



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית World Zionist Organization



Newsletter No. 3
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Recently, our activities have been centered in the Diaspora, especially in France -- currently our main concern. The Jewish Agency, also stressing this concern, held its Board of Governors meetings in Paris, with the participation of a significant WZO delegation.

We held a number of activities jointly with the Agency or in close proximity to the Board meetings: A moving and well-attended Farewell to Olim ceremony at the Great Synagogue of Paris, La Victoire, conveyed the special reality of the French Jewish community at this difficult time.

Dr. Motti Friedman led an informative and enriching tour, "In the Footsteps of Herzl in Paris", which completed the tour, "In the Footsteps of Herzl" we had conducted in Budapest and Vienna for our Executive members who were en route to the Board of Governors Meetings. At the end of the Board sessions, we held a public Bible contest for adults, conducted on a high level, in terms of participants' level of scholarship as well as its technical operation. In addition, the Diaspora Activities Department recently held a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project for children from France, lending us yet another source of pride for strengthening our ties with the French Jewish community and its connection to Israel.

Finally, two of our representatives in the US and France, Simcha Leibowitz and Simcha Felber recently completed their shlichut. They pioneered the positioning of the WZO in the U.S. and France respectively, and have our heartfelt thanks.

Itamar Sternberg, WZO representative in Argentina, is about to leave for Argentina. We wish him success in redesigning our activities in Latin America.

DEPARTMENT FOR ALIYAH PROMOTION

60 Diaspora Hebrew Teachers Take Training Course

The course took place in July at the Hebrew University and was organized by the Aliyah Promotion Department headed by Ms. Marina Rosenberg Koritni, as part of the "Israel Horizon" national project to encourage Aliyah. **Sixty teachers received extensive academic training, earning certification for teaching Hebrew as a second language. In addition, they learned about Zionism, Israeli culture and Aliyah promotion.**

The certificate award ceremony was attended by Minister of Immigration and Absorption, **Sofa Landver** and Jewish Agency Chairman, **Natan Sharansky**.



DEPARTMENT FOR ZIONIST OPERATIONS

2016 International Bible Quiz for Adults Launched

In June, as a result of efforts by the Office of the Vice Chairman in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and utilizing local WZO representatives, the first leg of the Bible Quiz for Adults was held in New York and Paris. The winners will participate in the World Bible Quiz Finals to be held in Jerusalem on the fifth day of Hanukkah. **At the New York quiz, the Vice Chairman presented a token of tribute to Ambassador Ido Aharoni, who ended his term as Israel Consulate General in New York, for his contribution to advancing WZO activity in North America.**



Connecting the Diaspora Young Generation to Israel

Thirty Jewish educators from nine countries are taking a ten day training in Israel to learn how to enhance the role of Israel and Zionism while teaching in Jewish schools. Meanwhile, the Office of the Vice Chairman, in cooperation with STAND WITH US is **conducting Hasbara Seminars for over 1000 students in Jewish summer camps in the US, training them to become pro-Israel activists.**





MEMBERS OF THE EXPANDED ZIONIST EXECUTIVE FOLLOW "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HERZL"

En route to the Jewish Agency Board meetings in Paris, Expanded Zionist Executive members toured Budapest and Vienna, following the childhood, adolescence and adulthood of the state visionary, Theodore Herzl. In a short intensive visit, paid for by the participants, they tracked down the places and events that shaped Herzl's choices and vision. Significant time was also devoted to the Holocaust of the Hungarian Jews. In the Israel Center there, participants were moved by the words of **Susan Kahn**, one of the group, who told her personal story of her parents who lived in Budapest during WWII. In the words of **Esther Mor**: "Thanks for organizing a wonderful and informative trip and for the kindness they bestowed on me throughout the trip".



DEPARTMENT FOR ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL AND COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM

Independence Generation Project Closes With Over 900 Testimonies

The recent completion of recording the testimonies of Israel's Independence generation, was marked in an event of the Department, at Independence House in Tel Aviv, in the presence of Jerusalem and Heritage Minister **Zeev Elkin**, Vice and Acting WZO Chairman **Yaakov Hagoel** and Head of the Heritage Section **Reuven Pinsky**. In the project, conducted in cooperation with the Heritage program, more than 900 testimonies of members of the '48 generation were recorded. **The testimonies demonstrated how unique the period was, and how widespread was the involvement of that generation in realizing the Zionist vision.**



DEPARTMENT FOR ALIYAH PROMOTION

Students to Take Psychometric Test for Israeli Universities - While in Argentina

The last 4 years the Department has collaborated with the Jewish Agency on a project in which 50 12th grade Argentinian students prepare for and take the psychometric test in Argentina. **Experience shows that after receiving the results, half decide to make Aliyah, study and settle here.** Next year the project will be expanded both in terms of the number of participants and in terms of subject matter.



Fighting Anti-Semitism

A delegation of municipal mayors from Israel arrived in New York through a joint project of the Department of Activities in Israel and the Aliyah Promotion Department, to learn about the array of WZO activities. During the visit, the Department hosted a conference entitled **"BDS – The New Anti-Semitism"**, attended by more than 250 participants. **Present were Israel Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon**, Vice President of the Conference of Presidents, **Malcolm Hoenlein** and the Lawfare Project Manager, **Brooke Goldstein**.





DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA ACTIVITIES

'Tachles' Program for the Study of Spoken Hebrew Gains Popularity, Expands to New Target Groups

The 'Tachles' Program has made a name for itself. New groups are mushrooming. These include: the counsellors of the world movements participating in 'Masa', and in new countries such as Panama, Spain, Chile, Germany and additional locations in North America. Today 92 groups are active, 80% in N America, and 10% in Latin America. **A special program, "Cooking in Hebrew"** is a resounding success with two new groups opening this year.



Department Envoy in Argentina, in "Beit-Ha'am Tour on Wheels" Reaches 9 Communities Across 5,800 km.

Among them are remote areas such as Neuquén, Tucumán, Catamarca and Santiago del Estero. **The journey brought Jewish-Zionist activity (even for one night) to small Jewish communities, which generally do not have emissaries visit,** and convene only on Friday nights or on holidays. The meetings dealt with the history of Zionism, the creation of Israel, the importance of continuing Diaspora Zionist activity and achievements of the State of Israel..



CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN THE DIASPORA

Seminar for Community Rabbis in Germany

Forty community rabbis from all over Germany gathered in Stuttgart for a joint seminar of the Center for Religious Affairs and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in Germany.

At the seminar, various issues on the agenda of the Jewish community in Germany were discussed including strengthening ties between the youth and the State of Israel. Guests of the seminar were: **Rabbi Jacob Rosé**, a member of the Council of the Chief Rabbinate and **Mr. Yitzhak Stiglitz**, Director of the Center for Religious Affairs.



כינוס ועידת הרבנים האורתודוקסים דמונית אשכנז בשיתוף ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
א' - ב' סיון התשע"ז - 07. - 08. Juni 2016
Stuttgart - ביסטוטגרט

1. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Elert, Rabbiner Seza, Rabbiner Ben-Levi, Rabbiner Korneliam, Rabbiner Salomon, Rabbiner Aharon, Rabbiner Brindense, Rabbiner Radici, Rabbiner Rabino, Rabbiner Mark
2. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Salfoni, Rabbiner Mos. Landesrabbiner Waresse, Rabbiner Apel, Yitzhak Stiglitz, Rabbiner Portavsky, Rabbiner Amosov
3. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Pashits, Rabbiner Dray, Rabbiner Portnoy, Rabbiner Winko, Rabbiner Gofberg
4. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Barzilay, Rabbiner Fudger, Rabbiner Fawelkyb-Kraus, Rabbiner Engelshoyer, Rabbiner Goldberg, Rabbiner Sela

One-day Conference on Ethiopian Jewry

The Israel branch of the Rabbinical Council of America, in cooperation with the Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora held a one-day conference on Ethiopian Jewry with some 50 rabbis participating.

At the conference, the rabbis learned of the history of Ethiopian Jewry and of their immigration to Israel. Speakers included **Rabbi Yosef Hadana**, Chief Rabbi of Ethiopian Jewry; **Rabbi Dr. Sharon Shalom**, who immigrated to Israel as a child, and presented his new book, "From Sinai to Ethiopia"; **Danny Limor**, formerly of the Mossad and one of the commanders of the Aliyah operation of Ethiopian Jewry and **Rabbi Yechiel Wasserman**, Head of the Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora.





EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Hebrew Teaching Conference at Cambridge University in England was led by **Inbal Barel**, Director of the Unit to Disseminate Hebrew, in the Education Department, and attended by Department Head, **Mr. Silvio Joskowicz**. Its goal was to generate meetings between the organizations, educational institutions and leading figures in the area of Hebrew in England, including representatives of the Israeli Embassy. **The Conference addressed the difficulties, challenges and needs in the field and its success has led to growing cooperation and initiatives.**



"You are the pioneers of today and we are proud to be partners in a process that brings young people for communal settlement while engaging in Zionist education in the periphery. . ."

So observed **Silvio Joskowicz**, Education Department Head, in the seminar, "Zionism, Education and Pioneering in the 21st Century." The seminar dealt with Zionist education in the spheres of pioneering and community within the broad network of communities in the periphery which fulfill the Zionist vision in the spirit of our times. **The communities are focal points for pioneering and permanent settlement in the periphery. They seek to make a significant difference, a better Israeli society and they work to benefit vulnerable populations.**



For the First Time in Years, We Will Surpass the Number of 200 Teacher Emissaries Worldwide.

Seventy-two new teacher emissaries were trained in early June in a Department seminar held in Kiryat Moria. Staff of the Unit for Teacher Emissaries, under the direction of **Orit Avital**, led seminars to prepare the emissaries for educational challenges and provided them with tools to deal with different areas of the Diaspora.

The seminar and participants' experiences can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHC4fUKxm>



MASORTI OLAMI



For the First Time in Israel: Leadership Program, Onward NOAM Olami

Leaders of the Masorti youth movement from around the world, arrived in Israel for 6 weeks. Among program goals are: formulating an annual work plan in order to develop programs with Jewish Zionist character, in their countries; personal professional development of each participant and participating in an authentic, rather than tourist-oriented Israel experience of residing, working and daily living in Jerusalem. The program's real-life experience created a deeper and stronger sense of connection to Israel and facilitated deeper understanding of the challenges facing the country and its citizens.



THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

The "Etgar" Program in Israel -- Leadership Development for the Next Generation of the Movement

The program brings young people to live, study and volunteer in Israel as part of building a Zionist-Reform community, based on Movement values. It features intensive study and weekly tours to sites of the Zionist heritage. "Etgar" ("Challenge") graduates are active in the education of next generation members within the Movement. **A significant number choose to make Aliyah, as a result of their meaningful "Etgar" experience.** Many others contribute in their home communities, in areas of social justice.



Shanghai Community Celebrates Shabbat and Shavuot in First Time Family Activities

The festivities, including meals and special events, were conducted by Rabbi David Wolfman, who came especially to lead prayers. **Rabbi Wolfman led discussion groups on the meaning of Shavuot, with emphasis on the connection between the Shanghai community and Movement communities in Israel.** Special events included a baby-naming ceremony, a social event with members of "Moishe House" living in Shanghai, children's art activities and music and sports workshops around the themes of the holiday, Israel and Judaism.



HERZL CENTER

Herzl Center Proudly Presents a New In-service Training Program for Kindergarten Teachers

The program was designed to make Herzl and his legacy accessible to kindergarteners. On June 22, some 100 kindergarten teachers from the Tel Aviv district took part in the first training program of its kind. They visited the museum, toured the Mount, experienced the "Smart Wall", and studied in in-depth workshops with top facilitators. One summarized the event, saying, **"It was amazing to discover how using educational techniques make it possible to teach kindergarteners Herzl's values; how the dreams of small children can become great deeds."**



Training Days at Herzl Center

* Some 129 adult National Service volunteers participated in Center activities which emphasized the relationship between their volunteer work and Herzl's vision. While Herzl wrote about 18 year old National Service volunteers, **he would surely have been glad to know that in the State of Israel, people also volunteer during their retirement . . .**

* National Insurance division managers- As part of an organizational management course, the managers took part in a special program designed for them by Center staff, emphasizing the leadership traits of the personalities buried on Mount Herzl.

* Some 20 Local government representatives, including the CEO and Vice CEO, participated in a training day and became acquainted with the Museum and the Center's diverse educational activities.





SETTLEMENT DIVISION

Touring the North

The tour began in **Mitzpe Ilan**, demonstrating the Division's activity in the new settlement and acquainting participants with the demographic growth plan that will begin with the imminent absorption of some 100 new families. The tour continued to the Lower Galilee Regional Council, at Beit Rimon, a kibbutz which has shown successful communal expansion. A meeting and discussion was held on future programs in the area (among them Shibolet, a settlement for people with special needs, as well as a new community for the Druze population which is congested and seeks to establish a new communal settlement). The moving conclusion of the tour took place in the "ORT" educational center in the Village of Olives, a center that provides a warm and guiding hand for boys who have lost their way.



Participants in a panel at the Economic Conference of Kibbutzim and Moshavim

A fascinating, productive and enriching meeting took place between decision-makers of kibbutzim, moshavim and Israeli manufacturers and those of government offices, and senior officials in the public and economic sectors. **It was encouraging to hear that there is a consensus regarding the importance Settlement Division activities, and we hope that the Division will very soon return to full activity** and will be a partner, as it was in the past, for active endeavors in the agricultural sector throughout Israel.



A Moving Memorial Commemorates the Death of Former Settlement Division CEO, Yaron Ben-Ezra, Z"L

In a moving memorial ceremony, marking thirty years since the death of the Settlement Division CEO, Yaron Ben-Ezra, Z"L, the WZO honored his memory in a memorial service held in the synagogue of the National Institutions building. Yaron was a young and energetic individual, who contributed much to the development of communities around the country and who was beloved by all those around him.

May his memory be blessed!



Mount Herzl



The President of Paraguay, Horcio Cartes Lays a Wreath at Herzl's Grave

As part of his state visit to Israel, accompanied by a large delegation, ministers and journalists, the **President of Paraguay, Horcio Cartes**, and his entourage, visited the compound of the State Visionary. **He was received by Vice and Acting WZO Chairman, Yakov Hagoel**, who outlined to him the importance of Herzl -- his vision and his work towards the establishment of the Jewish state. The President attached great importance to the visit and noted that he was moved by the intensity of the memory of the Jewish people. He placed a wreath on Herzl's grave and signed the official WZO guestbook for visiting dignitaries.



AND A BIT MORE ZIONISM IN PICTURES . . .

THE DEPARTMENT FOR ALIYAH PROMOTION
Hebrew Teachers Training Course -- Idud Aliyah -- in
Israel



MASORTI OLAMI
Leadership Group "Onward" in Israel



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Teacher-Emissary Course



THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN THE DIASPORA
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program for the Helsinki Jewish Community



THE DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA ACTIVITIES
Meeting of Tachlis for Shnat Participants -- Hazit Hanoar



THE WORLD UNION OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM
Prayers for Shavuot Holiday in the Shanghai Community

