



# ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית World Zionist Organization



**Newsletter No. 4**

**Zionist General Council Session 37/2**

**November-December 2016**





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the end of October we launched the events in honor of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Zionist Congress with a distinguished ceremony at the President's Residence. Plans were reviewed for conducting various events in Israel and the Diaspora during the year, and the Honorable President of Israel welcomed us and wished us good luck.

We established steering and operational committees for the various programs that will take place during the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and we are now in the midst of a process of detailed planning and examining funding sources for implementation.

It should be noted that this year is an excellent opportunity to revive the Zionist idea and strengthen our ranks in each community and every organization and movement.

This newsletter presents various activities and events carried out by the different departments and streams, proving again that the WZO's attitude of "we can do this together" is truly becoming a reality.

Good luck to all!

Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdov)



## Dozens of leadership seminars led by the World Zionist Organization

The WZO successfully managed and carried out 26 leadership seminars for the ten international Hagshama movements, with designated funding from the Ministry of Education. Ronit Besh, who was in charge of producing and supervising the seminars, noted the close and positive cooperation between the movements, and the tremendous success of the seminars, which integrate content that is unique to each movement with our own content: Programs at the Herzl Center, "Tachles" program, programs for learning Hebrew, and learning about the Hebrew language programs of the Education Department. At the end of the first year we are full of hope for continued activity!



## DEPARTMENT FOR ZIONIST OPERATIONS

### "Zionist Havruta" – Rabbis from all streams of Judaism come together for a joint program in Israel.

On Shabbat "Lech Lecha" in Pittsburgh, PA, Rabbi Chuck Diamond of the Conservative Congregation Tree of Life – Or L'Simcha and Rabbi James Gibson of the Reform Temple Sinai, were invited by Rabbi Daniel Wasserman of the Orthodox Shaare Torah Congregation to join him at a *Seudah Shlisheet* meal to share with synagogue members their experiences of a journey they made together with the "Zionist Havruta After the Holidays" seminar, which was held in Israel between the end of Tishrei and the beginning of Heshvan.



Rabbis from all streams of American Judaism participated in the seminar. Together they learned and toured Israel, met Israelis who are promoting Zionist social projects, met with Knesset members and rabbis, attended lectures on a variety of topics relating to how Israeli society copes, visited Israel's borders and were given a security review. Feedback from participants was wonderful: They felt they were directly exposed to a different Israel, one that is not portrayed in the media, and they returned enriched and empowered from their Israel experience, a feeling they will try to pass on to their congregants.



## WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

### Blowing the Shofar in Singapore

Rabbis from the Reform community in Israel went on a brief mission for the High Holidays in order to lead services in congregations on the Asian continent. These were both new congregations consisting of Israelis who came to take advantage of the economic growth and business opportunities, and veteran communities. **Among the communities that enjoyed the rabbis' assistance: Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Bali and Papua New Guinea.**



### Beyachad in Australia – Enhancing Reform Judaism at the conference of the Union for Progressive Judaism

Leaders of the World Union for Progressive Judaism joined the conference of the Movement's biannual convention in Perth, Australia, which was attended by over 130 Reform Jews. At the convention, which was held over 4 days, participants learned, came together for Shabbat, and celebrated the strength of the Reform Movement throughout the world. Activity focused on enhancing communities, investigating the importance of Zionism, Israel-Diaspora relations, reinforcing the connection of youth to Israel, and ways to encourage more active involvement of worshippers in the community.



## HERZL CENTER

### Event to launch the “Pedagogic Access” Project at the Herzl Center

Based on a commitment to Benjamin Zev Herzl's vision of a “Model State” and a belief that each us is entitled to participate in educational and Zionist activity, **the Herzl Center initiated programs and guiding that are accessible and suitable to people with special needs.**

As part of the launch event the Herzl Center hosted special needs students for hands-on educational activities. In addition, a panel was held on the subject of accessibility of heritage sites and the connection between accessibility and the definition of “Zionism.” Panel members included Vered Sabag, Deputy Director-general of the Lotem Association, Yoav Kreim, chairman of the Council for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Disabled in the Community, and Yair Lehman, a director and actor involved in accessible theater.

It's hard to say who was more moved, the Herzl Center staff or the special needs students. One thing is certain: **When one student summed up her visit with the words, “Finally I can also come here,” there wasn't a dry eye in the room.**



### Special project with the IDF: “Jerusalem – Seeing the whole picture”

The Herzl Center participated in a special project with the IDF: “Jerusalem – Seeing the whole picture, where **soldiers take part in activities to help them get to know all the various facets of Jerusalem. In October-November some 400 soldiers visited the Herzl Center, participating in special activity days and enjoying workshops, tours, museum visits, and the “Smart Wall” Compound. The soldiers were amazed that they could learn about Jerusalem from Mt. Herzl, from the time of the Bible through the Palmach.**



## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### Continuing to emphasize Hebrew in North America

The annual conference of education shlichim in North America had a peak number of participants – 115 teacher emissaries, and for the first time the Department also held two seminars for dozens of Hebrew teachers and principals of local Jewish schools. **In total, more than 200 participants attended the Education Department conferences. The conference highlight came on the first day, when the Department held an encounter between the two Lau brothers:** Rav Benny Lau, rabbi of an Orthodox synagogue in the Katamon section of Jerusalem, and his brother Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, a conservative rabbi at the Lab/Shul Community in New York. **The following day, in cooperation with the Council for Hebrew, a festive lunch was held in the presence of some 300 people and the Hebrew Prize was awarded to Edna Amir Koffin. Certificates of appreciation were presented to additional guests.**



### Sabras by choice

Through the special “Sabras by Choice” program the Department – in cooperation with “Nefesh B’Nefesh” and “Hillel Israel” sent three delegations to North America. Each delegation had a pair of emissaries, new immigrants who had completed meaningful service in the IDF. **The emissaries went to Jewish schools and shared their personal stories in order to enhance the connection between Jewish youth in the Diaspora and Israel. The emissaries met with over 6,000 young people who listened to the story of someone who, until recently, had been “their next door neighbor.”** The project’s success has made quite an impact and several schools and JCCs have already reserved the program for next year as well.



## CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN THE DIASPORA

### Conference of European Rabbis in Warsaw, Poland

A conference of European rabbis attended by 50 rabbis from the Continent was held in Warsaw, Poland.

**The conference touched on two main topics: Rabbinic leadership skills and patterns, and anti-Semitism in Europe.** A special session was devoted to the subject of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Zionist Congress. Speaking at the session were Rabbi Yechiel Wasserman, head of the Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, Dr. Shlomo Tikochinski of the Open University, and Rabbi Eli Magzimof, from Leeds, England.

**During the conference a special calendar was produced by the Center, with events and personalities related to the Zionist Movement.**



### Conference of Rabbis in Hanau, Germany

The Center for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, in cooperation with the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in Germany, held a conference of rabbis in the city of Hanau with some 40 rabbis participating.

**The conference dealt with issues currently facing the rabbis, and during the conference a session was held entitled “120 years since the First Zionist Congress.”** In addition, a special calendar was presented to the rabbis published by the Center, noting events and personalities related to the Zionist Movement.



כינוס ועידת הרבנים האורתודוקסים דמדינת אשכנז בשיתוף ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
כ"ז - כ"ח חשוון התשע"ז - 27. - 28. November 2016  
הנאו - Hanau

1. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Balla, Rabbiner Noy, Rabbiner Goldberg, Rabbiner Pertsovsky, Rabbiner Brodman
2. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Daniel Neumann, Rabbiner Aminov, Rabbiner Rubins, Rabbiner D.B. Soussan, Rabbiner Pushkin, Rabbiner Pavlovsky, Rabbiner Kochan, Rabbiner Pardes, Rabbiner Radbli, Rabbiner Ahrens
3. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Y. Aminov, Rabbiner Rubins, Rabbiner J.C. Soussan
4. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Kornblum, Rabbiner Wurmsrer, Rabbiner Portnoy, Rabbiner Ebert, Rabbiner Bohrer, Rabbiner Geballe, Rabbiner Fabian
5. Reihe v.l.n.r.: Rabbiner Halpern, Rabbiner Großberg, Rabbiner Pawelcyk-Kissin, Rabbiner Vinitz, Rabbiner Dray, Rabbiner Kahanovsky



## DEPARTMENT FOR DIASPORA AFFAIRS

### The first forerunner of the “Mochileros Patrol” Project begins

On September 12, 2016 four energetic and passionate Israeli backpackers landed at Ezeiza Airport in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to begin their Zionist shlichut on the South American continent. With the arrival of these *mochileros* (backpackers in Spanish) we end the difficult first chapter of finding, screening, recruiting and training suitable candidates for their mission, and preparing the communities that will be hosting them.

**The Mochileros went to Mendoza and Entre-Rios, small Argentinean communities for whom the arrival of motivated young Israelis with educational skills is invaluable.** The first session is currently ending and its tremendous success can be seen in the growing number of communities seeking to join the project.

### Uruguay's Foreign Minister is awarded WZO's Jerusalem Prize for 2016

The World Zionist Federations continue to award the Jerusalem Prize ahead of a festive event that will bring all of the prize laureates to Israel as part of celebrations marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem.

In Montevideo, the prize was awarded to Uruguay's Foreign Minister, Rodolfo Nin Novoa, for his over four decades of tireless and fearless work on national and international levels, on behalf of Israel's strength and resilience. **The Minister gave an inspiring pro-Israel speech expressing his deep admiration for the Jewish people and Jewish values that have guided him in his public and private life.**

### Walking a tightrope

**“Modern Zionism was born as a response to rising anti-Semitism and a human rights crisis. And perhaps this is the reason that the Zionist vision champions the ideal of a model society!!”** These remarks were made by Department Chairperson Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman at a joint academic conference with Ben-Gurion University, where we launched the new Beit Ha'am booklet entitled “On a Tightrope” as part of events marking 120 years of Zionism.

The auditorium was overflowing with young students from pre-army mechina programs and invited guests who came to the conference, which was held in the presence of WZO Chairperson Avraham Duvdevani and in cooperation with Prof. Ariel Feldstein, BGU's academic secretary. The conference dealt with the tension between the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty and Israel's security needs.

**Opening the conference was retired Supreme Court President, Justice Aharon Barak, who gave an enlightening lecture. Afterwards the young people met in Beit Ha'am dialogue circles for lively and in-depth discussions. The conference closed with a fascinating panel of media personalities.**

One of the young attendees summed up the day when he said “This



## INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER – MT. HERZL

### European leadership development seminar

At the end of November a seminar was held on developing young Jewish leadership among Jewish activists throughout Europe. The seminar, which took place in cooperation with the Central Board of Jewish Welfare in Germany (ZWST), **was held in Frankfurt and attended by 30 young people from 10 European countries to enhance and develop their leadership skills so that they could become future leaders in Europe.** Alongside dynamic workshops, including Beit Ha'am, there were also lectures to help broaden their horizons and provide an academic atmosphere, so they could better understand Europe's changing reality. Selected participants will continue the seminar with a personal project.





## DEPARTMENT FOR ALIYAH PROMOTION

### Impressive accomplishments for the Department at the end of its first year of activity

November marked the completion of the first year since the Department for Aliyah Promotion was established. During that time the Department enjoyed impressive achievements: As a vital tool for promoting and preparing for aliyah, more than 150 Hebrew ulpan classes were opened around the world! Many other creative and important projects were initiated and developed. It is no wonder that the Department and its sphere of activity was the main topic of discussion at the November 30 meeting of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, at which the WZO administration reported on its activity to the elected officials. **Marina Rozenberg Koritny, head of the Department, summarized her remarks at the meeting: "So long as more than half of the Jewish people remain in the Diaspora, the work ahead of us is great and we are not free to abstain from it."**



### Aliyah Fair in Antwerp

Department chair Mark Dovev describes the Aliyah Fair jointly held at the end of the November by the Jewish Agency and the WZO:

"It was a very impressive event. Not only because of the significant representation of Israeli institutions, but also because of the number of participants (about 250 people – a huge number for a country like Belgium), because of their "geography" (besides people from Antwerp there were also visitors from Brussels and even Amsterdam), and mainly because of people's interest in the information they heard. In addition to personal advice and lectures **there was also a "Café Ivrit" – a real Israeli coffee shop where everything, from the menu to the conversations, was conducted only in Hebrew. This is a tremendous idea that we will have to adopt in our future activities.**"



## DEPARTMENT FOR ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL AND COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM

### Recreating events of November 29<sup>th</sup> at the National Institutions

On November 29<sup>th</sup> the Department held an evening to open events commemorating 70 years since the UN Partition Vote in 1947, as part of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Zionist Congress. The event took place at the National Institutions Building in Jerusalem. Over 1,000 people – children and adults – danced the hora and celebrated as if it was 1947 and the UN had just officially recognized the right of the Jewish people to a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. **An innovative video-art presentation was shown for the first time, depicting the UN vote, and was screened on the building's façade. Mr. Jacob Hagoel, Deputy and Vice Chair of the WZO, said that "the goal of the recreation was to reinforce awareness of this important day, which paved the way for Israel's declaration of Independence on 5 Iyyar 5708, and to encourage the Zionist spirit in Israel."**



### One decade since Garin Tzameret

**Garin Tzameret, a *shnat sherut* project of the WZO through the Zionist Council, celebrated a decade of activity.** In November, graduates of Garin Tzameret of the Zionist Council in Israel along with *shinshinim* and past and present participants, met together to mark ten years of their work. **Over the years, the Garin has developed and grown from 15 people in a single group in Safed to 54 current *shinshinim*, and a total of some 300 graduates, staff and participants from 8 cities where the Garin is presently active.** During the evening the plan for the next 5 years was presented, the purpose of which is to increase the circles of influence and expand activities to include other cities.





## SETTLEMENT DIVISION

### Conference of the Settlement Division's Northern Region held at the Ein Harod Art Museum

The conference was held in the presence of the director of the Northern Region, Yoel Ariel, MK Eitan Broshi, head of the Gilboa Regional Council Oved Nur, movement leaders and many other distinguished guests who participate in settlement activity.

The conference subject was "Demographic Growth – Challenges for the Future." Among the speakers were: Media personality Dr. Yoaz Hendel, Sigal Moran, head of the Bnei Shimon Regional Council, and others. The conference introduced program operators to various operations, provided new information and encouraged joint learning. All in all it was highly important and beneficial.



### Series of in-service encounters by the "Settlement Forum" for Division employees in operative echelons

The goal of the in-service is to conduct 12 encounters during the year at which will cover different topics that are relevant to the Division's spheres of activity.

Among other things, the sessions will deal with issues such as planning; the Division's relationship with various entities relating to land, water and allocations; contracts; zoning changes; various rights; work of the regional councils and settlement movements; team work, communication and more.

## MASORATI OLAMI

### Seminar for leaders of Masorati communities in Europe

At the end of November a conference was held at the "Maayan Or" community in Nice for the movement's leaders from Europe and representatives from Israel and around the world. Leaders from Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary and England were joined by representatives from the Noam Youth Movement and the Marom Movement from all over the continent.

Sessions were held on current events in Israel and a special prayer was offered in the wake of the fires, in the hope that rain would fall and quench the flames. Discussions focused on ways to develop the youth and young adult divisions, with the understanding that they are key to safeguarding Jewish identity among future generations. Ideas were raised for educational programs on Zionism from a relevant perspective.



## Mt. Herzl

### Guatemalan president and his wife visit Mt. Herzl

The president of Guatemala, Mr. Jimmy Morales, visited Israel in November, during his first year in office, as part of a statement of intent regarding his desire to enhance the relationship between his country and Israel, particularly in the spheres of water and cyber-security. Accompanying the President and his wife during their visit to Mt. Herzl was WZO Chairman Avraham Duvdevani, who told the President of Herzl's legacy, and the role of the World Zionist Organization in nurturing world Jewry and making Zionism meaningful and relevant.





## Zionist General Council Meeting 37/2 marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zionist Movement

The meeting of the Zionist General Council 37/2 took place from November 1-3, 2016 (30 Tishrei to 2 Heshvan 5777) marking the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zionist Movement. At the festive opening cocktail reception the ZGC bid farewell to Yaakov Gispan upon his retirement following dozens of years during which he directed its planning and implementation. Mr. Yuli Edelstein, Chairman of the Knesset, delivered opening remarks, after which there were discussions covering the core issues facing the Zionist world with some of Israel's top academic figures.

The main day of activities kicked off with a lecture by Prof. Shlomo Avineri on "99 Years since the Balfour Declaration." Following this, members participated in round table discussions on subjects relating to the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zionism, and they heard from futurist Prof. David Passig about the next 120 years. The day continued with a panel with the youth reserve of the National Institutions and ended with a moving tribute to 120 years of Zionist music with music by soldiers of the OC Southern Command Musical Troupe.

On the final day after participating in meetings with the factions and organizations, members were invited to follow in Binyamin Ze'ev Herzl's footsteps on his journey in Jerusalem. Actors in period clothing accompanied the inspirational tour. The conference ended with a plenary session to hear discussion summaries and pass resolutions.

See you again in July 2017. Lehitra'ot!

Discussion with Prof. Halamish, Prof. Trigano and Prof. Saranga



Dialogue among young Zionist leaders



Following Herzl's footsteps in his visit to Jerusalem



120 years of Zionism – Round table discussions



Evening tribute marking 120 years of Zionist songs

