Yehiel Wasserman, head of the Center for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, who organized the ceremony.



World Union for Progressive Judaism



Netzer Conference in the CIS – Learning from Experience

In late October 2019, 60 teens and young adults gathered in Belarus for the Netzer (Reform Zionist youth movement) conference. Ben Zoma's saying, "Who is wise? He who learns from everyone," was the main topic.

Participants spent three days attending workshops, learning encounters, prayer services, and more, addressing such topics as Zionism, our global Progressive movement, the Jewish calendar, My Shabbat, and Jewish mysticism. The conference also featured evening "Shma" sessions, in which participants studied Jewish texts with local rabbis and rabbinical students. Pre-Kabbalat Shabbat encounters were held as well.

World Masorti

Noam Alice B'Yachad Camp in Argentina

A Noam Alice B'Yachad camp was held in Argentina from December 20-26. This is the Masorti movement's biggest camp in Latin America. The camp served 8 communities, with over 900 campers, 156 counselors, and 12 rabbis.

The camp promotes Masorti values – halacha, Zionism, tikkun olam, egalitarianism, and more. Two counselors from Israel's Masorti community participated, along with counselors from Brazil, Chile, and even Iquitos, Peru.



Rural Growth and Development Division

Always Growing

Rural Growth and Development Division Chair Gael Greenwald, and Division Director-General Zviki Bar Hai accompanied Division staff on a professional tour of Samaria. The tour began at Migdalim in eastern Samaria, proceeded to Shavei Shomron, and ended at Rechalim.

Participants learned about social and settlement challenges facing the growing locality of Migdalim, and the veteran locality of Shavei Shomron.

A dedication was held at Rechalim for the new, NIS 2,000,000 locality center. The center features playgrounds, a fitness park, landscaping, and more. Attendees also included Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan, the Rechalim official leadership, and local preschoolers. Dagan thanked Division Chairman Gael Greenwald and his staff for their cooperation and for their contribution to the development of Samaria.

Rural Growth and Development Division Conference in the North

The Rural Growth and Development Division held a huge settlement conference in the north, attended by northern council heads, senior officials, representatives of the northern localities and their leaderships, and many residents.

The conference was held at Kfar Nahar HaYarden. Yoav Ariel, the Division's Northern Region Director, gave an overview. Governmental professionals discussed northern regional development generally, and housing/national infrastructures specifically.

Conference topics included rural and urban settlement, collaborations and shared development goals in the Galilee, and trust between partners – academia, industry, the governmental establishment, and residents.

National Housing Committee Head Ze'ev Bielsky spoke about cooperation with governmental bodies. He noted that, as a former Jewish Agency head, he understands the importance of the Division's work. When faced with the argument that there's no need for new settlements in Israel, he knows how to respond.

WZO Chair Avraham Duvdevani opened the session on social cohesion.

Adina Bar Shalom concluded with a fascinating talk on core studies for Haredim in academia and on Haredi integration in Israeli society.



Department of Education

Education Department Central America Conference: "Eye Toward Zion"

In November, 74 educators from 16 Central American countries, including Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and El Salvador, convened in Lima. These small communities face assimilation and Jewish population decline in environments rife with economical, social, and security problems. The conference, the third since November 2017, is part of the Eye Toward Zion project, which aids and enriches Jewish educators in these communities.

The participating teachers, principals, and leaders shared a valuable experience – theoretical/practical study and exchange of opinions in an atmosphere of warmth, commitment, and thirst for further activity despite the problems. This was the first time that Department teaching emissaries in Central America attended the conference. Emphasis was placed on commonalities between the shlichim and local teachers, and on the opportunities that this kind of encounter fosters. Israeli staff and local professionals managed and led the activity.

Pictured: Dov Elboim, the Conference's main guest lecturer



Education Department North America Conference: New Jersey

In November the WZO Education Department held its 7th Hebrew Conference of North America, jointly with the Council for Hebrew Language and Culture in North America and the North American Association of Hebrew Teachers. The Conference emphasizes the importance of Hebrew as language, culture and key to identity. There were 3 parallel tracks – for teacher emissaries, Hebrew teachers, and Hebrew Council members.

The conference drew 500 participants from 22 North American states/provinces.

Silvio Joskowicz, WZO Education Department head: "For those whose mother tongue isn't Hebrew, we must make Hebrew their 'people's tongue' [...] Hebrew has to become the common denominator of all the groups that make up Diaspora Jewry. We have to strengthen and reinforce the presence of Hebrew in all educational spaces where you Hebrew teachers and shlichim are active. Hebrew has to go from being part of the class schedule to being a major element of personal and group identity."

World Zionist Organization Representatives Report from the Field



WZO Representative in the UK, Itzhak Zonnshine

WZO Does Hanukkah in the UK

Hanukkah 5780 will be remembered in the UK for its Zionist-Israeli character thanks to the World Zionist Organization. Having led Limmud UK last year, the WZO was entrusted with brand and content leadership for this major UK event, the largest of its kind in the world.

Hanukkah opened with the lighting of the great menorah in central London's Trafalgar Square. The vibrant city landmark was filled with thousands of Jews; onstage were London Mayor Sadiq Kahn, Chief UK Rabbi Efraim Mirvis, Deputy Ambassador of Israel to the UK Sharon Bar-Li, representatives of Jewish organizations, and others. WZO UK was represented by MK Penina Tamanu-Shata, who spoke about the fight against antisemitism in Europe and called for Jewish unity as a source of strength. During the holiday week dozens of WZO lectures, workshops, and panels were held in Birmingham as part of Limmud UK. The festival's concluding gala featured Idan Raichel in a concert of dialogue-and-song attended by over a thousand people.

WZO Representative in North America Simcha Leibowitz

International Bible Quiz in North America

On November 10 the semifinals of the International Bible Quiz for Adults took place in New York. The quiz was held in the West Side Institutional Synagogue on West 76th Street. The 10 finalists included a Bible expert and a member of the Black Hebrew community. Two hundred spectators attended. The entertainment portion featured singer Ely Marcus, a rising star in the NY Jewish community, and the Ramaz School choir.

The quiz was broadcast live online and gained 100 views. It was also broadcast three times on the JBS Jewish TV channel.



WZO Representative in France, Moshe Cohen

International Bible Quiz in France

The Francophone Bible Quiz semifinals were held on November 7th in Paris. Over 350 people attended, including community presidents and dignitaries from all over France. WZO Chair Avraham Duvdevani opened the event with welcoming remarks, noting that the Bible and the Hebrew language are at the core of Jewish identity.

Rabbi Ariel Masas, who moderated the event together with the Consistoire president, Dr. Joël Mergui, noted the good relations between France and Israel, and welcomed the audience and the ten semifinalists.

The quiz had several stages, including questions on the topic of kibbutz galuyot (the ingathering of the exiles) and Jerusalem in the Bible.

The first and second place winners (Hannah Ruimyz and Prosper El Mkies) went on to Israel for the Bible Quiz finals that were held during Hanukkah.



WZO Representative in Argentina, Shraga Wilk

International Bible Quiz in Argentina

The International Bible Quiz for Adults regional finals for 2019 were held on November 14. The eleven semifinalists had earned the largest number of points out of over 70 participants in the online stage.

The event was held at the AMIA building and drew 350 attendees.

The winners of the suspenseful competition were Sara Setton, Vice Principal of the Yeshurun School in Buenos Aires (1st place), and Yair Steinhaus, a construction engineer and Talpiot School graduate (2nd place). Both represented Argentina at the finals held in Israel on the 2nd night of Hanukkah, and both made it to the final round there as well.

The Quiz was organized by the WZO representation to Latin America. The Israeli guests of honor who initiated/helped implement the event were David Zaviklasky, Director General of the WZO Zionist Enterprises Department, Itzik Ben Avi of the Education Ministry, and Chanan-El Malka, who coordinated the professional side of the event.

