



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית World Zionist Organization



WZO NEWSLETTER
No.7 May–June 2017





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Shalom,

The hope expressed in the previous newsletter is being realized and the payment arrangement with KKL is progressing well. All payments for 2016 have already been transferred. While the debt for 2017 still remains, it too is being dealt with at this time. Consequently the departments are returning to full activity.

This year we mark the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and this is reflected in many moving events, so of which we mention in this newsletter.

The 20th Maccabiah Games recently opened in Jerusalem, identifying with and honoring the 50th anniversary events and marking 120 years of Zionism. The Maccabiah is an important Zionist event with many participants, and we actively encourage it.

Regrettably, the festive event in Basel did not take place as planned, but we are preparing for an alternative main event at Mount Herzl in September.

Sincerely,

Avraham Duvdevani (Duvdov)

Herzl Center

Zionism and excellence

On Sivan 20, June 14, 2017, the Herzl Center hosted 70 senior officers from Central Command, led by GOC Major General Roni Numa, for a seminar at the Herzl Center. The seminar was about Herzl and his vision, and the first Zionist Congress 120 years ago. **Herzl's understanding of the historical processes to which he was a partner is the basis for studying his heritage and its connection to IDF officers who are leaders in Israel today.** The seminar was intensive and a great success, and will lead to continued activity for regimental commanders' courses and other groups of senior officers.

Bat/barmitzvah for children of the staff of Ben Gurion University of the Negev

In June the Herzl Center continued the tradition of hosting the bat/barmitzvah of children of the staff of Ben Gurion University of the Negev. The activity at the Herzl Center was the main part of the special day in Jerusalem. The 220 participants visited the Herzl Museum and got to know Golda Meir, Jabotinsky and other inspiring figures buried in Mt. Herzl at close hand. The day ended with a thrilling Zionist bingo game. The participants said the experience was enriching and enjoyable and they were very happy to experience it together with the parents and bat/barmitzvah children.

Vision for Jerusalem

To mark Herzl's birthday on Iyar 12 the Herzl Center hosted the Ein Prat pre-military academy's two branches and its alumni movement. The participants learned in depth about Herzl, his visit to Israel and his vision for Jerusalem, Israel's capital. They took part in a tour of Mt. Herzl, followed by a meeting on 'The vision for Jerusalem': the vision of the past and a look at the future. More than 120 people participated in the day's events. **We hope this will be the start of a welcome partnership between the Herzl Center and Ein Prat academy.**





Masorti Olami

Masorti Europe meeting in Stockholm

During the weekend of May 26–28, Masorti Europe members enjoyed a seminar in Stockholm, Sweden. The event-packed meeting was hosted by the Masorti community of the Great Synagogue in Stockholm.

The seminar was an ideal opportunity for many members to meet, share ideas, learn new skills, strengthen their relations and build networks of the movement in Europe. It was also an opportunity to show the movement's commitment to formal education for youth.

Main lecturers included Ms. Shelly Marsh, CEO of the Jewish youth network in Britain, and Marc Shoffren, senior teacher in the Alma Jewish elementary school.



Second year running – Onward NOAM Olami program in Jerusalem

In June, leaders of Masorti youth movements from around the world (France, USA, Australia, Uganda and Ukraine) began a six-week program in Israel. The program's main aims: build an annual work program for each participant with emphasis on developing Zionist and Israel-oriented programs; share information and create joint projects; professional development of each of the participants through internships in Israel; and create an authentic Israeli experience of work and life in Jerusalem.

The participants' real experience compared to a tourist experience creates a stronger connection to Israel, and enables deep understanding of the challenges facing the country and its citizens. This experience is significant for the participants' personal development as leaders of the movement in the world, and as potential olim in the future.



ZIONIST ENTERPRISES DEPARTMENT

The Bialik Institute in Hebrew Book Week

The Zionist Enterprises Department celebrated Hebrew Book Week. The Bialik Institute press, founded by WZO, ran successful stands throughout the country. The stands displayed books on science, philosophy, Biblical research, language, Hebrew culture, literature and poetry. The publishing house is known for the quality of its publications and contribution to strengthening the foundations of Hebrew culture.



Registration for the world Bible contest for adults has begun

The department is preparing for the international Bible contest for adults that will take place during Hanukkah 5779 to mark 60 years of the contest founded by the first prime minister, David Ben Gurion. The Department for Zionist Activities advertises the contest in Jewish communities in order to recruit participants and hold regional contests. Winners of the regional contests will continue to the world contest in Jerusalem. We will continue to report on the progress and identity of participants in the future.





DIASPORA ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

New horizons for Eye to the Future

In June another Eye to the Future program ended successfully, this time with the participation of Habonim Dror leaders from throughout the world. **Gusti Yehoshua Braverman summed up the program, saying: "Meeting you is a privilege and a pleasure; an opportunity to touch on the essence of what is really important in our work..."** The participants celebrated in the tradition of the departmental Kabbalat Shabbat – LCD on the Danube.



"Cooking Hebrew" – summing up an especially tasty year

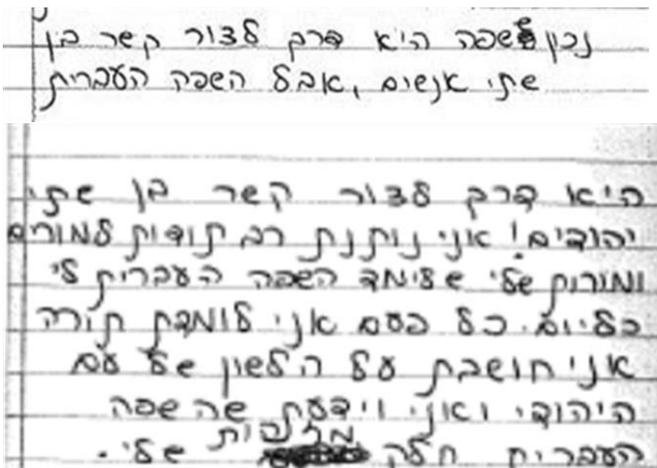
The second year of the Cooking Hebrew program is now ending. We began the first year with one group in Berkeley, and this year we have already expanded to more than 10 groups throughout the USA, and counting! **Cooking in Hebrew is a year's special workshop involving discussion, tastes and delicacies, memories of home.** Every month we hold a meeting based on the Jewish/Israeli calendar. The conversation is accompanied by cooking and a meal, and these ensure the creation of a community with common ground.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Hundreds took the prestigious Jerusalem examination on Hebrew and Judaism

The academic year is ending and students throughout the world are taking final exams in Hebrew. **During May hundreds of students took the Jerusalem Examination and received diplomas. The program, in collaboration with the Hebrew University, combines studies of Torah, Mishnah, and Hebrew language and literature.** Many of the students, who are finishing high school, wrote an essay on what the Hebrew language means to them. **They emphasized that learning Hebrew contributed to their connection with the Jewish people and Israel** and they raised creative ideas on how to advance its teaching.



Exams in Hebrew in Ibn Gvirol School in Madrid

The director of the Hebrew Unit, Inbar Barel, was sent to Ibn Gvirol School, Madrid, to administer oral examinations. She was favorably impressed by the students ability to speak and communicate in Hebrew. The children said they like learning Hebrew, and many of them said that they want to study at the Hebrew University and live in Israel. The excited students received high grades and were also given assignments for the summer.

The school's administrative staff praised the collaboration with the Education Department. Exams held by a professional representative from Israel strengthen the status of Hebrew as an important subject, help the teachers evaluate the students' achievements and help develop new projects to enrich both teachers and students.





DEPARTMENT FOR ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Seminar for RCA rabbis

Dozens of rabbis and public figures marked the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem in a day organized by the Department for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora in collaboration with the RCA. The delegation was headed by Rabbi Tradburks. Avraham Duvdevani, chair of WZO, Rabbi Yehiel Wasserman, head of the Department for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora and Yitzhak Shtiglitz, director of the department, took part in the conference in the Weizmann hall, where the first president, Chaim Weizmann, was sworn in.



Jerusalem Day Poster Competition

Scholarships were awarded to outstanding designers in the 50th anniversary poster contest that was part of the Jerusalem reunification anniversary events. The Department for Orthodox Religious Affairs in the Diaspora initiated the contest in collaboration with the graphic design department of Emunah College headed by Mr. Yigal Gross, Ministry of Education head of state-religious education. 32 designers took part in the contest. The winning posters were chosen by a panel headed by Mr. Yitzhak Shtiglitz, and including Ms. Ety Orly, deputy head of state-religious education, and Mr. Yaakov Aharoni, director-general of the Department for Israel Affairs and Countering Anti-Semitism.



In the photo: declaring the first prize winner, Bat Chen Pur

SETTLEMENT DIVISION

Connections in settlement

The Department for Diaspora Affairs asked the Settlement Division to lead a tour of Judea and Samaria for participants in the Reform movement's world conference, the first of its kind for this audience. Delegates from throughout the world took part in this special and important tour, got to know Gush Etzion at close hand and learned of the challenges, complexity and difficulties. **There is no doubt that face-to-face meeting and respectful discussion is needed to connect all sectors of the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora, despite the differences of opinion.**



Continuing in his path

The Settlement Division's tour of Ramat Negev opened with a visit to the grave of the late Shmulik Rifman, legendary council head. Shmulik, a true man of settlement who did much to uphold relations with the Diaspora Jewry, died during the past year after a long illness. We promised to continue his path in developing the Negev and maintaining the close connection with our brothers overseas. **Much work needs be done in this region and the main challenge is bringing new people to the Negev to contribute to significant demographic growth. We and our friends in the regional council are busy with this task day and night and we wish the elected council head, Eran Doron, much success.**





The World Union for Progressive Judaism

Connections – the movement’s conference in Jerusalem, May 2017

This four-day biennial event drew over 450 lay leaders, rabbis, students and congregants from Progressive, Reform, and Liberal communities from 30 countries. **The opening event began with Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf in Southern California presenting a Torah Scroll to the leadership of Kehillat Sheket, the only Deaf congregation in the city of Minsk in the Republic of Belarus. The Torah dates back to the 1500s and survived the Holocaust.** Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky, to whom the Torah’s destination was particularly meaningful, joined the presentation to help complete the circle and send the Torah back to its birthplace.



Increased activity of the Reform movement in former USSR countries

Across the Former Soviet Union, the World Union for Progressive Judaism oversees a range of programs and frameworks to revitalize and strengthen Judaism and a sense of connection to Israel. In the Sunday School framework, children learn about Reform Judaism, learn Hebrew, participate in Shabbat activities and seminars with their families, and explore Israel, its history and people. Students nearing Bar and Bat Mitzvah ages also participate in a special preparation track to bring them closer to Judaism. **This past year, nine Bnei Mitzvah celebrations were held in Russia, each with moving ceremonies and celebrations for the children, their families and the whole community.**



The Department for Israel Affairs and Countering Anti-Semitism

“L’Chaim Yerushalayim”

WZO’s L’Chaim Yerushalayim program brought hundreds of young unaffiliated Jews from throughout the world to **celebrate Jerusalem week with us, marking the 50th anniversary of the city’s reunification** during the week of May 21–28, 2017. **Young people from abroad were hosted by Israeli families throughout the country and built their personal Jerusalem experience.** They participated in cultural events, shows and meetings, visited the foundation stones of Jewish heritage, took part in culinary tours, etc.



Documenting Six-Day War Combatants project

The department launched the Documenting Six-Day War Combatants project. The documenters took part in a preparatory day in the National Institutions building, where they were given a historical review of the period and important emphases for the work of documentation. **The project documented combatants who took part in the Six-Day War, in order to preserve their stories for future generations and pass on their heritage.** The project was preceded by a project to document the 1948 generation, which was successfully completed.

לשת הימים
לחיים ולחיים

**להמתם?
השתתפתם?**

התגייסו לחיפוש סיפורים האישיים של לחימה במלחמת ששת הימים. לחימה בכל חזיתות ישראל ובייחודים. מספרים באווירה לזמן הדורות הבאים. משרד ירושלים ומרשות תכנית ציוני דרך והסתדרות הציונית העולמית מזמינים אתכם לתעד את סיפורכם השווה בהנהגה של הממלכת ובהיסטוריה של מדינת ישראל.

אם אתם או מי מקרוביכם, לחימה בתקופת מלחמת ששת הימים. ומעניינים לספר את סיפורכם האישי ולתעד אותו למען הדורות הבאים. הנכם מוזמנים ליצור קשר. תיעוד יבוצע באמצעות ראיון מכוון או יצירה גם תמונות מתקופה.

להשגרת פרטים: טל' 02-6202412
או באתר ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
<http://www.wzo.org.il>

הפרויקט מיוזם על ידי משרד החינוך והנוער



ALIYAH PROMOTION DEPARTMENT

Aliyah fair in Brooklyn

Brooklyn became little Israel for one day; in a special aliyah fair, with the assistance of the Ministry of Absorption as part of a national program to promote aliyah – Ofek Israeli, there were colorful stands with information about aliyah: lecturers spoke about Israel: artists danced and sang and there was a genuine Israeli atmosphere. The department head, Marina Rozenberg-Koritni said that **“the time has come for new objectives. The most important one is the return home of all Jews everywhere!”**

A Zionist flotilla on the Hudson River

On Sunday, June 11, 2017 the Aliyah Promotion Department together with the Forum of Russian-speaking Jews of North America carried out an impressive demonstration of identification with Israel. **A Zionist flotilla left Brooklyn, passed under the Statue of Liberty and anchored next to the UN building in Manhattan. The flotilla's leaders were Minister of Absorption, Sofa Landver and the head of the Aliyah Promotion Department, Marina Rozenberg-Koritni.**

Marina Rozenberg-Koritni said: “On November 29, 2017 we will mark the 70th anniversary of the UN's historical decision to establish a Jewish state in the land of Israel. In the same month we also celebrate the centenary of the Balfour Declaration: this building symbolizes these two important milestones in the history of the international community...”

“We have come here in order to remind the international community of the magnificent and the shameful events in its history, and to say to the world: Israel is our home!”



The World Center for Leadership – Mt. Herzl

Desert trip to the powers within you

The Center for Leadership won the Onward organization's tender to run seminars for developing leadership in the desert. **The program: “A desert trip to the powers within you: Ben Gurion meets Moses” won the tender and it takes place in the Negev mountain region and emphasizes the Zionist revolution in the desert.** The first seminar at the end of June–beginning of July in Mitzpe Ramon received very positive feedback. 80 students from the USA, Canada, Mexico and France took part in the seminar.



Fact-finding tour in preparation for aliyah – doctors from France

30 French doctors came to Beersheva with their families for a preparatory tour for aliyah. They were shown the employment opportunities in the city (real estate, education, culture, etc.)

The project was organized in collaboration with the Jewish Agency, Ofek Israeli, Ministry of Absorption, Beersheba municipality, Soroka hospital and the health services.

The department meets special needs – for example, an ulpan class was opened for doctors, with emphasis on professional terminology, etc. Feedback from the program was very positive.



More Zionism in pictures

THE DEPARTMENT FOR ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

marked the 120th anniversary of the 1st Zionist Congress with a booklet in 4 languages on 5 events and personalities in the history of the Zionist movement.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Silvio Joskowicz awards a certificate of honor in the “Jerusalem forum for including the narrative of Ethiopian Jewry in the Israeli story” of which the department is a member



DIASPORA ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

Establishing activity in Poland
In the photo: the department's seminar at the Warsaw Hillel



THE MASORTI MOVEMENT

David Broza performed in Masorti communities in Argentina on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem



DEPARTMENT FOR ISRAEL AND COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM

Preparing for the Documenting Six-Day War Combatants project



Training for kashrut supervisors and slaughterers in Ukraine

