

# MAGSHIMON 23

## Passover – The Celebration of Freedom!

Passover is one of the Jewish people's great contributions to the world. It symbolizes liberty, rebellion against slavery, and the right of all human beings to be free from oppression and occupation. We acknowledge the legitimacy of those fighting for lofty principles, such as freedom, liberty and justice. But at the same time, we must recognize that illegitimate actions, even when they are "a force of reality," can never be tolerated, forgotten or forgiven!

What did the journey through the desert aim to achieve? A transition from a society of slaves fighting for their liberty to a society of free individuals, united around the Ten Commandments – a set of universal, God-given social principles, based on spiritual values rather than on the material values of the "golden calf."

We must remember, every year, that "once we were slaves," and recite these words over and over again.

The Zionist Movement is the movement of national liberation for the Jewish people which established the independent State of Israel, and still has a role to play. Our mission will not be completed, as long as there are individuals among us who delay our chances of being "a free people in our own land" – for a nation which occupies another nation can never be free. Our mission is not complete as long as we continue to move, in gigantic steps, away from Herzl's Zionist vision of an exemplary society based on social justice rather than charity, and continue to bow to the "golden calf" of privatization, socio-economic inequality, and insensitivity to human suffering.

Our mission will not be completed as long as we forget that once we were slaves, and allow phenomena like trade in women and exploitation of foreign workers to flourish in our independent state.

Our mission will not be completed as long as we continue to trample Jewish, Zionist and universal values that are written in our Declaration of Independence.

Our mission is to **realize** the Zionist social ideal, and we must also take responsibility for the character of the Jewish State, the Jewish people and the Zionist movement.  
Happy Passover !

**Haim Hayet**  
Head of the *Hagshama* Department

## The Voice of the Young

“He who only knows about medicine, even about medicine he knows nothing.” This proverb, which I heard so many times in the faculty corridors, I now understand is true.

Today I am the coordinator of *Hagshama* in Venezuela and I work as a general practitioner in a Caracas neighborhood, so it can be said that I divide my life between Zionist activism and local social work. When I am asked what is more important, my answer is that both go hand in hand. There are many reasons for this. By citing the above-mentioned proverb, medicine cannot be limited to the study of science leaving aside social aspects and professional identity. This means that the physician treats human beings with both their joys and suffering, something that encompasses not only health and illness but much more that I am able to feel in my daily contact with members of the rural sector who seek assistance in our outpatient clinic. The rest of my time I dedicate to continuing to strengthen my Jewish identity and that of my community members, through Zionist work. *Hagshama* offers me this opportunity, since it allows me to depart from my daily medical practice and dedicate myself to work in what I believe and feel, as a Jew.

In short, I would not be able to fully engage in my professional activities among the poor in my outpatient clinic without being able to also strengthen my Zionist identity for some hours during the day. And if some of those things were to be missing, I would lose my sense of balance and that which the phrase above so aptly describes would happen.

**Samuel Moscovici Kizer**  
*Hagshama* Coordinator, Venezuela

**Please note: the text is different in the Hebrew, English and Spanish versions.**

### Information Center for Young Adults

*Merkaz Meida* for ages 19-34 is designed to provide information for immigrants, tourists, students, temporary residents and young adults interested in participating in educational, cultural and social programs in Israel or in making *aliyah*. E-mail: [meida@themerkaz.org.il](mailto:meida@themerkaz.org.il).  
Website: [www.TheMerkaz.org](http://www.TheMerkaz.org).

## Hagshama Activities in Brief

### USA

**USD/Hagshama team:** Ofer Gutman, *Hagshama* Representative, Emily Sigalow and Nomi Hirshman (New York), Lili Aram (Northeast), Anna Polishchuk (Midwest), Roni Ben-David (Northwest), Timna Zaray-Mizrachi (Southeast), Orna Hollander (Canada).

### Sharing Environmental Zionism with Students in California

"How did Zionism launch Israel into its present environmental crisis and how can it be saved"? Dr. Alon Tal, founder of the *Arava* Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel, addressed these questions and others during his four-campus visit in the San Francisco Bay Area, coordinated by USD/*Hagshama*'s Northwest Regional Director. Dr. Tal spoke to audiences at Stanford University, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, and University of San Francisco during a 3-day visit, March 1-3, 2005. In particular, he highlighted the incredible connections that Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian students make while studying together at the *Arava* Institute in the Negev.

### FeminIsrael in the Bay Area

Israeli Film Producer, Amit Breuer, toured San Francisco Bay Area campuses as one of the women artists featured in this year's *FeminIsrael* tour, sponsored by USD/*Hagshama* and the Israel Consulate. Breuer's experience and documentaries epitomize the essence – an in-depth look at the accomplishments of women artists in Israel today, as feminists and committed citizens. Amit addressed the question of how the rights of women are compromised in Israel today because of the presence of strict *halacha* laws in official state affairs. She sparked an exciting discussion on five campuses, including Stanford University, Sonoma State University UC Berkeley, Foothill College, and Golden Gate University Law School.



### Idan Raichel Project Unites Campus Groups In California

The energy in the auditorium was electric as Jewish and Black students danced to the music of the Idan Raichel Project, a popular Ethiopian Israeli band. They performed to huge crowds on February 10th, 14th and 15th at University of California at Santa Cruz and at Davis, as well as at Stanford University. At Davis, students were thrilled to use the concert to raise money for Sudanese relief efforts. "It is perfect that this concert is taking place in this (Black Heritage) month of dignity and respect, on this (Valentine's) day of love, and at this moment in time," declared UC Davis freshman, Ma'ayan Ravid. The concert was sponsored in part by USD/*Hagshama*.

### Hasbara on Campus

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, **Professor Alan Dershowitz**, one of the leading American political advocates for Israel and Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, spoke at New York University and Columbia University. The David Project in partnership with the NY Roundtable, including USD/*Hagshama*, the ADL (Anti Defamation League), and *Hillel* invited Professor Dershowitz to speak about the fine line and distinction between anti-Israel sentiment/anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. His speech was prompted by the assertions that Columbia professors have stymied students' academic freedom and shown insufficient academic integrity in teaching about the Middle East. Professor Dershowitz gathered a crowd of three hundred students at Columbia and nearly two hundred at New York University.

### Israel Education and Advocacy Conference

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, USD/*Hagshama* in partnership with the *Hasbara* Fellowships, the David Project, and CUNY *Hillel*, inaugurated the CUNY (City University of New York) Israel Education and Advocacy Conference, which was held at Hunter College. Over fifty students from the CUNY schools, including Brooklyn College, Hunter College, Baruch College, Pace University, John Jay, and Queens College, attended the full-day conference. Among the speakers was **Professor Ilan Troen**, the Lopin Professor of Modern History and Chairman at Ben-Gurion University and currently the Stoll Family Chair in Israel Studies, Brandeis University, who spoke about Zionism and Israel from Herzl to the present.

The students walked away from the conference with a much broader and deeper understanding of Israeli history from its inception to today, as well as the tools to advocate effectively and knowledgeably for Israel on campus.

### Israel Is Our Big Family

The second annual Russian *Shabbaton*, held in February, aimed at helping participants to deal with questions of identity. Forty five students and young adults – 38 of them birthright alumni – gathered at the Indiana Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Ill., for the second annual weekend of workshops, lectures and conversations about being a Russian Jew in the United States. The seminar was sponsored by *Hillels* Around Chicago, Chicago birthright Israel Alumni Committee, JAFI's Israel Program Center, USD *Hagshama* of the World Zionist Organization, and the JUF/JCRC/*Hillel* Israel Initiative.

"I think we raised many questions we are often afraid to ask and had insightful high-level discussions," said **Anna Polishchuk**, USD/*Hagshama* Midwest Regional Director. "I think events such as the *Shabbaton* are imperative to motivating the young Russian Jewish population into involvement. But possibly more importantly, they help us discover who we are, what we want for ourselves as a people and what our values are as individuals".

### Festive Tu B'Shvat Seder



On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, USD/Hagshama co-sponsored a *Tu B'Shvat Seder* at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst along with the Israel *Aliyah Center*, *Hamagshimim*, the Student Alliance for Israel at U Mass, and the U Mass Amherst *Hillel*. The *Tu B'Shvat Seder* was geared towards Birthright Alumni who had just returned from their winter birthright Israel trip from U Mass Amherst and the five surrounding schools. While they were on birthright, the participants planted trees, and the leader of the trip, prepared them for a *Tu B'Shvat Seder*, by discussing the essence of *Tu B'Shvat* with them, and exploring different aspects of nature in Israel. The turnout for the evening was great with about fifty students reuniting and exchanging photos, while catching up on their experiences since their trip together. Students got a chance to share their first Israel experiences, and became familiar with resourceful organizations like USD/Hagshama which offer to assist them to get back to Israel, or to be involved on their campus.

### “Doing Zionism” In Miami



Over the weekend of January 28-30, 2005, one hundred and twenty of North America's Zionist student leaders, from over 50 campuses, converged in Miami Beach to embark on a new course of Israel campus activism.

With “Zionism in Action” as the theme, USD/Hagshama's annual Young Zionist Leadership Conference (YZL) emphasized both a knowledge and awareness of Jewish ideological heritage and familiarity with modern Israeli society. Furthermore the conference, true to its theme, provided a tangible framework in which students could envision themselves individually affecting positive change for Israel and the Jewish people. “We want to give students the tools to channel their personal interests and values into their passion for Israel” says **Roni Ben-David**, Director of the West Coast regional office. “USD/Hagshama has once again broken the mold of Israel campus activism and this year's YZL conference has served as an inspiration to those students seeking to add a new dimension to their activities.”

Among the speakers was **Haim Hayet**, head of the *Hagshama* Department, who traveled from Jerusalem to be the inaugural speaker of the weekend conference. Distinguished speakers over the course of the weekend included **Moddy Bar-On**, a TV celebrity who produced a popular television series on Zionism and TV specials on Israeli humor, **Donna Rosenthal**, author of the book “The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land” and **Aviva Raz-Schechter** of the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. USD/Hagshama strives to empower students to define their own Zionist vision and action.



A unique addition to YZL was its “*Aliyah Track*” which allowed students considering a future in Israel opportunities to discuss their questions, ideas, hopes, dreams and fears with professionals from the *Aliyah Center* and the *Israel Program Center*.

YZL was organized by *USD/Hagshama* and co-sponsored by the *Israel Program Center*, the *Education Department of the Jewish Agency*, *Hadassah’s Hamagshimim Movement*, the *12th House* and the *Office of Academic Affairs of the Israeli Embassy* and supported by *JNF*.

### **USD/Hagshama and the Israel *Aliyah Center*- Partnership of Excellence**

The goals of *Hagshama* and *Aliyah* correlate with each other and they ultimately complement one another. *USD/Hagshama* Regional Directors share a good working relationship with the *Aliyah Shaliach/Shlichah* co-sponsoring events and supporting each other, and in some cases - sharing office space. *USD/Hagshama’s* goal of creating and cultivating a personal relationship between students on campus and Israel, via cultural and educational programs and conferences as well as promoting programs to Israel, coincides with the goals of *JAFI’s Aliyah Department*. There are often instances of students experiencing Israel in earlier stages through *Hagshama* programming, and ultimately fulfilling their Zionism by making *Aliyah*.

### **Second Annual birthright israel trip (*Taglit*) Southern Alumni Reunion**

Over one hundred graduates and young professionals from all over the Southeast United States descended upon Atlanta for the Second Annual birthright israel Southern Alumni Reunion. The weekend included workshops on Israel, community involvement and the history of Southern Jewry, and of course social programming. Post-birthright israel engagement has been a major concern for Jewish communities all over the US since its inception in 1998. Cooperation between *USD/Hagshama* Southeastern office and the Birthright Alumni Associates has been close and *USD/Hagshama* Southeast Regional Director, **Timna Zaray-Mizrahi**, was involved in highlighting Israel engagement at the conference.

### **Project *Otzma* Alumni Reunite in San Francisco**

For the first time in several years, alumni of Project *Otzma* gathered in San Francisco to meet one another, reminisce, and discuss ways to recruit future participants for the 10-month volunteer program in Israel. The reunion was organized by *USD/Hagshama’s* Northwest Regional Director, **Roni Ben-David**.

## CANADA

### Israeli Film Night a Sell Out in Toronto

On January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 the trendy downtown Bloor Cinema in Toronto may have been mistaken for a theater house in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. **Avi Neshet's** film "Turn Left at the End of the World" brought out over 850 Torontonians. The atmosphere in the theatre was one of excitement as everyone really felt that they were getting a little reminder of what it is like to be in Israel. The screening was arranged as a part of Toronto's Israelfest, the festival in which the Toronto university campuses endeavour to bring as much of Israel as possible to the student community. The film was brought to the downtown trendy cinema by USD/Hagshama in partnership with the Zionist Youth movements of Young *Judaea*, *Betar-Tagar*, NIFTY, *B'nai Akiva*, *Habonim Dror* and *Hashomer Hatzair*.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Johannesburg

#### Hagshama Does Movies Israel Style

On February 6th, *Hagshama* volunteers organized a *Cafe Ivrit* session in which participants watched an Israeli movie, "*Lalechet al Hama'im*" (Walking On Water") at the *Beyachad* building. The group was welcomed by a beautiful reception with Israeli food and the movie was enjoyed by all, many of whom were new to *Hagshama*. *Café Ivrit*, run by *Betar Shaliach* **Uzi Shimoni** plans on having many more Israeli movie nights and participants are also looking forward to the various trips to Israel which are currently being planned.

### Cape Town

#### Hagshama Volunteers Attend Core Essence Workshop

A member of the local Jewish community and a business strategist, **Dorian Glass**, offered the *Hagshama* Cape Town Volunteers Committee a workshop on the deeper core essence of *Hagshama* and the role it plays in the local community. As *Hagshama* is still a young organization in Cape Town, it became clear that it had not visibly established its identity. The CT *Hagshama* team of 12 volunteers voiced their dilemmas as to the objectives they wished to attain. The workshop which aimed to clearly define the role of *Hagshama* within the context of the Jewish community, was organized by *Hagshama's* new coordinator in Cape Town, **Carlo Valentini**.

## AUSTRALIA

### Melbourne

The *Hagshama* Department welcomes new coordinator **Yaron Daffan**

#### Hebrew Cafe - Alive and Kicking!

Hebrew Cafe is, without a doubt, one of the most successful on-going activities held by *Hagshama* during its presence in Australia. With almost a year on the run, Hebrew Café has successfully achieved its aim to enhance participants' Hebrew conversation skills. "This can be in preparation for Israeli holidays, short and long-term programs, *Aliyah*, and even simply for the fun of improving one's levels of conversational Hebrew" says **Assaf Liberant** – *Hagshama's* previous Victorian Coordinator. Hebrew Café is sponsored by *Hagshama* and the *Aliyah* Department.

#### Turn Left at the End of the World!

With a title that may well refer to Australia's geographical location; the Israeli film 'Turn Left at the End of the World' integrates several issues relating to the *aliyah* experience and integration process of new immigrants into Israeli society, some forty years ago. There are numerous subplots in this charming film, but the unifying story is the strong bond of friendship that Sarah and Nicole forge for each other—despite the differences in their backgrounds. The event in Melbourne was well attended with over 40 *Hagshama* participants who enjoyed the film over cold and hot drinks, popcorn and chocolates for the occasion!

#### MIR - Absolute Re-launch!

MIR - a Russian-Jewish young adult organization that was created by *Hagshama* participants, reinitiated its operations in Melbourne after a year long break. With over 60 young adults attending MIR's "Absolute Re-launch" Party, the evening included a large venue (The Armadale Hotel), and a Russian band - Odyssey and DJ all night. The new MIR committee includes many students and young professionals and provides a forum for young Russian Jews to meet for social and educational events. MIR also aims to provide a link between the young Russian Jews and the broader Australian Jewish community. The MIR project is supported by the *Hagshama* Department.

## HUNGARY

### Israel and World Jewry: The Meaning of Interdependence

On March 6th, **Amir Oren**, a columnist and member of the Editorial Board for *Ha'aretz*, one of Israel's daily newspapers, lectured to 40 young adults at the *Kidma* and *Hashomer Hatzair* club in Budapest. The lecture and discussion which followed, were held after the weekend seminar on *Hasbara* which was organized by the *Hagshama* Department in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Hungarian Zionist Federation. The members of the *Ofakim* group, the leadership project team of the Zionist Federation were invited, as were young adults and Hungarian and Israeli students.

### Hasbara Seminar for Young Adults

Over the weekend of March 3-6, thirty-five young people came together for a high-level weekend *Hasbara* seminar, organized by the *Hagshama* Department, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Hungarian Zionist Federation. In addition to the Hungarian hosts, participants arrived from other countries in the Central-East European region including Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania and Slovakia. On the first day the participants from abroad had the chance to learn more about the Jewish Community in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. The group visited the Holocaust Memorial Center which opened last year, and later that evening the students participated in a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter. Following welcoming words by **Tova Pinto**, Director of JAFI in the region and **Linda Lantai**, Coordinator of the *Hagshama* Department in Hungary, guest speaker **Amir Oren** lectured on a variety of topics, all dealing with the main purpose of the seminar, *Hasbara*.

### Tu BiShvat Seder with Humor and Fruits

On January 24<sup>th</sup> around 30 young adults gathered for a *Tu BiShvat Seder*, organized not only with lot of fruits, but with humor as well. *Tu BiShvat*, usually signifies the beginning of spring, flowering and the planting of trees. The Seder evening was organized by the *Hagshama Department* in cooperation with the *Kidma* group, with fruits and nuts in the club of the student organization. **Andras Szoke**, Hungarian stand-up comedian, electrified the atmosphere until the late hours of the night.

## FRANCE

(Coordinator: Ilai Rowner)

### Cafe-Theatre,

The *Hagshama* Department initiated a new project in the beginning of February. A group of young actors started to work with director **Zohar Veksler** in order to commence café-theatre evenings for young adults in the Jewish community in Paris. The aim of the project is to set up a lively, young and artistic atmosphere in the community, a place where young adults can express themselves and create an alternative venue for their peers.

The project was established as a result of a need to talk about the current issues regarding the realities between France and Israel, while using art, theatre and music. The project is unique in its originality and can become a new and meaningful focus of communal life where young people can meet, think, laugh and perceive their world in a different light.

### Just Before Aliyah!

In the framework of the close relationship between the *Hagshama* Department and the Student Division of JAFI's *Aliyah* Department in France, representatives of the departments thought it would be a great idea to broaden the preparations for students who plan to make *aliyah* by dealing with issues which are over and above the formal requirements.

Within this framework, a social and cultural picture of Israel will be presented to students on the verge of *aliyah*. This project will enable them to adapt themselves in a much easier way to the new environment, providing them with actual tools to ensure a successful absorption into Israeli society. During the first meeting which took place at the beginning of January, students dealt with different Israeli issues such as: the press, TV, literature, politics and the unique structure of Israeli society. At the end of the meeting, the *shlichim* spoke about their personal Israel experience and wished the new *olim* success in their journey.

### "Tachles" Broadens Its Activities

The "*Tachles*" group was formed at the end of 2004, as a reaction to the socio-political tension in France which was geared toward the French Jewish community, "representatives" of Israel's policy. "*Tachles*" dares to think in an innovative way, expresses opinions and broadens the one-dimensional discussion in France. In the first formal meeting which took place at the beginning of February, about 40 young adults in their twenties gathered to learn more about the Palestinian Authority. A movie describing the Palestinian terror organizations, which was not screened in the French media, was shown to the participants. In addition, the group tried to deepen their knowledge about the new Palestinian leader, Abu Mazen. This led to a comprehensive

presentation of the long conflict and the rifts that exist between the two peoples, followed by a simulation of peace talks.

At the end of the event, the spokesperson of the Israeli Embassy in France, **Mr. Barnea Hasid**, outlined the political situation since the beginning of the second *intifada*, the difficulties in the relationship between the formal Israeli representatives and the French media and the political connections between Israel and France. This event is part of a series of gatherings which are scheduled to take place once a month throughout the year.

## ARGENTINA

### Israel Update

In February, **Lior Ben Dor** and young participants in the *Peilei Hasbara* program held a meeting, organized by the *Hagshama* Department and Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lior Ben Dor, who holds the position of Sub-Director of the Contact Area with Arab Press in Israel, emphasized the importance of contacts with the Arab world through both television and radio, or by Internet through the Arabic web site that the Foreign Ministry has built for this purpose. Other participants at the event included the Second Secretary at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, the Press Attache and Speaker, **Lior Haiat**, and **Sabrina Mauas**, Press Attache at the Israeli Embassy.

## CHILE

### Jewish Educational Tourism

Students who graduate from the Jewish Tour Guides Course in Chile, organized by the *Hagshama* Department, under the responsibility of the new director, **Mauricio Rosemberg Paz** and the Santiago Jewish Community, are at times hired by travel agencies in order to guide and show the past and present of the Jewish Community in Chile. The first course for Jewish Educational Tour Guides took place from August through December 2004, and trained a group of 12 people to work as guides in the Shalom Valparaíso! and Shalom Santiago! routes . Professionals were responsible for the training, including the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Chile, **Ana María Tapia** and the Director of the Jewish Museum in Valparaíso, **Jorge Zúñiga**. New courses are about to be opened, to promote interest both among guides and tourists in the life of our forefathers, their beginnings in this country and the founding of the first Jewish communities in Chile.

## URUGUAY

### *Garin Aliyah 2005*

JAFI's *Aliyah* Department and the *Hagshama* Department have begun to develop a "process of *aliyah*", which will work on all the issues relevant to a young person's decision to make *aliyah* and help people realize this highest Zionist aspiration. The Department is working together with the leaders of the movements in order to promote this very important project within the framework of our Zionist objectives and in the lives of our young adults.

## BRAZIL

### *Journalism and Tzedakah*

*Hagshama* and the *Noar* Group held a meeting in February attended by 90 youths with Luciano Huck, the successful moderator of Globo Network TV program. Luciano spoke about Jewish education and how it affected his journalistic career. He also spoke about the importance of *tzedakah* in our lives. **Gabriel Trachtenberg** presented the objectives and goals of *Hagshama* in Rio de Janeiro.

## MEXICO

### *Ethics and Leadership*

On February 20, **Edi Lazar** gave two lectures to young university students and youth movement graduates about "Youth and Community Leadership" and "Ethics and Judaism." Edi Lazar held a meeting with young adults from *Acharai*, Jewish Sports Center, and graduates of *Hashomer Hatzair* and *Hanoar Hatzioni*, in which they discussed the importance of carrying out innovative activities and facing up to current challenges and interests.

## VENEZUELA

### *Head of the Hagshama department visits Venezuela*

**Haim Hayet**, Head of the *Hagshama* Department visited Caracas between February 1 and 4, with three main objectives: encouraging Zionist awareness, creation of a young Jewish Zionist leadership and strengthening *aliyah*. On arrival, he was welcomed by **Samuel Moscovici Kizer** (Director of the *Hagshama* Department in Venezuela) and by **Daniel Slimak**, president of CAIV

and its board of directors. Haim Hayet also met with Ambassador **Shlomo Cohen** and representatives of the diplomatic corps as well as with **Elias Farache**, President of the Zionist Federation, **Ilan Architecter**, the *aliyah shaliach* and various heads of community institutions. Mr. Hayet also met with young volunteers of the *Hagshama* Department, who are now working in the 3rd *Hasbarah* School. His visit strengthened the ties between *Hagshama*, youth and the Venezuela Jewish Community.

## ISRAEL

### Leadership Training Seminar

Thirty young adults from Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba participated in the annual Leadership Training Seminar (LTS), organized by the *Hagshama* Department. The program was held between December 23rd, 2004 and January 7th, 2005, with a focus on Israel's large cities: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The young adults participated in a variety of activities including lectures and workshops on young leadership topics, Zionism and anti-Semitism. They also participated in the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) World Congress which took place in Haifa, as well as in the Global Israel Showcase, a fair organized by JAFI, with the aim of promoting educational programs.

### "Peilei Hasbara"

At the end of December 2004 and beginning of January 2005, seventeen young adults from Latin America, involved in media and journalism, participated in the fourth annual "Peilei Hasbara" program.

In an academic setting supplemented by first-hand experiences, the young adults were presented with the historical background of the Middle East conflict. They also participated in guided tours to important geographical areas in order to see a 'map of the conflict'. The program included a meeting with a settler from *Gush Katif*, an evacuee from *Yamit*, and members of *Kibbutz Ma'ale Habessor*. These encounters enriched the participants knowledge, offering an in-depth glance into the harsh daily reality in Israel.

The program was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participants met with representatives of the Ministry who presented the complex task of Israeli *Hasbara* and the Ministry's relationship with the rest of the world. The guided tours, led by **Kobi Abeksis** examined the relationship between Israel, Lebanon and Syria and also at the way of life led by inhabitants of the North. The participants also visited a *Druze* village in *Ramat Hagolan*. The highly motivated group, carefully planned program, lecturers, tours, interesting contents, and excellent educational team – which consisted of: **Erella Goren**, **Marcelo Kisilevsky**, **Enrique Grinberg**, our

Representative in Southern Latin America, all greatly contributed to the success of the program.

## JOINT PROJECTS

### "Garin Europa" Seminar 2005 - Tnuva Magshima Kidma

The "Garin Europa" seminar was held in Rome, January 14-16, 2005. The event was organized by *Kidma* with the support of the *Hagshama* Department. Thirty young adults, *Kidma bogrim* from several European countries, participated in this intensive seminar which dealt with topics related to *aliyah*. **Haim Hayet**, Head of the *Hagshama* Dept. participated in the seminar and spoke about the importance of the *tnuot magshimot*, their Zionist activities and involvement in Israeli society.

### Kidma Leadership Seminar in Latin America

Between January 14-17 *Kidma* organized an inspiring seminar in Buenos Aires, Argentina. More than fifty young activists from several countries in Latin America participated in the seminar aimed at strengthening and developing this movement in the continent. The seminar was supported by the *Hagshama Department*. **Jayne Fuchs-Bar** was the Educational Director and **Jack Drassinover**, Director of *Machon Leshlichim* in Israel, was one of the senior lecturers during the seminar.

### "Hechalutz Lamerchav – Atid" Program

Twenty five staff members from *Atid – Yehuda Hatzair* (USA), visited Israel for the annual NAA Convention. They participated in a six-day program organized by *Atid* in cooperation with the *Hagshama* Department. *Hagshama* organized a day of Culture in Tel Aviv, including a picturesque tour around the city's streets with **Tzafrir Kortchia**, a top-notch guide, and a meeting with the famous Israeli author, **Etggar Keret**. The tour proved to be both interesting and enriching.

### "Chazon" Program for Bogrei Tnuot from South Africa

Young adults from *Habonim Dror*, *B'nei Akiva*, *Netzer*, *Betar* and the Union of Jewish Students of SA, participated in this annual program, jointly organized with JAFI's Education Department. The *Hagshama* Department planned a number of days in the program which included current events and Israeli culture. The participants met with **Ita Prince-Gibbson** who prepared a presentation on "how to read the news in between the lines" and understand the non-verbal messages. They also attended a lecture by **Mark Lazar** who

discussed the difference between Israeli values today versus those stated in the Declaration of Independence 56 years ago. The group also toured Tel-Aviv and met **Eilon Slaiter** who gave an interesting presentation about social-economic tendencies in Israel. The highlight of the day was the meeting with the young author **Etgar Keret** who intrigued the participants with interesting stories and discussed Israeli culture from a personal point of view.

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