

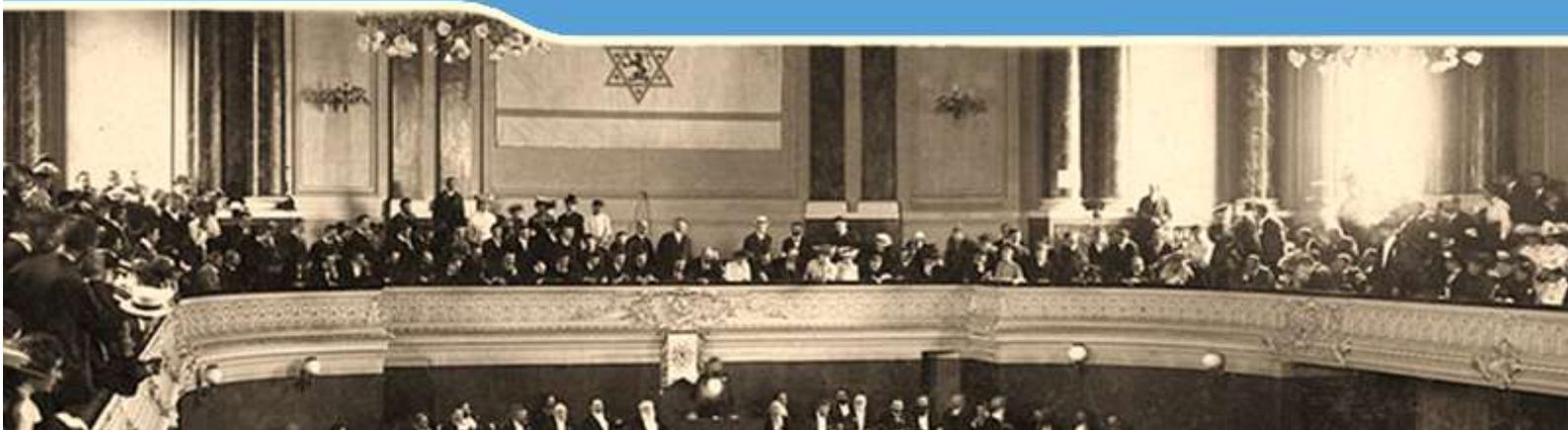


ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית World Zionist Organization



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April-May 2016





Message of the Chairman

Dear Friends,

At the outset, I would like to commend the department heads and directors who entered into their positions a few months ago. A taste of their activities -- conducted within an unclear budgetary situation -- is presented in this bulletin. I trust the clouds will soon pass and we will be able to continue to advance the Zionist movement that is so dear to us.

Next year, which is the 120th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress, is a good opportunity to note the Zionist endeavor of the past and present and to revitalize it through events and educational programs throughout Israel and the Diaspora. The Forum of Department Heads and Office Holders has approved a master plan for the whole year. We have begun detailed planning for some programs and have made initial contacts for cooperation with government and local bodies. A report on this will be provided later.

With best wishes for success,
Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdev), Chairman of the Zionist Executive

Celebrating Independence in Buenos Aires

With hundreds of participants, the community in Buenos Aires celebrated the 68th Independence Day of the State of Israel. The Zionist Federation, headed by Danny Lau, who for years produced this impressive event, continues to demonstrate commitment to the connection between Israel and the Jewish community in Argentina. Zionist Executive member and Head of the Department of Education, **Silvio Jaskowicz** participated in the event, along with the CEO of the World Zionist Organization, Eli Cohen and Deputy Director of the Finance Department, **Haim Ben Nazrof**.



Project "DOR 5708"

In cooperation with the Government of Israel, Jewish World War II veterans in Israel are being sought for the purpose of documenting their testimonies. They are traced via relevant organizations, senior housing and personal acquaintances. Documentation of this population is carried out in cooperation with the Museum of Jewish Soldiers in World War II, located at Latrun. The material is cataloged and processed and videos are uploaded to the Internet and presented to the public.

For further information please see:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT-roSWlpp1EQKJkdGFQetvXGtIzKYZiw>



OFFICE OF THE VICE AND ACTING CHAIRMAN

The 35th Zionist Congress for Youth

held this year in Dimona, dealt with the subject, "Buy Blue and White" in efforts to strengthen the commitment and connection of the youth to Israel. Approximately 1,000 youths participated in the two-day conference, organized by the Zionist Council. Activities included discussion groups and panels attended by MKs and public figures. The Conference concluded with a gala closing plenary, with the participation of WZO Executive Chairman, **Avraham Duvdevani**, Vice and Acting Chairman, **Yaakov Hagoel** and the Mayor of Dimona, **Benny Biton**.





HERZL CENTER

For the First Time in its History, Herzl Center is Recognized as an In-service Educational Institution for Teachers

The first class opened in May in Netanya, with the participation of 30 teachers and kindergarten teachers. In a 30 hour course, directed by the Center's Educational Director, Michal Liberman Galon, teachers study the roots of Zionism and relevance of Zionism to their lives as citizens and as educators. In addition to frontal learning, trainees experience workshops and tours. Recognition of the Center as an in-service educational center was achieved after investing enormous efforts with various parties, who came to recognize the unique contribution of the Center for educators.



Herzl Center Opens its Doors on Passover

More than a thousand visitors enjoyed a range of activities in a Zionist Happening, which included a visit to the Herzl Museum, a dramatized tour on Mount Herzl and a visit to the Zionist art room. The highlight was visitors' experience with the "smart wall" - that utilizes advanced touch-screen technology, which helps teach the relationship between vision and reality. In enthusiastic feedback, visitors noted the winning combination of values and an enjoyable experience for the whole family.



THE DEPARTMENT FOR ALIYAH PROMOTION

Expanding Aliyah Promotion Activities In Communities in France

This year the Department will open at least 125 Ulpan, increase its impact in the communities via dozens of speakers who will convey the message of Aliyah and conduct seminars and exploratory tours. Head of the Department, Ms. **Marina Rozenberg-Koritni** and **Oded Foyer** conducted a preparatory tour, during which they met with heads of the organizations in France, who expressed their willingness to cooperate in the planned activities.



Promoting Aliyah in North America

The Department successfully conducts Hebrew classes to encourage Aliyah and carries out special projects in the U.S. Among these are relaying the Zionist message through "Limmud FSU" in New York and providing activities for FSU immigrants. The Department head agreed with community leadership that there be meaningful events promoting Aliyah. In addition, progress continues in putting together an Aliyah group to settle in the Galilee. With consolidation of Department staff in North America, we will continue expanding operations.





The First International Symposium of Rabbinical Courts for Reform and Progressive Rabbis from around the world, attended by 20 rabbis from 12 countries, convened in Jerusalem for an intensive rabbinical dialogue on issues in the Jewish world. Each participant is responsible for his country's Reform rabbinical courts, which govern marriage and conversions in his community. Participants studied texts on changing attitudes toward conversion, intermarriage, same gender marriages, conversion requirements for Aliyah and appropriate use of technology during the conversion process.



THE WORLD UNION OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Biennial Conference of European Union for Progressive Judaism

A record number of more than 350 participants from 29 countries, including 86 rabbis and rabbinical students, attended the Conference in London. The Conference provided an opportunity to discuss strengthening the connection between Jewish communities worldwide with Progressive Judaism and with Israel. Among other topics, were how to engage the millennium generation in the movement, rabbinical training and inclusion of the LGBT community.



What it Means to be a Teacher-Emissary

Bat Chen Weil, Education Department teacher-emissary in Dallas, reflects: "Today I celebrated a Chumash Party with my students. There was one moment where they stood on stage and sang a Hebrew song that I had brought with me from Israel, my homeland. When I heard them sing that song, I thought to myself how difficult it is sometimes, but that although we miss our family and our Israel, it is worth it to come here and carry out this great mission."



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The first Ulpan for spoken Hebrew, in Greece

was opened in Athens, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency emissary in Athens, Nir Zohar. The uniqueness of this Ulpan is its focus on spoken Hebrew. The community views the Ulpan favorably and encourages its members to learn Hebrew and to strengthen their connection to Israel through the language. Participants expressed a desire to continue and students expressed interest in possibly attending a summer Ulpan in the future.





SETTLEMENT DIVISION

Minister of Housing, Yoav Galant, and Staff Visit the Division

Division staff and Minister Galant and his office staff convened for a professional work meeting during which they explored areas of ongoing cooperation in the fields of settlement, demographic growth and housing in the countryside. The main points of the strategic plans, being prepared by the Division, for development of the Negev and Galilee were presented.



Settlement Division Headquarters staff and staff of the Southern Region toured the rehabilitative village, "Aleh Negev" and met with the Nobel Prize Laureate, **Doron Almog**, Chairman and Founder of Aleh Negev and CEO, **Avi Wertzman**. On this moving tour, the staff witnessed the important work being done on behalf of the most vulnerable people in Israeli society, and could hear and identify with the painful story of Doron Almog's son, the late Eran Almog. The Settlement Division was an early proponent of the establishment of the village and will continue to help this important project.



THE DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA ACTIVITIES

"I went to the seminar with no expectations and I am finishing it full of passion and inspiration to continue active involvement in the community."

These words sum up the leadership seminar held in San Francisco, attended by 55 young people. Participants attended workshops and lectures on Judaism, high-tech, leadership, theater and so forth. Lecturers emphasized learning the techniques that lead to their successes and breakthroughs. **Avraham Duvdevani** stressed the importance of involving the young generation in maintaining the strength and shaping the future of Israel.



The first evening of "Memory in the Parlor"

"Thanks for the formative event that evoked sad thoughts about the ability to preserve memory and the need to refine experiences of memory." (Hillel) "It was a moving, thought-provoking and empowering evening and, mainly, very important." (Liora) These are two of many comments heard at the end of the evening, "Beit Ha-am--Memory in the Parlor" initiated by the Department and held in Mevaseret. The evening opened with the chilling testimony of Alice Landau, who survived the Holocaust as a child, and it concluded with a discussion based on texts from the new Beit Ha-am, supplement, "Between Memory and Forgetfulness."





THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN THE DIASPORA

Zionist Leadership Seminar for Italian Religious Youth

Eighteen young people from all over Italy participated in a week-long leadership seminar, which took place in Jerusalem and was organized by the Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, in cooperation with the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. Participants heard lectures, held seminars and visited various sites, including the Herzl Center, Yad Vashem, the Kotel Yeshiva in the Old City and the Supreme Court.



Bringing the Atmosphere of Passover to the Communities

A delegation of twelve young people were dispatched to six Jewish communities (Würzburg and Hamburg in Germany, Genova in Italy, Flossenberg, Wroclaw and Krakow in Poland) to bring the Zionist-religious atmosphere of the Passover holiday to the communities. The young emissaries assisted the local rabbi in the Passover Seder and with activities for youth.



THE DEPARTMENT FOR ZIONIST OPERATIONS

Making Our Voices Heard to Confront World Hypocrisy

The Department for Zionist Operations brought 500 demonstrators to Geneva, from all over Europe, for a large demonstration in front of the building of the Human Rights Council of the U.N.. Head of the Department and WZO Vice Chairman, **Dr. David Breakstone**, said in his speech that it is immoral for the Human Rights Council to continue to condemn Israel for crimes it did not commit, while the world is silent, and therefore we must make our voices heard.



Israel Advocacy Activity in the United States

Director of the Department, former MK Rabbi **Dov Lipman**, participated in the AIPAC Conference in Washington, where he lectured to students from all over the United States, with the goal of recruiting them to be ambassadors of Israel, wherever they are. In addition, he met US presidential candidates who attended the Conference, among them Senator **Ted Cruz**. In New York, Rabbi Lipman met with representatives of organizations doing advocacy, shared his expertise in this field with them, and explored possibilities for cooperation.





MASORTI OLAMI

The Masorti Olami Movement is launching a program for rabbinical and cantorial students who are in Israel for a year. Participants come from five rabbinical schools in New York, Los Angeles, Argentina, Berlin and Jerusalem. The program takes advantage of the international confluence in Jerusalem, and introduces the students to workshops that allow meaningful dialogue on various issues, including: the approach to the question of Jewish peoplehood, and what is happening in Israeli society. The aim is to expand and continue these meetings next year.



AND A BIT MORE ZIONISM IN PICTURES

The Settlement Division
Eden Farms - Agricultural Research and Development



Presidium of the Vaad Hapoel
Formulation of 2016 Workplan, Mount Herzl



The Department for Aliyah Promotion
Seminar, Aliyah Promotion for Youth - April - Argentina



The Office of the Vice and Acting Chairman --
Zionist Council, highlight Tel Hai Day in Kiryat
Shmoneh





CELEBRATING JERUSALEM DAY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Under the leadership of the World Zionist Organization, Jerusalem Day was celebrated in dozens of festive events around the world. In a joint initiative of the **Department for Aliyah Promotion** and the **Department for Diaspora Activities** four groups left Israel on journeys to England, Argentina, France and Belgium. Each group included an educator and an artist, who had immigrated to Israel in recent years. In their travels between the various communities, they told the stories of their Aliyah and led festival events with content and singing.



The main festive event in Paris was held at the Portuguese Great Synagogue in Buffault, with the participation of Chairman of the Zionist Executive, Mr. **Avraham Duvdevani**. One of the liberators of the Western Wall and the Old City during the Six Day War, Mr. Duvdevani, greatly moved the audience as he described the first moments when he saw the Western Wall. Since then, he has felt a sense of mission to convey to others his story and the story of Jerusalem. The event was also attended by Minister **Ophir Akunis**, community leaders and rabbis. Participants were entertained by the Military Rabbinate Band.

Pictures From Holiday Events



Montpellier, France



Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat films greetings for Diaspora events



Yavne School, Montevideo, Uruguay



Jewish School, Buenos Aires, Argentina



Bordeaux, France



Brussels, Belgium



Beit Ha-am Activity for Movement Counselors Concordia, Argentina