

עושים ציונות Doing Zionism



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

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On my mind



Herzl and the Single Mother

While Vikki Knafo was making her way by foot from Mitzpeh Ramon to Jerusalem a few months ago, launching a grassroots protest against drastic cuts in welfare payments, those of another stratum of Israeli society were busy organizing a festive evening at the Jerusalem Theater, launching a year of activities marking the 100th anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl. I was present at the event, and found it to be an opportunity to reflect on what the Zionist visionary might have said to those of us in the auditorium about all that was going on just outside the doors.

It is now several months since a group of single mothers set up camp outside the Knesset, protesting the Government's economic reforms that made their financial plight unbearable. Headlines in the daily newspapers bemoan the growing violence among Israeli youth. Reports of corruption at every level of our public and corporate institutions have become so routine that they barely elicit more than a shrug. Traders in flesh have found a haven within our borders. Foreign workers are taken advantage of. And this past summer our national pride took another beating when an international study divulged that our educational standards were embarrassingly low – shortly after the release of other statistics revealing that the gap between the “haves” and the

statistics revealing that the gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots” in Israel is among the largest in the developed world. If Mayor Dizengoff indeed responded with satisfaction to reports of prostitution in Tel Aviv, noting that at last we had become a normal people, imagine how pleased he would be today!

Herzl, on the other hand, would not be. Shortly before his death in 1904, he declared “I truly believe that even after we possess our land, the land of Israel, Zionism will not cease to be an ideal. For Zionism as I understand it includes not only the yearning for a plot of promised land legally acquired for our weary people, but also the yearning for ethical and spiritual fulfillment.” As obsessed as he was by finding a political and territorial solution to the Jewish problem, he was always driven by the opportunity that this solution would provide for fashioning an ideal social order as portrayed in his utopian novel *Altneuland*.

Herzl, of course, was not alone in his dreaming. Creating a *chevrat mofet* – an exemplary society – was always integral to the Zionist dream. And that, I believe, is what Herzl would want to remind us of as we prepare to honor his memory on the centenary of his passing.

To those who challenge the continued relevance of Zionism today, this is the answer: The homeland has been attained. Jews from around the world have been brought home, and the doors of immigration remain open. But the challenge of engaging Jews

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ZIONIST FEDERATIONS IN ACTION...

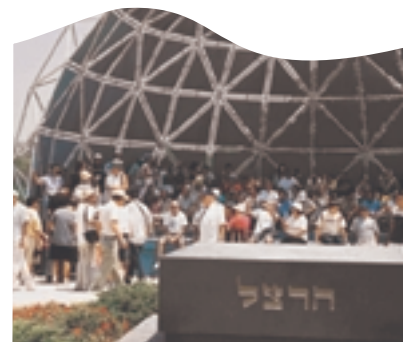
FRANCE

Aware of the large number of enthusiastic French tourists in Israel this summer, Dr. Robert Zbili, President of the **French Zionist Federation**, proposed organizing special Zionist day trips for them during August.

The Zionist Federation undertook promotion of the venture in France, while the Department for Zionist Activities worked with UNIFAN (The Association of Olim from France and North Africa) and *Tnu'at Aliyah* of the *Aliyah* Department to turn the idea into reality. More than 300 tourists left the beaches of Netanya and Ashdod, with hundreds more flooding the phone lines to try to get on to the tours, and came to Jerusalem for guided visits to Mount Herzl, the Kotel, and the Hebrew University. The highlight of the day for the tourists was having the opportunity to meet and mingle with recent olim from France, who shared with them their experiences and answered questions.

The tremendous success of this pilot project was above and beyond our expectations and has led the French Zionist Federation and the Department to look forward to expanding this exciting new program of Zionist Day Tours next summer.

Other Zionist Federations interested in adapting this project to their particular needs are invited to contact us.



French tourists at Herzl's tomb.

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ZIONIST FEDERATIONS IN ACTION...

UNITED STATES

"Some 400 people were standing, silently holding candles that flickered in the night, when suddenly in unison they raised up photographs -- the faces of many of the 826 people murdered in Israel in terrorist attacks in the last three years," writes Deborah Fineblum Raub about the Memorial for Victims of Terror held in Boston. During the week of Tisha B'Av, communities across the United States held vigils commemorating victims of terror attacks in Israel. The **American Zionist Movement** (Jim Schiller, President) initiated and sponsored the vigils in Boston, New York, New Orleans, Baltimore, and Chicago.



VENEZUELA

This year the **Zionist Federation of Venezuela** played an active role in the *Aliyah* Campaign sponsored by the Jewish Agency. As a result, said Elias Farache, President of the Federation, "For the first time in the history of our community, in a period of less than eight months one hundred olim have departed for Israel."



Some of the 100 olim from Venezuela on the eve of their aliyah.

On July 29, some 400 people from the community came together to celebrate with and bid farewell to the olim. The gathering was also a farewell to the *aliyah shaliach*, Abraham Shani, upon completion of his shlichut in Venezuela.

GREAT BRITAIN

"The excellent and friendly group of Jewish and Christian Zionists made me proud to be a part [of this venture]," said Adrian Korsner, vice-chair of the **Zionist Federation of Great Britain** (Estelle Gilston, Chair). He was referring to the ZF mission to Israel (July 2-7, 2003), which included 80 people from the British Isles and contingents from the Netherlands, Denmark, and Spain. The five packed days included a number of stimulating lectures, and a variety of encounters and experiences. Highlights included the opportunity to speak with Minister of Tourism Benny Eilon; a visit to the Davidson Centre and the Archeological Gardens; a visit to Yad Vashem; an evening's entertainment with Israeli singer Dvora



Participants of the ZF's mission to Israel cool their feet after a fun-filled day of touring



Outgoing Israeli ambassador to England, Zvi Shtaub (center standing), entertains a group of patrons and national councilors of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain at his private residence

Dado; and a visit with the British ambassador at his private residence. The trip culminated with a trip to the new Mini-Israel theme park on the way to the airport. The Christian Friends of Israel, with whom the ZF has been working for the last five years, were enthusiastic partners in this enterprise.

URUGUAY



Israeli entertainer Einat Sarouf, sent by the Department to entertain at the Yom Yerushalaim ceremony organized by the Zionist Federation of Uruguay (Gabriel Heymann, President), celebrates with Israeli ambassador to Uruguay, Joel Salpak

SOUTH AFRICA

Eighteen members of the volunteer Media Watch team of the **South African Zionist Federation** (Avrom Krengel, Chair) are about to embark for Israel on a media-training trip. According to Bev Goldman, the SAZF media PR and *hasbara* director "Our team here in South Africa works to counter bias and prejudice in the local media and to promote a positive image of Israel, and much of what we want to achieve on our trip will be related to these areas." The purpose of the trip is to have the volunteers learn firsthand about all the issues with which they must deal. The Foreign Ministry and the Jewish Agency are working together with the Department for Zionist Activities in developing and sponsoring this program. In addition, registration is underway for the 3rd Israel Now Solidarity Tour (Nov. 24 – Dec.3).

CANADA

November is a busy month for the **Eastern Region (Montreal)** of the **Canadian Zionist Federation** (Arlazar Eliashiv, President [interim]). In addition to the Rabin Memorial and Symposium 2003 (a half-day seminar on Israel), the Jerusalem Prize will be presented to two recipients – Irwin Cotler, O.C., Member of Parliament, and Annette Paquot, head of the Language Department, University of Quebec.

AUSTRALIA

"Get the message right, and get the message through." This was the advice passed on by Eytan Gilboa, professor of politics and communication at Bar-Ilan University during his recent visit to Melbourne. Prof. Gilboa was brought to Australia by the **Zionist Federation of Australia** (Dr. Ron Weiser, President) and hosted by the State Zionist Council of Victoria. "We considered it important to expose a professional of this high caliber to as many groups as possible," remarked SZC president, Dr. Danny Lamm. Although his schedule was hectic, Gilboa was able to take his important message to students, youth and Hebrew speakers, in person, and to the general public through radio interviews.



From left to right: Dr. Danny Lamm, president State Zionist Council of Victoria; Prof. Eytan Gilboa; Arnold Roth, father of Malki Roth who was killed in the Sbarro bombing in Jerusalem

ZIONIST FEDERATIONS IN ACTION...

CHILE

The Zionist Federation in Santiago succeeded in finding a unique way to convey to the people of Chile the important message that Jerusalem is, and shall forever remain the capital of the State of Israel. And they did so from within the official residence of the country's president. On August 21st, Mr. Roberto Munoz, President of the



Chile's First Lady Ms. Luisa Duran de Lagos receives the Jerusalem Prize from the Zionist Federation in Santiago.

Zionist Federation, the Honorable Yosef Regev, Israel's ambassador to Chile, and Dr. David Breakstone, Head of the Department for Zionist Activities presented the Jerusalem Prize to Ms. Luisa Duran de Lagos, the first lady of Chile. Ms. Lagos arranged for the ceremony to take place at her "home," the Palacio de La Moneda, in the presence of over 200

notables, including several ambassadors, the country's most senior clerics, and well-known public figures. The event garnered wide media attention, and was broadcast on the evening's television news programs as well as being prominently featured in the country's most widely distributed newspaper, El Mercurio.

RUSSIA

The Zionist organization in Russia "Moria" reports great success in the extension of its network of Zionist political discussion groups to Yekaterinburg and Rostov-on-Don. Together with the discussion groups in Moscow and St. Petersburg, this project has attracted over 100 Jewish intellectuals to engage in serious deliberations regarding subjects such as modern Zionism and Israel-Diaspora relations.

UKRAINE

The Zionist organization in the Ukraine reports that in carrying out scores of projects (more details in the next newsletter), it has succeeded in raising fully one third of its budget for 2003 from local donors. Its greatest success in eliciting local financial support was for its 2003 summer camp, called 'Shorashim', with 180 youngsters, and financed 50% by JAFI and 50% by local donors.

DOING ZIONISM - DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES...

ZIONISM ON-LINE

Exciting news from the Department for Zionist Activities: we are now on the web. Visit us at www.doingzionism.org.il.

The site, which is under the editorial and administrative responsibility of Saralyn Greenblatt and the professional guidance of Adrian Kohen, will have updates on all departmental programs and services, complete information regarding the legislative institutions of the World Zionist Organization, contact information for the Zionist Federations all over the world, links to important sites dealing with Israel, Zionism, and *hasbara*, and access to the excellent information bank of the Hagshama Department, whose cooperation has been vital to the development of the website.

Zionist Federations that already have an internet site will be able to move their site into the Department's domain, providing budgetary savings, improved security, free technical support, and a facility for electronic distribution of newsletters. Federations that do not yet have their own site will be invited to add their activities to this website or be helped to develop a state-of-the-art site in record time if they so choose.

THE ZIONIST IMPERATIVE IN RUSSIAN

The Department for Zionist Activities is pleased to announce that its booklet "The Zionist Imperative" now exists in three languages. In addition to English and Spanish, a Russian edition is available, translated by Dr. Alec Epstein and published by Gishrei Tarbut.

DOR HEMSHECH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Responding to the ongoing need of Zionist Federations all over the world to cultivate cadres of young adults (aged 30-45) who

would be willing to expand Zionist Federation activities and community presence, the Department for Zionist Activities is launching a new *Dor Hemshech* leadership initiative.

Building on the successes of regional conferences in North America, Latin America, and Europe, the Department is launching six-month local training programs, culminating with a week in Israel. Groups of 20-30 participants are forming in Budapest, Marseilles-Nice, Buenos Aires, and Santiago, the venues chosen for the first stage of this pilot project. In each case, the local Zionist Federation is taking charge of the program, heading a local steering committee (to include appropriate community leaders) and helping to choose lecturers and workshop leaders under the auspices and guidelines of a professional Jerusalem-based coordinator.

The program will include the following components:

- ▶ Strengthening Jewish/Zionist identity
- ▶ Selected issues in contemporary Israel
- ▶ Israel-Diaspora relations, with emphasis on the specific country
- ▶ Leadership and management skills
- ▶ A personal Zionist hands-on project to be undertaken by each participant through the local Zionist Federation.

Recruitment began early this fall. The various courses will begin in mid-December.

Upon the completion of these four pilot projects, the Department intends to use the experience gained to build a comprehensive package for *Dor Hemshech* leadership programs that will be offered exclusively to Zionist Federations all over the world.

Interested parties are invited to contact project coordinator Naftali Levi at naftalil@jazo.org.il

DOING ZIONISM - DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES...

ZIONIST CARAVAN IN FRANCE

The Department for Zionist Activities, with the cooperation of the Aliyah Department of the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Federation in France, organized a Zionist Caravan to encourage *aliyah* throughout France. The caravan, which took place in July, visited the large Jewish communities in the suburbs of Paris: Issy les Moulineaux, Sarcelles, Garges, Choisy le Roi, Boulogne, Les Lilas, St. Brice, La Courneuve, and Creteil. They were received enthusiastically by all. The caravan included a picture exhibition of Israel, a film about the first 50 years of the State of Israel, and a lecture entitled "From Oslo to the Road Map," given by Lieutenant-Colonel Olivia Rapovitz, the head of the Aliyah Delegation in Europe-France. A performance by five singers from *Chavat Hanoar Hazioni* in Jerusalem closed each visit.

HERZL ON THE MOVE

Dr. David Breakstone has announced the Department's plans for commemorating the centennial of Herzl's death. The central feature will be a traveling exhibition. Innovative and modern in its conception, the exhibition will connect Herzl's life, times, and vision to the reality of the Zionist State as it has emerged, and it will present intellectual and conceptual challenges for the future. The exhibit will include programming materials for educational use.

The exhibition will be available in the major languages spoken by Jewish communities around the world and will be offered to Jewish communities through the exclusive auspices of the local Zionist Federation.



"The quality and interactive nature of the exhibit will stimulate a renewed interest in the Zionist idea and the architect of the Jewish state," says Breakstone. "It will also serve the Zionist Federations in their ongoing efforts to ensure that Zionist ideology continues to impact on the agenda of the Jewish communities around the world."

Federations, and the organization of an international contest on the Zionist vision culminating in Israel.

THE ZIONIST FEDERATIONS PARTNERING

Partnership 2000, a program to twin Diaspora and Israeli communities, is a platform that can turn general platitudes of support for Israel into concrete involvement with Israelis. The Department for Zionist Activities has concluded an agreement with the Israel Department of JAFI that will enable Zionist Federations in Europe and South America to become catalysts and leading participants in new partnerships.

Francis Weitz, Chairman of the Belgian Zionist Federation, has led the Jewish community into a new partnership with Kfar Vradim in the Galilee, and the Department will be supporting a professional in Brussels, who will be working under the auspices of the Zionist Federation, to strengthen and broaden the partnership through a series of joint projects.

The Zionist Federation of Denmark (Dorrit Norden, President) has taken on the responsibility of convening the Jewish community at a Partnership Table, which will result in a new twinning. The local branches of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain (Estelle Gilston, Chair) in Liverpool and Leeds have teamed up to come up with a groundbreaking partnership idea – a new partnership for provincial centers outside of London with small communities in Israel. The Uruguay Zionist Federation (Gabriel Heymann, President) has committed itself to putting in the necessary energies to lead the Montevideo community into a partnership relationship with an Israeli community, with the help of the Israel Department professionals.

Partnership 2000 is the quintessence of "Doing Zionism," the watchword of our department. It is the catalyst for a wide spectrum of volunteering opportunities, economic links, and, most important, direct people-to-people contact that contribute to the unity of the Jewish people, centered around the State of Israel.

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