

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



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On my mind...



Theodor Herzl identified anti-Semitism as *the* Jewish question of his time, and firmly believed that its solution would be found in the establishment of a Jewish state. In his utopian novel *Altneuland*, he offers us an insight into the relationship of well-to-do Viennese Jews to the rest of European society at the turn of the 19th century, glimpsed through the following conversation he stages at a dinner party in one of their homes.

"...an elderly gentleman sitting next to Mrs. Loeffler remarked...that things were becoming worse in Moravia. "In the provincial towns," he said, "our people are in actual peril. When the Germans are in a bad mood, they break Jewish windows. When the Czechs are out of sorts, they break into Jewish homes. The poor are beginning to emigrate. But they don't know where to go..."

"I feel it coming," cried Laschner, "We'll all have to wear the yellow badge." "Or emigrate," said the rabbi.

"I ask you, where to?" asked Walter. "Are things better anywhere else? Even in free France the anti-Semites have the upper hand."

As we enter the year marking a century since the death of the visionary of the Jewish state, we cannot help but marvel as to how right he was in his prophecies - and how wrong. When Hitler was barely 13, Herzl was already warning us that the time would come when "we'll all have to wear the yellow badge" if we did not have a country of our own. But 55 years after Israel's independence, the conclusion he reached in 1896 has proven sadly mistaken: "If we will only begin to carry out the plans [for creating a state for the Jews], anti-Semitism would stop at once and forever," he wrote at the time.

The Department for Zionist Activities will be dedicating much of its energies this year to working with Zionist Federations in formulating a contemporary Zionist response to the many challenges confronting the Jewish people today. Our theme for the year, in honor of Herzl: *The Jewish Question Now and Then: From Analysis to Action*. We look forward to your involvement in the process.

B'vracha,

David Breakstone
Dr. David Breakstone

Head of the Department for Zionist Activities

DOING ZIONISM — DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES

Ofakim - The Department's new initiative for training the next generation of Zionist leadership is now underway in three communities - Santiago (Chile), Budapest (Hungary), and Nice (France). The large number of high-calibre candidates applying to the program, oversubscribing available places, has demonstrated the critical need for innovative courses of this nature.



Thirty five activists from five different Zionist Federations in Latin America recently attended a 7-day Israel seminar during Chanukah, sponsored and organized by the Department for Zionist Activities. The program focused on current events, Zionist ideology, and practical skills.



A Zionist Caravan has brought a measure of Israeli culture to Jewish communities throughout Italy. Organized by the Zionist Federation of Italy (Giuseppe Franchetti, President) together with the Department for Zionist Activities in cooperation with the Aliyah Department of the Jewish Agency, the Caravan also brought about a better understanding of Israel's situation among the hundreds who attended events surrounding its arrival.



A dynamic team of young Russian olim brought a dosage of Zionism to Russian-speaking communities throughout Germany via an Aliyah Caravan, sponsored by the Aliyah Department of the Jewish Agency and the Department for Zionist Activities of the WZO. The program

- **Voices and Faces from Israel** - took place primarily before young audiences, who heard first-hand of the experiences of their contemporaries who had chosen Israel as their home.

Do The Write Thing (DTWT), a unique conference for campus journalists, was held this year in Jerusalem, in conjunction with the General Assembly (GA) of the United Jewish Communities. Twenty-four college students from Canada, USA and Israel took part in the 14th year of this annual event. Do The Write Thing is directed and organized by the Department for Zionist Activities and the University Student Division - Hagshama Department, both of the World Zionist Organization (WZO), along with the Office of the Spokesperson of the Jewish Agency. The American Jewish Press Association is actively involved in the program.

*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 the headlines 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*

Herzl: Up Close and Personal - in Pursuit of the Zionist Vision

a contemporary exhibition celebrating the visionary of the Jewish state on the 100th anniversary of his death, conveying Zionism as the compelling ideology it continues to be today

Suitable for ages 16 and up, including:

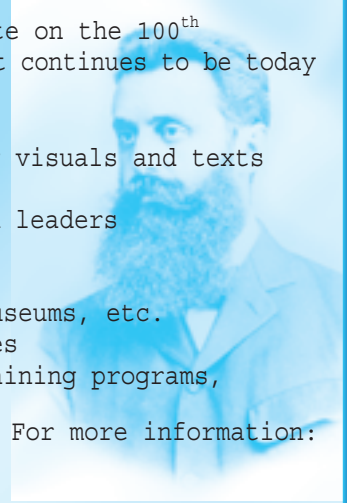
- 30 striking and easily assembled interlocking panels of stimulating visuals and texts
- An engaging, interactive guide for every visitor
- A programming handbook for community educators, teachers, and youth leaders

Appropriate for:

- display in schools, synagogues, community centers, sports clubs, museums, etc.
- exhibition at special events, concerts, celebrations, and ceremonies
- presentation at seminars, retreats, conferences, and in-service training programs,

Available for purchase or loan through your local Zionist Federation. For more information:

www.doingzionism.org.il/herzl



ZIONIST FEDERATIONS AT A GLANCE



Studying Israel in Argentina

Argentina (President - Manuel Junowicz): Five hundred participants sang, danced and listened to Israeli stories at the Israeli soirée, an event both asserting and celebrating the Argentinean Zionist Organization's commitment to Israel, and its pursuit of peace.

Austria (President – Prof. Josef Grunberger): Two evenings were spent in Vienna, recalling the great achievements of Aliyat Hanoar via the singing of songs of the Zionist youth movements of the 1930's, and the reading of letters and poems written by young people in 1938 - 1939, escapees of the hell of the Shoah.



England (Chair – Estelle Gilston): Israel Expo '03, billed as The Perfect Zionist Event in Every Way, proved to be an impressive manifestation of solidarity with Israel. Almost 10,000 visitors from the United Kingdom contributed to the resounding success of the festivity, which served as a showcase for Israeli artists and products, while also promoting aliyah.



Photo by Barbara Silverstein

Canada (President – Kurt Rothschild): To mark the date the UN voted to partition British Mandate Palestine into Jewish and Arab states (*kaf tet b'November*), the Zionist Leadership Initiative sponsored the first and only Anglo Saxon Golden Exile Diaspora Zionist Party. The highlight of the evening was a creative "wedding ceremony" symbolizing the sacred connection between Diaspora Jews and Israel.

Mexico (President – Moises Mitrani) and **Venezuela** (President – Elias Farache): Dr. Iftach Treguereman, scholar in residence of the Department, lectured in Mexico City and Caracas, sharing his perspectives on Israel and Zionism with the hundreds of individuals who attended his talks.

Denmark (President – Dorrit Norden) Friendship Tour: The Zionist Federation of Denmark together with the Friendship League of Denmark joined forces

to bring a group of Jews and Christians to Israel for an intensive and exciting week of touring and activities to mark the 60th anniversary of the rescue of the Danish Jews.



South African Zionist Federation within one year!

South Africa (Chair – Avrom Krengel): "This is about as good as it gets!" was the verdict of 35 South Africans ranging in age from 22 to 92 years old, who participated in the week-long Israel Now Tour – the third Solidarity Mission organized by the



helped the Zionist Federation in organizing the event, which enjoyed wide support from a variety of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.

Germany (President – Dr. Robert Guttman): The pedestrian area of the Frankfurt shopping district was the site of the information stand set up for hasbara purposes as a counterpoint for a Palestinian happening the same day. Thousands of passers by stopped in to receive explanations and information. The Jewish student union

Switzerland (President – Claude Naville): "Jews from Arab Countries – A Story of Mass Violation of Human Rights" was the subject of a lecture organized by the Zionist Federation in Zurich. The lecture covered many issues connected with the expulsion and stripping of property of 900,000 Jews from Arab countries.



Belgian visitors left 2,000 pounds of clothing that they had collected in Belgium for needy children.

Belgium (President – Francis Weitz): The 200 participants of the Third Annual Solidarity Mission, 100 of whom were from Zionist youth movements, were amazed by how much could be packed into three days! One of the program's many highlights was a visit to the Beit Zipporah School in Kiryat Malachi (for Ethiopia olim), where the

The Department for Zionist Activities enjoys the support and cooperation of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel).

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