

magshimon

The Hagshama Department

The World Zionist Organization

Hundreds of Young Adults Participated in the 34th Zionist Congress

For the first time, following recent changes in the WZO constitution, at least 25% of the delegates to the 34th Zionist Congress (approximately 700) were 18-30 year olds.

During the Congress (June 17-20), Mr. Haim Hayet, was elected as a member of the Zionist Executive for a second term. Mr. Hayet will serve as *Meretz's* Representative to the Executive as well as Head of the *Hagshama* Department.

Haim Hayet addressed the young adults during the *Hagshama* meeting organized by Beto Maya in which over 300 young adults participated. Mr. Hayet said that he was convinced that the young people would rise to the challenge offered by this opportunity, a beginning to the process of rejuvenating and transforming the Zionist Movement.

Mr. Hayet declared that he will continue with the same line of action pursued since the Department's establishment in January 1998 in order to promote Zionist activities for young adults (18-30 years old) and ensure the implementation of 25% representation for young people within the institutions of the Zionist movement. He also expressed his hope that the Zionist

Executive will implement agreements and resolutions relating to young adults and students and expects that appropriate funds will be allocated to the *Hagshama* Department to achieve this purpose.



Haim Hayet (center) at a panel: "The Young Generation and its Involvement in the Zionist Decision-Making Process."

THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG "Making a Difference"

A number of months ago, we brought together a marvelous group of young adults. We discussed issues of importance and concern, and thought of new ideas for projects and activities. The energy generated from the meeting allowed us to overcome fear and passivity which had previously prevented us from acting. We decided to name ourselves "Jewish Youth in Chile." Our group is meant for young adults who believe in Israel and hope to create change.

United, we hold hands, showing the world that we won't be silent any more. We express out-loud what it means to be Jewish. With pride we sing *Hatikva*, with strength we defend Israel, and with joy we show people the beauty of our culture.

We represent every segment of the Jewish community and this variety enriches our work together as a group. Our common goal is to be united as Jews and to work together for Israel, and this enables us to rise above our differences.

We established successful and well-rounded programs, which strengthen the desire of young adults to be committed activists.

"If I were to describe my innermost feelings, I would say that inside of me there is a song that refuses to be silenced and which I sing openly and without fear. We intend to continue moving forward with all of our projects, and above all, we will continue to dream!"

Rene Arriagada Rosenblum
Director of the *Hagshama* Department in Chile

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Hagshama Around the World · Hagshama Arou

USA

Take Back Zionism - New York Regional Seminar

USD/*Hagshama*, in cooperation with *Hamagshimim*, the Consulate General of Israel, the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Youth Movements, brought together 35 student leaders and activists from over ten universities (including Columbia University, New York University, Princeton, Yale) to the NY Regional Seminar, held on October 6th, organized by Regional Director Michael Zargari.

Keynote speaker *Meretz* MK Prof. Naomi Chazan spoke about the future of Zionism and Israel as a democratic state with a Jewish majority. Prof. Gil Troy, author of "Why I am a Zionist", spoke about the history and relevance of Zionism on campus.

Drumming for Peace

The King David Peace Drummers generated a magnetic energy on Bay Area campuses this September! Students of all races, religions and cultures joined in the fun while sending the message of their hope for a peaceful future for Israel, for the Middle East, for the world, and for their own campus. Hundreds of students at SFSU, UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz gathered around to drum, sing and dance. Student leaders of the pro-Israel groups on those campuses said, "This is the best event we've had ... ever."

In October the drummers' circle, pounded their way through Boston. They kicked off their New England tour at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Continuing throughout the week, performances included Tufts University, Northeastern University, UMass-Amherst, Bates College (Maine), Colby College (Maine) and MIT. Rebecca Goldberg, the USD/*Hagshama* Northeast Regional Director coordinated this tour.



300 Jewish students participated in "Teach-In", following the G.A. in Philadelphia (November 2002). The purpose of the "Teach-In" was to relate to Zionism and Israel beyond advocacy and anti-Israel propaganda.

Learning to Combat Hate

Jewish student leaders at universities and colleges in the San Francisco Bay Area are learning about the issue of hate speech on campus and what they can do about it. During October-November, USD/*Hagshama's* Tiffany Brown, and experts from the Anti-Defamation League visited the Bay Area *Hillel's* to speak with Jewish students. They discussed the fine line between hate speech and free speech, what their university's legal obligations are to protect students from a threatening environment on campus, and specific actions they can take to both raise awareness of and encourage the campus community to take a stand against the hostile atmospheres being created at their schools.

Israel Advocacy Conference for the Midwest

100 students from universities across the Midwest participated in the annual Israel Advocacy conference organized by USD/*Hagshama* in partnership with the Israeli Consulate, the JCRC of Chicago and Milwaukee, ADL, and Hillel. The conference focused on enhancing the students' skills in creating effective

pro-Israel activities on their campuses. Noya Adler Abramitzki the Midwest Regional Director of USD/*Hagshama* reports: "We had a very good turnout this year. It seems as though the conference is becoming an event that students respect and look forward to. According to the feedback we got, this year's conference was very successful."

"Do The Write Thing" in Philadelphia



Jewish students of journalism participated in the 13th "Do The Write Thing" conference as part of the G.A. in Philadelphia (November 2002). The conference was sponsored by the the World Zionist Organization (*Hagshama* and *Zionist Activities Departments*) and Jewish Agency for Israel.

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne

Annual Dinner Series

Victoria ran its three part dinner series once again this year, organized by *Hagshama* coordinators, Sara Kowal and Dani Miller. It was met with enthusiastic support from participants. The aim of the dinner series is to look at how local high-profile Jewish role models have incorporated their Jewish identity and Zionist values into their work lives. In this way they serve as role models for our young adult participants. This year's topics included 'Jews and Activism', 'Jews and Success' and 'Jews and the News'. Panelists ranged from judges and entrepreneurs to journalists and writers.

'A Time for Tolerance'

Approximately 110 young adults attended this function held on the anniversary of Rabin's death, to look at what lessons can be learned from the assassination. The evening began with *Netzer Shaliach* Yonatan Sacker speaking on his personal reflections of Rabin, as an Israeli. This was followed by a powerful power-point presentation documenting Rabin's life as well as the wider issues that followed his death. Participants then split up into discussion groups focusing on different aspects of tolerance, and the session ended with the singing of the *Hatikva*.

Shabbat Dinner

Over 100 young adults gathered in June to hear the well known informal educator Steve Israel speak on the topic of 'Why Be A Zionist', during a *Shabbat* Dinner. Steve's talk empowered young adults to support Israel and challenged them to reactivate their Zionism.



Bogrim Seminar

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Hagshama and AUJS co-host Shabbat Dinner

Over one hundred and eighty young adults gathered together in October for a Shabbat Dinner which featured renowned Kabbalist Rabbi Laibl Wolf speaking on the topic "The Courage of Change: Myself, Society, the World". Rabbi Wolf motivated the participants to change not only their personal lives, but through their actions, change the world as well.

Sydney

Zionism and the Contemporary State of Israel

Young adults from the Sydney Jewish community were given a unique opportunity to hear informal educator, Steve Israel, speak on Zionism and the contemporary state of Israel. The second half of the evening was devoted to a question and answer session, during which time audience members were able to discuss their perceptions of modern Zionism and the politics of Israel.

Fundraiser for Magen David Adom in Sydney

250 young adults from Sydney attended a fundraiser supported by the *Hagshama* Department, in August, for *Magen David Adom* (MDA). The event raised approximately \$3,500, at the same time increasing the awareness of the organizations amongst the young adults of Sydney. All the money from this event was dedicated to the purchase of an ambulance in the name of the Sydney community.

AUJS Political Training Seminar in Canberra



Hagshama's NSW Coordinator, Guy Pross, attended the annual AUJS Political Training Seminar which ran between Aug 18 - 21, 2002 in Canberra. Guy presented a talk on the historical context of the Middle East conflict and ran a workshop on dealing with anti-Israel activity on campus.

Israel Advocacy Training Session

60 Jewish young adults and students had the rare opportunity to hear David Olesker, one of Israel's experts on combating media bias and anti-Israel propaganda. Participants attended a seminar followed by a workshop on the subject.

"Australia Through Israeli Eyes"

140 young adults attended *Hagshama's* photography exhibition. The function, held in Paddington, a suburb of Sydney which is well known for its galleries and art, displayed 26 photos of the Israeli photographer Alon Lev, alongside a unique exhibition of young Jewish artists from the local community.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg

Media Bias and Fighting Terrorism

30 youth movement *bogrim* and *Hagshama* activists came out to Johannesburg's Communal Jewish/Zionist Centre to learn about

issues of media bias and fighting terrorism which were especially relevant just before the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The program was run by four young Israeli representatives from the Jewish Agency.

Yitzhak Rabin Memorial for the Jewish Community in Johannesburg

This event, hosted by *Hagshama*, successfully gathered the community, with most of the youth movements and Zionist organizations taking part. The Ambassador of Israel, Tova Herzl, as well as Malcolm Ferguson, Chief Director of the Middle East Desk of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador to Israel at the time of Rabin's death, addressed the audience. The evening ended with the traditional closing of *Hatikvah* - The Hope, a feeling shared by all those present.

SAUJS Hadracha Seminar



Hagshama Coordinators, Dovi Myers (Cape Town) and Terri Edmunds (Johannesburg), attended the SAUJS *Hadracha* Seminar over the weekend of October 4th - 6th. The seminar was designed for the new SAUJS leadership elected into office for the coming year. Dovi and Terri ran an activity for the 30 participants, as a part of *Hagshama's* aim of empowering young leadership in the community. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the leadership for the coming year, providing a framework in which to swap ideas and form contacts, as well as introduce the new leadership to the concept and idea of *Hagshama*.

Cape Town

Hearing the Voice of the Youth

35 young leaders of the youth movements and SAUJS (SA Union of Jewish Students), as well as established community leaders, attended a Cape Town first, having all the organizations together to 'hear their voices' in a forum of an interactive youth conference.

The youth took the platform in the opening session which dealt with the overall perception of Cape Town Jewish youth (18 - 22 year olds). There was consensus between the community leaders and the youth that there needs to be a bigger investment in young adult leadership and that there is also a need for a youth center which can be used to run activities and events. The Union of Jewish Students presented their vision: the need for renewal of Jewish identity and pride among the students.

Media Journalism Evening

In October, freelance journalist Joel Pollak presented material and a discussion on media and the South African newspapers. Using real cases, ideas and methods were offered for being proactive with the media. The evening offered the young adults an opportunity to understand how the different media outlets operate and to discuss their opinions regarding articles recently published in local newspapers, with the aim of getting more people to actively participate in the media battle.

EUROPE



Participants in European Union of Jewish Students, Summer University in Switzerland (August 2002)

HUNGARY

The Union of Jewish Students' Summer Camp

Over 100 young adults participated in the seventh annual UJS traditional 5 day Summer Camp in August. Among the highlights, were Hebrew lessons and lectures about Jewish traditions, culture and political issues. Malka Festinger, from the *Hagshama* Department gave a workshop on "Controversial Issues of Israeli Democracy".

Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Night in Budapest

In October, 50 young adults joined this event, which commenced with a short video-clip on Rabin's life and work. The participants read *Shir Lashalom* which was sang by Rabin a few minutes before he was assassinated. The evening, organized by *Hagshama* coordinator, Linda Lantai, closed with a film about Yitzhak Rabin.

BELGIUM



Israel Connect, European Conference in Brussels

The title of the conference "The Power of One" indicates the aims of the conference which were to provide young adults with information and motivation to be active in advocacy relating to Israel, with each person deciding on their own personal level of activism and commitment. The conference was run entirely by members of the Israel Connect committee, led by Steve Elstein and Michelle Goldman, who did a superb job in planning, organizing and facilitating the October event.

One of the aims of the conference was to encourage the emergence of Israel Connect groups in countries other than the UK.

The representatives of the partner organizations (Alan Aziz from the ZFUK, Frank Stein from the Dept. for Zionist Activities and Linda Futterman from the *Hagshama* Dept.) served in an advisory capacity. Guest speakers were Prof. Eytan Gilboa, Raphael Yerushalmi and Ester Shapira, whose film "Who Shot Mohamed Al Dura" was screened.

LATIN AMERICA

We apologize that the Latin American activities do not appear in English, for lack of space. Please see the Hebrew and Spanish versions.

ISRAEL

Returning to the Community: The Power of One

Almost 50 members of Australian youth movements, in Israel on their *shnat* programs, gathered for a 3 day *Hagshama*/Zionist Federation of Australia seminar in mid-October. The enthusiasm of the group was focused on using their skills together to implement ideas and enact change upon their return to Australia. Educator Steve Israel did a fantastic job encouraging the group to reflect on their future paths both in Australia and Israel. *Hagshama* Coordinator Vered Samuel was responsible for the successful organization of the weekend.

Helping Young Olim

The Information Center for Young Adults which opened in March 2002 in Jerusalem continues in assisting young *olim* in their integration process, by providing answers to the challenges they face regarding rights, jobs, housing and other issues. The Center's coordinator can be reached at 02-563-4584; www.wzo.org.il/en/infocenter. This joint venture is sponsored by the *Hagshama* Department, *Merkaz HaMagshimim-Hadassah*, JAFI's *Aliyah* Department, UJIA, Telfed and AACI.

Birthright Media Flash

As a continuation of the tradition that we began last winter, in July, 25 American young adults came on the "birthright israel" trip. The program, with a focus on media and current events, was run by the *Hagshama* Department in cooperation with JCC *Maccabi*. Mr. Charles Bronfman, a founder of "birthright israel", accompanied the group for a tour of the Seam Line in Jerusalem.

One of the most successful days of the program consisted of program participants meeting with Israeli University Students. At the end of the day both American and Israeli participants were disappointed by the short nature of the visit and expressed the desire that more time will be allotted to meetings such as this in the future.

The trip is a gift from birthright israel.

Conference of World Coordinators

On the occasion of the 34th World Zionist Congress, *Hagshama* coordinators from around the world gathered in Jerusalem. The opportunity for the coordinators to visit Israel was important for two reasons. They were able to meet with young activists who came to the congress and to network with them. It was also important for them to meet with each other in order to exchange ideas, stimulate creativity and plan new initiatives. The coordinators also worked with *Hagshama's* Israel staff, to develop work plans for the coming year.

Leadership Training Seminar (LTS-N)

In keeping with tradition, LTS-N took place this summer with 12 participants from North Latin America, as well as a number of new immigrants who were active in their communities before making *aliyah*. The combination of new immigrants and young leaders in the same group was a new experience for us. The program focused on community projects, activism, young leadership, current events and Israeli society.