

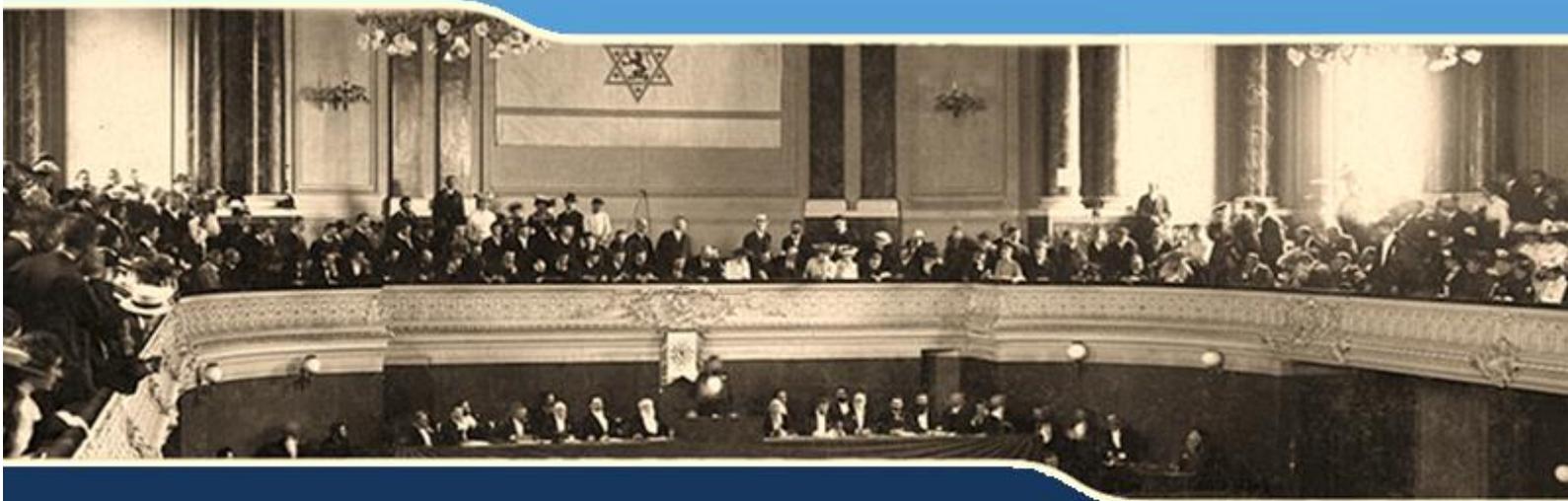


ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית World Zionist Organization



WZO NEWSLETTER

No. 5 – January / February 2017





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings and Shalom!

Following organization and preparations by the Forum of Department Heads, we officially launched the events marking 120 Years of Zionism. The main event was held at Ben Gurion Airport with an impressive, dignified and exciting ceremony prepared for us by the airport management. Cooperation with Ben Gurion Airport management was excellent and the exhibition, which will be on display throughout the year, is quite extraordinary, accurately depicting the main topics with which the Zionist Movement has been engaged, according to Herzl's vision.

In this Newsletter there are already early reports on additional events held in various locations as part of the 120th anniversary celebrations. Naturally, all other events have been frozen at this point in time until financial issues are settled with the JNF.

As you can see, the Departments have been holding activities with limited resources, and the Administration is preparing to examine budgetary priorities ahead of an updated approval of the 2017 budget.

Sincerely yours,

Avraham Duvdevani (Duvduv)



120 years of Zionism at Ben Gurion Airport

To open the events marking the 120th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress, a display was launched featuring 150 meters of photos, illustrations, graphics and more from the early Zionist period to the present.

The largest display ever to be presented at Ben Gurion Airport was dedicated in the presence of Avraham Duvdevani, WZO chairman; Yaakov Ganot, CEO of the Airports Authority; Shmuel Zakai, airport Director-General; Eli Cohen, WZO Director-General, and the designer, Dudu Harel. Throughout 2017, more than 8 million passengers are expected to view the display as they walk down the main corridor.



DEPARTMENT FOR ZIONIST OPERATIONS

Celebrating Tu B'Shvat

Using the new Haggadah published by the Department in honor Tu B'Shvat, **which raises critical ecological issues for discussion from a Jewish and Israeli perspective, the Department's emissaries around the world held dozens of festive Tu B'Shvat seders with large numbers of participants.**

Jerusalem Prize on the move

This year, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem, the traditional Jerusalem Prizes will be awarded at special festive events in various countries around the world.

Recent recipients include the foreign minister of Uruguay and a human rights activist from South Africa; and in the works – awarding of prizes to unconventional figures with a youthful and different spirit.

Photo: Jeremy Redler, deputy mayor of the 16th District of Paris, receiving the Jerusalem Prize.





WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

International conference of Netzer Movement

The 2017 Global Netzer Conference was held in Jerusalem last month, with over 30 representatives from 14 countries. This year's seminar dealt with the topic of "communities," and we met with community representatives to discuss what community means in Israel, Contemporary Zionism, and more. **Holding the annual conference in Israel reinforces the connection between the Movement's branches and Israel and highlights our responsibility to the Jewish people and Zionism.**



Week of intensive study at the Institute for Modern Jewish Studies in Moscow

The Institute for Modern Jewish Studies in Moscow – a joint project of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Abraham Geiger College, Pottsdam University and the Russian State University for the Humanities, held a week of intensive study with classes led by Reform rabbis and cantors from Moscow – Rabbis Alexander Lyskovoy and Leonid Bimbat, and Cantor Dmitry Karpenkow..

The week launched the univeristy's new semester, and was aimed at improving the knowledge of first and second year students in Jewish customs, with an emphasis on training students to lead Passover seders in their communities in Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus.



SETTLEMENT DIVISION

Participants in the International Rabbi's Conference visit Neve Tzuf

Some 300 rabbis from Jewish communities around the world came to Neve Tzuf in the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council to get a closer look at the damage caused by the massive fires recently experienced by Israel, and to affirm that "we will continue to plant trees and build despite the difficulties!" Participants saw the houses that had burned and visited the temporary residential quarters built with help from the Settlement Division in a lightning-fast operation.



History at Kibbutz Manara



During a visit to Kibbutz Manara, located right on the Lebanese border and undergoing a process of absorption and growth, we met **Ms. Rachel Rabin**. Photo below: **Ribbon-cutting ceremony on the renovated streets of Manara after infrastructure work by the Settlement Division.**





Building bridges

The year 2017 started with the opening of Hebrew / ulpan classes wherever possible, and promoting aliyah among Russian-speaking Diaspora Jews. Thanks to the successful work by our emissary in England, Dmitry Mavzos, **we opened two ulpan classes in January (out of 20 ulpan classes recently begun in Britain) for Russian speakers** who were identified and “recruited” in December during the “Limud-FSU” project held in England. There are 20 students attending these two classes. **In addition, since the start of the current academic year we have started another 150 ulpan classes around the world.**



DEPARTMENT FOR ALIYAH PROMOTION

How time flies

Since the Department for Aliyah Promotion was established, Department Director Marina Rozenberg-Koritny, defined its primary goal as reaching every Jew no matter where they are. It is no wonder that we called the joint project with the Department for Diaspora Affairs “Zionism on Wheels.” As part of activities in France **we chose Tu B’Shvat as the holiday that represents the deep connection to Israel and the land, to Zionism and Aliyah. In this connection, a series of events was held with two speakers, both of whom are successful olim from France.**



HERZL CENTER

Seminars for thousands of IDF soldiers

Since November 2016 the Herzl Center has been hosting day-long seminars for IDF soldiers starting their regular service. This is a special project that focuses on the history of Jerusalem through the story of Mt. Herzl, and the leaders and soldiers who are buried there. Since the project’s inception more than 2,000 soldiers have enjoyed a special tour of the hilltop, workshops and unique content. These soldiers join the thousands of visitors from Israel and around the world in January, **with more than 8,500 visitors this month.**



OFFICE OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN

“From Altneuland to Tel Aviv: Vision, Reality, Tomorrow – 120 years since the 1st Zionist Congress

In January, some 20 educators from Jewish schools in Latin America took part in a professional seminar on “Teaching Israel,” to acquaint them with Israeli society, enable them to discuss contemporary issues, and to show them the beauty of Israel’s society.

They were impressed and excited by their personal journey, which introduced them to important educational, social and spiritual projects in Israel.





EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

“Tweeting in Hebrew” – Hebrew Division of the Education Department took part in the “First Language” Conference – Jan. 17-20, 2017

The tenth “First Language” conference was held in Rishon LeZion, and the Education Department, decided to renew WZO’s participation in the conference.

The Department led a special session on the significance of Hebrew and organized a Hebrew party for 4,000 local teens with young people from the Diaspora, starring the Israeli band “Hatikva 6.”

The session “Tweeting in Hebrew” included a discussion on the importance of Hebrew as the language of the Bible, as a culture and an expression of Israeli identity; as well as a discussion with teachers who shared with the audience their experiences “in the field” as Hebrew teachers in the Diaspora.



“First in language:” Seminar on teaching Hebrew in Israel for Hebrew teachers from the Diaspora

The Hebrew Division of the Education Department hosted a delegation of Hebrew teachers from the Diaspora in conjunction with the “First Language” conference. Fifteen women from 8 countries took part in a 5-day seminar filled with lectures, workshops and activities, in addition to participating in the conference.

The group’s unique composition led to a rare encounter that was conceptual and emotional, intellectual and experiential. “I found comrades,” said one teacher from Turkey at the end of the seminar. “Now I don’t feel so alone,” remarked another teacher from Austria.

During the seminar participants were exposed to different Hebrew teaching approaches and methods, while gaining new practical tools and hands-on experience.



Online course for teaching emissaries in the Diaspora

The Teaching Emissaries Unit is expanding its training and supervision program for its shlichim (emissaries).

For the first time, training was given aimed at teaching emissaries. Its two goals: 1 – To offer teaching emissaries in the field continuing professional development during their shlichut; and 2 – To enable teachers to gain in-service credits each year to help them advance as Ministry of Education employees.

First course: “Peer learning for teaching Israel” in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Second course: “Teaching Hebrew as a second language – Part I”, with various approaches for teaching a second language.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER – MT. HERZL

The center works in full cooperation with the various WZO Departments

Sample activities include: Training teachers from abroad in educational leadership – **together with the Education Department at the “First Language” conference we gave workshops to teachers from numerous countries;** Leadership in the Desert – in cooperation with the Department for Diaspora Affairs we taught hands-on and empowering leadership tools with a leadership group from France, after which we met with leaders in Jerusalem for several workshops.





MASORATI OLAMI

Kabalat Shabbat on the beach

Two special Kabalat Shabbat services were held by the Masorti Movement on the beach in the resort town of Miramar in Argentina. Both services were spiritual and emotional, combining Jewish tradition with contemporary Israeli culture and included Israeli songs as well as Shabbat melodies. The two events were organized by FEDECC (the Federation of Masorti Communities in Argentina).



Masorti Movement convention in Uganda

For five days in January 2017, more than 170 youths from the "Abayudaya" – People of Judah – Jewish community in Nabugoye Hill in Uganda gathered to participate in the annual AYA (Abayudaya Youth Association) convention. Representatives from 8 villages belong to the AYA, which is part of the World Noam network of the Masorti Movement. Participants enjoyed sports and music classes, performances and also learned blessings and Shabbat laws along with personal and collective responsibility. The young participants were eager to hear stories about Jerusalem in particular, and Israel in general.



DEPARTMENT FOR ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL AND COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM

Countering anti-Semitism seminar in France

The seminar, was held in December and was attended by more than 130 people from all over France, including organization heads, Federation leaders, community leaders, young people and adults from the entire political spectrum. Seminar participants heard statistics and were taught effective tools for combating anti-Semitic incidents.

The seminar included workshops and panels for young activists, round table discussions, interactive talks and lectures by leaders in the struggle against anti-Semitism



Conference on the "Challenge of countering anti-Semitism"

The goal of the conference, held at Bar-Ilan University, was to expose the tremendous scope of anti-Semitism around the world and to sound a call to join forces and pool resources with government entities and decision-makers the world over, while examining solutions and operative methods for working with governments and Diaspora Jewry.

Yaakov Hagoell presented data from a survey taken by the WZO's new Cyber Center, **according to which 85% of those asked have experienced or witnessed anti-Semitic events, and 73% of those who experienced or witnessed violent anti-Semitism did not report it to the police.**





DEPARTMENT FOR ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

14TH International Conference of Rabbis and Diaspora Leaders

In January, 140 rabbis from 40 countries took part in the International Conference of Rabbis and Community Leaders, organized by the WZO's Orthodox Religious Affairs Department.

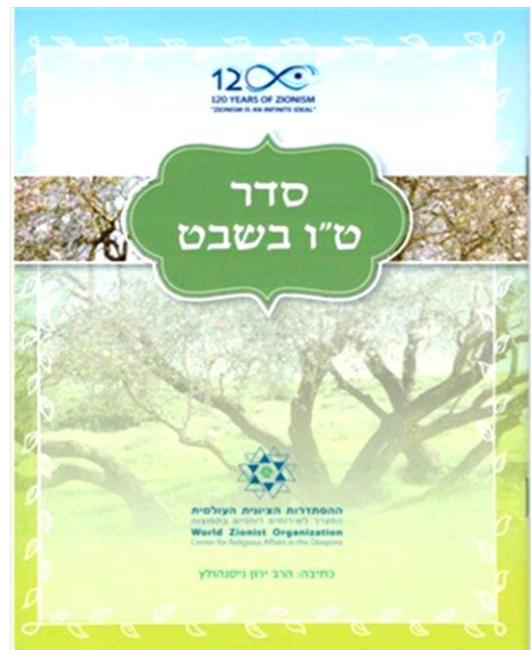
The Conference theme was "50 years since the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem" and the 120th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress. There were seven sessions at the conference, including: Diaspora rabbis joining the struggle against BDS, the relationship between Diaspora Jewry and the State of Israel and Jerusalem to enhance the centrality of Israel. At a festive evening the rabbis heard from IDF paratroopers who fought to liberate Jerusalem.

One day of the Conference was devoted to study tours: The rabbis visited Halamish, which was damaged during the recent fires, where they planted trees; Ammunition Hill, to hear about the battle for Jerusalem; and the Cave of Machpelah and Rachel's Tomb.



Tu B'Shvat seders

At the initiative of the Department for Religious Affairs in the Diaspora, dozens of Tu B'Shvat seders were held in a variety of Jewish communities. To accomplish this the Department produced a Tu B'Shvat Seder handbook in seven languages: Hebrew, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish and Croatian. The theme of the booklet was the 120th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress and included texts for the Tu B'Shvat seder, songs and educational ideas, making it an important educational tool.



MT. HERZL

The president of Poland lays a wreath at Mt. Herzl

On January 17, 2017 the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, made an official visit to Israel, during which he placed a wreath at Herzl's grave. President Duda and his entourage heard a summary of Herzl's activities and his importance in the establishment of Israel. After signing the presidential guest book, President Duda asked to pay his respects to the late Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. He then made his way to lay a wreath at the grave of Yoni Netanyahu, where he was greeted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Some more Zionism in photos

In honor of the 120th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress – the Education Department in cooperation with the Orna Porat Theater are proud to present a children’s play for North American communities:
“Herzl: A dream who came true”

COMING MARCH 2017



Herzl: A Dream who came true

The play tells the story of Theodore Herzl’s vision as it became a dream for millions of Jews around the world and changed history as we know it today.

Through his extraordinary life and stormy personality, we get to know Herzl’s world: the relationship with his family, travelling far and wide, meeting influential world leaders, his uncertainty and dreams, the joy and hopeful moments amid the crisis and above all the persistence behind his vision. These elements combine to produce an inspiring play about the power of vision, faith, and the essence of true leadership.

The director chose to break the barrier between the audience and the actor producing vivid and original theater. This play is built upon the key elements of strengthening the Zionist vision and creating aspirations to make Israel a better country.

For further info: sharonaz@wzo.org.il

Training teachers and educators from Germany at the International Leadership Center – Mt. Herzl



Event to launch the exhibit on 120 years of Zionism at Ben Gurion Airport



Department for Diaspora Affairs Tu B'Svhat quiz, school in Panama



Netzer Olami Conference 2017 World Union for Progressive Judaism

