



magshimon

The Hagshama Department

The World Zionist Organization

Marking 100 years of Vision and Commitment

In July, we will commemorate 100 years since the death of the creator of political Zionism and visionary of the Zionist Movement, Theodore Herzl. Few are the moments we devote in our hectic lives to reflect on the past, present and future, as Herzl and other great thinkers did, as they envisioned the creation of the State of Israel.

Zionism reflects the history and life of the Jewish people during the 20th century, and constitutes an integral and inseparable part of their identity as individuals and as a nation. Great national ideologies of the world have been created and developed during this fast-paced century...and Zionism is one of the few which has survived and is still alive, vibrant and relevant

after more than a century of existence. Zionism then and now, is and continues to be, the Liberation Movement of the Jewish People: a revolution that renovates the structure of the Jewish people, a revolution led by young people. If we wish this revolution to be permanent and relevant it must continue to direct Jews towards *hagshama*, the realization and concretization of the Zionist ideal: a strong and exemplary society which promotes equality, social justice, solidarity, progressive and democratic values aimed at achieving peace and pluralism.

Andy Faur, Projects Coordinator, *Hagshama* Department

THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG

"I made *aliyah* five months ago. I had been talking about it for about 10 years, and in December I successfully applied for a job in Israel and thought that if there was ever a good time to actually go, this was it. I am lucky in that I have an apartment, job, language, family, friends, university qualifications, work experience and some savings, so I am in a relatively good position to experience a successful *klitah*. The notorious Israeli bureaucracy has not been as bad as I had imagined and been told, and some offices have even been more than helpful. I am incredibly happy and realize that it is only in Israel where I can enjoy a natural and healthy Jewish existence. Will I succeed? Who knows? All I know is that this is the ideal place for all Jews to live."

Ilan Bloch, former *Hagshama* Coordinator in Melbourne, Australia

To be an *oleh* is a unique experience. To make *aliyah* involves balancing an ideological component as well as a great amount of pragmatism. Following this trend, we realize that pragmatism is as important as ideology. Israel receives us with open arms and we get to know new people from all over the world, very special people. The common ground is the feeling that the country we live in is ours. The jobs and things we enjoy may be similar to those we had abroad, but here we are conscious that we are shaping our country...

Dany Bahar, former *Hagshama* Coordinator, Venezuela

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HUNGARY AND CROATIA

(Coordinator: Linda Lantai)

Passover Seder with Hungarian Jewish Youth - On the second day of Passover, 150 Jewish young adults celebrated the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, in the fourth annual Seder for young adults in Budapest, led by Rabbi Tamas Vero who read the *Haggadah* with the assistance of the participants. The event was sponsored by the *Hagshama* Department, JAFI and the Joint D.C.



Seminar in Zagreb, Croatia, March 2004

"Behind The Truth... All About Israel" – Fifty young adults from Israel, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Hungary participated in a Central-East European seminar on March 26-28 in Zagreb, Croatia. Neil Lazarus, guest speaker from Israel, lectured on a variety of topics, including the political history of modern Israel, Jewish identity, Israel today, and rules of effective Israel activism. The seminar was supported by the *Hagshama* Department, the Hungarian Zionist Federation and JAFI.

Israel in the Media - Around 35 young people who were unable to participate in the Zagreb Seminar attended an intensive mini-seminar, on *hasbara* issues, facilitated by Neil Lazarus, at a Jewish youth club in Budapest. Mr. Lazarus showed how Israel is portrayed in the Media, and how young people can change this picture.

FRANCE

(Coordinator: Ilai Rowner)

Radio "SABABA", Judaism FM – A group of Jewish young adults meets once a week at a local radio station in Paris, for two hours, late into the night. The meetings are informal, full of humor and in good spirit. They broadcast modern Israeli music ("*Dag Nahash*", "*Durbanim*") and hold discussions about current events within the Jewish community, in a creative way. *Hagshama* has joined the program in sections relating to young adults in Israel such as: "Guide to the Young *Oleh*", "*Ulpan Ivrit*" and "Finding an Israeli Soul-Mate".

SPAIN

Young Activism – Dr. Sharona Fredericko visited Madrid in April to continue promoting and developing student activism as part of *Hagshama's* work. A group of Jewish young adults participated in a series of activities organized by *Hagshama* and the JUE (University Students from Spain) at the Complutense University, which included lectures on Zionism, Judaism and Islam. Dr. Fredericko lectured on the subject of Anti-Semitism in Europe to the Jewish Community in Madrid and was also interviewed on radio and television.

SOUTH AFRICA

Capetown

(Coordinator: Lihi Vanderveken)

Peace Making in Divided Societies - On March 31st, twenty young adults gathered to listen to Prof. Heribert Adam, author of numerous books and an internationally renowned speaker and commentator. He has delivered solid commentary on the politics of Apartheid and change in South Africa and has written quite a few articles analyzing the analogy between Israel and SA. His lecture ended with a lengthy and deep debate with the participants who were eager to hear more about the topic and to explore other issues regarding the situation in the Middle East.



Dinner with Belinda Silbert, Capetown

Jewish Medium in Cape Town - On March 26th, thirty young adults joined *Hagshama* for a festive *Shabbat* dinner with well-known psychic and clairvoyant, Belinda Silbert. Belinda, who is known for her regular appearances on television and radio, discussed what it means to her to be a Jewish medium. Her vast knowledge of *Kabala* and her logical explanations about encountering and working together with "the other world," made for a fascinating evening. *Hagshama* certainly managed to create a healthy debate around the subject of myth and mysticism.

Johannesburg



Café Ivrit Johannesburg, May 2004

Yom Ha'atzmaut Barbeque – Thirty young Jewish adults got together to celebrate Israel's 56 years of historic independence. The celebration took the form of a traditional South African braai on April 27th. Israeli music and great social interaction combined to create a wonderful day. It also served as a farewell for Anthony Marcow, who has been the Johannesburg coordinator since March 2003. *Hagshama's* programming structure will now be performed as a volunteer-driven model under the guidance and direction of Uzi Shimon, Betar and student *shaliach* in Johannesburg.

und the World . Hagshama Around the World

A Jewish State, or a State for Jews? - *Hagshama* and the *Aliyah* Department joined forces to host Anthony Kaplan, an ex - South African *oleh*, on March 27th. Kaplan, a specialist in sports physiotherapy and the Director of the Jerusalem Physiotherapy Institute, involved his audience of 43 people, many of whom were physiotherapists, in a discussion on "Aliyah to a Jewish State, or to a State for Jews?" Also present was Colin Abrahams, who made *aliyah* a year ago. He took questions and spoke about how living in Israel was the only right choice to make.

The idea behind the *Seder* was the belief that one day the Holocaust will be remembered in a way that the exodus from Egypt is remembered today - through an ordered ceremony. The overwhelming response was in favor of instituting the *Seder* as an annual event.

Hagshama thanks Anthony Marcow (Johannesburg) and Ariel Jankelson (Sydney) for being wonderful, dedicated coordinators and regrets closing these two offices following budget cuts.

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE

(Coordinator: Assaf Liberant)

Monkey Business in Israel, an Insider's Perspective - After the holidays, there's nothing like starting the year with fresh support for Israel. "March to Israel" is our way of demonstrating our strong relationship to Israel by bringing young adults the hottest topics, presented by some of the finest speakers. Anat Hoffman was our first speaker delivering a talk on just social action within a pluralistic environment, at a meeting which took place on February 29th. After serving for 14 years as a Jerusalem City Councilwoman, Anat Hoffman is currently the Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center.

Treading the Soil - Trading the Soul - On March 19th, ninety Jewish young adults from *Hagshama* and JNF Environmental gathered for a *Shabbat* Dinner with Guest Speaker Colonel (ret.) Moshe Zarka who gave an Israel update relating especially to the social and environmental implications apparent in dividing the land of Israel.

My Story - In this third "March to Israel" event, *Hagshama* presented a touching story from a victim of terror. Young UIA Guest Speaker Gila Weiss made *Aliyah* to Israel in July, 2001 and was injured in the *Machane Yehuda* bombing on April 12th 2002. She was hospitalized for two weeks with injuries to her eyes, jaw, and ears, and shrapnel wounds to virtually her entire body. Since then, Gila has made a fantastic recovery and shared her story on how she returned to work and has a perfectly normal life.



Seder I'Shoah

Seder I'Shoah (Holocaust Seder) - As the generation of the Holocaust dies out, it is becoming the responsibility of the third generation to find meaningful ways through which the Holocaust can be commemorated.

On April 22nd, *Hagshama* and AUJS (Australian Union of Jewish Students) hosted 60 young adults at a *Seder I'Shoah*.

USA

USD/HAGSHAMA team: Shachar Yanai, *Shaliach*, National Director, Shira Landau, Naomi Hirshman (New York), Lili Aram (Northeast), Noya Adler-Abramitzky (Midwest), Roni Ben-David (Northwest), Timna Mizrachi (Atlanta), Iris Ashkenazi (Canada).



Celebrating Israel's Independence Day

Studio 56th Celebrates Israel's Independence Day - Five hundred and fifty Jewish students in the New England Area celebrated Israel's Independence Day on April 22nd, at a *Yom Ha'atzmaut* party in Boston, organized by TRIBE, the Regional Israel Boston Element. Studio 56th took place at a hot, trendy club in Boston, with an Israeli student D.J. spinning Israel music throughout the night and students commentating on an incredible fashion show which included students' Israel inspired designs. Proceeds from the night went to AKIM Israel. The event was co-sponsored by USD/*Hagshama*, the Consulate General of Israel, and the Israel *Aliyah* Center.

Israel's Environment at Stanford University - Israel was born of the Zionist dream to reconnect the Jewish people to the land of Israel. How have these dreams been played out in more than 50 years of sovereignty and what is the current reality? Stanford students heard some answers to these questions on April 27th, at a program on the Environment in Israel -- part of Stanford's annual Israel Pride Week. The event was facilitated by Shanna Pittman, North American Director of the Jewish Global Environmental Network, and Dr. Marc Feldman, a Stanford professor who also spoke about "Bridging the Rift" -- a Jordanian-Israeli Dead Sea Research Center.

Tkuma, a Zionist Conference for Russian Speaking Students -- A hundred Russian speaking Jewish students from across the US met in Bethesda, MD, for a conference on Zionism and Holocaust Remembrance, initiated by JAFI

shaliach Ronnie Vinnikov and USD/*Hagshama* (WZO). "It is extremely important to build a strong group of dedicated Russian speaking students with a strong social bond, to build future leadership in the Zionist campus community at large." said Shachar Yanai, USD/*Hagshama* representative.



Tkuma Conference

FeminIsrael Month - March marked the launch of FeminIsrael a joint initiative of USD/*Hagshama* and the Israeli Consulate's Cultural Affairs Department. The initiative stemmed out of the understanding that Women's History Month, held annually in March throughout the United States and popularly known as Herstory Month, has had a growing popularity on College campuses.

USD/*Hagshama* in keeping with their mission to bring a wide and diverse spectrum of Israeli voices to campus coordinated the visits of Israeli women artists, professors, directors and peace activists to college campuses across the US. These included actress, Meital Dohan who discussed her film *God's Sandbox*; Helen Gottsetein, spoke at Binghamton University on the subject of dialogue groups between Israelis and Palestinians and women's various roles in these rewarding and often frustrating situations; Brown University hosted Judy Feierstein, an Israeli women's rights activist; students watched the award winning documentary "Number 17" at the University of Georgia. After the screening, the film's critically acclaimed producer Elinor Kowarsky fielded questions from the audience about the *matzav* in Israel and the role of women in the field of production.

The Creative Zionist Circle, a Meeting of Eclectic Minds - Twenty plus students and young professionals have held three sessions in the Creative Zionist Circle to discuss the meaning of Zionism, its relevancy to their daily lives and their own personal relationships with Israel and the Jewish people. The forum has rapidly gained popularity among students and young professionals in New York. Between meetings an interesting discussion on Zionist ideology has developed through the Creative Zionist Circle website www.onzion.org.

Student Israel Task Force - In an effort to build and connect to student leadership at Atlanta-area campuses, USD/*Hagshama* and the Israeli Consulate called a meeting of student leaders from pro-Israel and Jewish groups on campus. The meeting addressed the two big obstacles facing the Southeast, specifically that students are not connected to organizations that work on campuses and that they feel isolated when dealing with challenges on their campuses.

Culture Fair at Emory University - Over 80 countries displayed their culture to a mixed crowd of students, faculty and local residents during Emory's International Culture Fair. The Israeli culture table was one of the most frequented, offering food, music, a photo display, opportunities to travel to Israel and information about Israeli culture.

Israel's Independence Celebrated at Georgia Institute of Technology - Some 600 students celebrated Israel's independence with music, interactive activities, food, educational and travel opportunities. Israelfest, initiated by Orit Sklar, a freshman student who participated in USD/*Hagshama*'s Young Zionist Leadership Miami Conference, was the first event of its kind at the Tech. The event, a spectacular success, was sponsored by USD/*Hagshama*, International Hillel's Avi Chai Grants and Georgia Tech's Jewish Student Union.

ISRAEL

The Leaders of the Future - *Hagshama* together with the Zionist Federation of Australia, have held the first two sessions of an optional Leadership Training Program for Australian and New Zealand Shnat Hachshara participants from *Hineni*, *Habonim*, *Netzer* and *Betar*.

A third session and a weekend are scheduled to take place in the next few months. Each meeting will concentrate on a Jewish leader, looking at their traits, strengths and weaknesses; sessions on the Australian and NZ Jewish communities and their structures; and personal thoughts on leadership. The leadership sessions are facilitated by educator Steve Israel.

Unity Through Diversity, "birthright israel tour" OZ/NZ



Over 100 Australian and New Zealand youth movement participants started their *Shnat Hachshara* in a unique way, in a "birthright israel tour" - *Taglit* program. The 10 days served as an introductory seminar for the participants and provided the group with an opportunity for *gibush* before splitting into their different youth movements and programs. Participants were from *Betar*, *Habonim Dror*, *Hashomer Hatzair*, *Hineni* and *Netzer*. The program was organized by the *Hagshama* Department (represented by Vered Samuel), the Zionist Federation of Australia (represented by Frank Stein) and AZYC (Australian Zionist Youth Council (represented by Chairperson Arik Cogan). This trip was a gift from birthright israel.

Many thanks to Lisa Richlen and Vered Samuel, who have left *Hagshama* and welcome to Ilan Bloch who has joined our Israel staff.