

על סדר היום של המחלקה לפעילות
ציונית של ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית

On the Agenda of the
Department for Zionist Activities
of the World Zionist Organization

עושים ציונות

Doing Zionism



June 2004

No. 12

SIVAN 5764

On my mind...



The Jerusalem Program, the platform of the World Zionist Organization and the articulation of its essence, will be a central item on the agenda of the June meetings of the Zionist General Council. It has only been amended twice since 1897, the last time in 1968. So why is there suddenly a need to raise the subject today?

Perhaps it is not by chance that this session of the ZGC is taking place only a few weeks before the 100th anniversary of the passing of Theodor Herzl.

The occasion gives us cause to reflect on the meaning of Zionism today.

The answer for me is in the legacy that Herzl bequeathed us. Repeatedly he wrote and spoke about the need to fashion an exemplary Jewish society. *Altneuland* is a remarkable testament to this vision. In one instance he states:

Those of us who are today prepared to hazard our lives for the cause would regret having raised a finger if we were able to organize only a new social system and not a more righteous one.

In another:

All that you have cultivated will be worthless and your fields will again be barren,

unless you also cultivate freedom of thought and expression, generosity of spirit, and love for humanity. These are the things you must cherish and nurture.

But understandably preoccupied with establishing, building, and strengthening the Jewish state, the Zionist movement has not officially focused on the nature of the society we are creating in Israel - though certainly our efforts in so many spheres have contributed nobly to this purpose. Now the time has come to put more of our focus on this realm. And that is the reason for amending the Jerusalem Program. Our organization must sharpen its vision, be ever responsive to the pressing needs of Israel and the Jewish people, and forcefully communicate its mission. Again, we need only refer to Herzl to understand that:

A community must have an ideal, for it is that which drives us... And our Zionism, which led us hither and which will lead us still further to yet unknown heights, is such an ideal, an infinite endless ideal.

May we go from strength to strength,

Dr. David Breakstone

Head of the Department for Zionist Activities

DOING ZIONISM – DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES

Department Resources:



Herzl Up Close and Personal, the traveling exhibition and educational package developed by the Department to celebrate the visionary of the Jewish state on the 100th anniversary of his passing is now available for distribution.

The Zionist Imperative, a collection of articles on contemporary Zionism produced by the Department is now available in four languages; English, Spanish, French and Russian. It can be viewed on or downloaded from our web site.

Embracing the Legacy, a Zionist calendar highlighting Herzl's vision and including dozens of discount coupons for Israeli services, is available to promote membership in Zionist organizations in coordination with Zionist Federations.

Terror and Israel's Struggle for Peace is the Department's hasbarah kit, and includes print materials, video, and CD.

For information on the above contact us at doingzionism@jazo.org.il.

Department Initiatives:

Ilan Rubin, Director General of the Department, recently visited a number of Zionist Federations in South America. In **Argentina** he welcomed the Dor Hemshech program into the growing ranks of the Ofakim Project for Zionist leadership. In **Uruguay** he formalized the Partnership 2000 relationship between the Zionist Federation there and the community of Kiryat Tiv'on. In **Brazil** he met with the new Executive. During this trip he was also able to participate in the Kenes Shlichim, further strengthening the cooperation between the WZO and JAFI.

As part of the Department's Scholar-in-Residence program, former Ambassador to Switzerland, Yitzchak Mayer, was guest lecturer at the **Zionist Federation of Austria's** Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities. Ambassador Mayer also traveled to Switzerland to speak to the **Swiss Zionist Federation**.

The Department continues to welcome and support groups from abroad, and commends those who are arranging these vital visits. Among those that have recently benefited from our services are: **Emunah** and **Israel Reconnect** from the **United States**; **Israel Now** organized by the **South Africa Zionist Federation**; the **Sephardic Federation** from **France**; and **Israel Connect** organized by the **Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland**.

Zionist Federations Commemorating and Celebrating

Yom Hazikaron / Yom Ha'atzmaut / Yom Yerushalaim



Zionist Federations at a Glance

The 2004 Purim Connection campaign organized by the **American Zionist Movement** succeeded in raising 60% more this year than last, and provided some 3,000 mishloach manot to soldiers and the victims of terror in Israel. More than 150 members of Zionist youth movements, young olim, and students were involved in organizing the project, and personally delivering the gifts.

Zionism: Past, Present and Future was the subject heatedly debated at a talk-show organized in Bucharest by the **Rumanian Zionist Association**.

The **Zionist Federation of France** together with the Masorti Movement in France put the important issues of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on the agenda of the entire French Jewish community by initiating a conference on the subject attended by some 600 people.

The **Zionist Federation of Uruguay** (OSU) joined the dynamic Partnership 2000 family, when they accepted the offer of partnership with Kiryat Tiv'on, presented by Yigal Donyets of the Jewish Agency's Israel Department.

"Theodor Herzl: One Hundred Years Later" was the title of the annual Italian Zionist Congress in Rome, organized by the **Zionist Federation of Italy** whose attendees, including a number of Italy's prominent intellectuals, commemorated Herzl by discussing the purpose of the Zionist movement today.

This year the paintings of up and coming Israeli artists were featured at the annual Art Exhibit sponsored by the **Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland and WIZO**. The exhibition, which lasted 3 days, was a great success with many pieces sold.

With the launching of the Department's website earlier this year, we are now producing Doing Zionism in a new, streamlined format, essentially putting in print only a sampling of the news of the Department and the Zionist Federations around the world. Full details of these and other programs may be viewed at www.doingzionism.org.il

The Department for Zionist Activities enjoys the support and cooperation of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael)
The Department for Zionist Activities WZO, P.O.B. 92, Jerusalem 91000, Tel: (02)620-2134, Fax: (02)620-4182, E-mail: doingzionism@jazo.org.il
www.doingzionism.org.il