

ZF CONNECT

THE LEADING ISRAEL ADVOCACY MAGAZINE IN THE UK | ISSUE NO. 5 | SEPTEMBER 2016

**THERE'S NO
APARTHEID
IN ISRAEL
AND I WOULD
KNOW**

**CREATING
THE FUTURE
OF MEDICINE
WHERE MIRACLES
HAPPEN**

**THE NEW
GENERATION
OF PROPERTY
INVESTORS**



**FEATURE ARTICLE
HOW SAVING KIDS' LIVES
IN AFRICA IS ZIONISM**



PLEASE SUPPORT US

The ZF organises events and activities throughout the year to celebrate Israel and challenge her opponents - but we can't do it without your support. This is a small selection of what we fund.



To support the ZF in our work, please visit www.zionist.org.uk or call 020 8202 0202



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Our Israel trips enable people to see the country 'behind the scenes', offering unique insights unavailable to the average traveller. Yearly cost £46,103

The ZF also has to cover the administrative costs that enable us to do all this

Welcome to ZF Connect Magazine

Dear reader,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Zionist Federation's Connect magazine. If there's a theme to this issue, it's showing Israel's face to those who haven't seen it before.

For many of us, we'll never forget what it was like to visit Israel for the first time. Maybe a holiday, visiting friends or family, a wedding or other celebration. But there are plenty of people - like Sanusay, on our front cover - who see the true face of Israel when they least expect or want to. Our cover story, about the amazing work that our Chairman Paul Charney is doing supporting Israelis helping Gambian children, is a great example of this.

That theme is evident elsewhere in the issue. We have an article from Noor Dahri, a trail-blazing member of the British Pakistani community who has committed himself to breaking down barriers and promoting a more positive understanding of the Jewish state.

We know that tensions in the Middle East are replicated here in the UK - which is why the ZF has recently established the Pakistan-Israel Alliance with Noor. With his unique background, we'll be better placed to show the true face of Israel to those we would otherwise struggle to reach.

Another important group that we are making strides towards reaching are our elected representatives. We've always prided ourselves on the level of political engagement that we do - not least of all our Annual Lobby Day for Israel. But the reality is that - just like in the Middle East - we're often woefully outnumbered by our enemies. And when politicians are constantly bombarded with egregious, inaccurate and harmful messages, how can they see the true face of Israel?

So another important new voice in this issue is Michael McCann, the director of the ZF's new project: the Israel-Britain Alliance. Michael was formerly an MP in Scotland, so he's ideally suited to head up the IBA, tasked with empowering and mobilising Israel activists on a far more regular basis. Under his watch, thousands of letters have been sent to Westminster in the last 6 months - helping to turn the tide against the other side.

All of this is only a small fraction of the work we are doing. With the new year approaching, I look back with great pride on what we've achieved over the past 12 months - and huge optimism when thinking about what more we can do in the future.

Shana Tova!

Arieh Miller,
ZF Executive Director

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לשכת השגריר
שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

Rosh Hashanah message from HE Mark Regev to the Zionist Federation

On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, 5777, I extend my warmest regards to the supporters, staff and friends of the Zionist Federation. The Jewish New Year provides us with time not just to celebrate, but also to reflect upon the past and find renewed purpose for the year ahead.

This past year has seen some great achievements. On the diplomatic front, today Israel is speaking with more Arab countries than ever before and we are building contacts and greater dialogue across the region: this is real progress and heralds much promise for the future. The Jewish state has seen success even at the United Nations, with Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon becoming the first Israeli ever to chair a General Assembly Permanent Committee.

By continuing to answer the challenges faced by the world – in renewables, medicine, cyber security and high-tech – Israel's economy remains strong and is well positioned for the years ahead. There is good news for Israel here in Britain, too: our mission is successfully building new partnerships. In particular, we see the success of Friends of Israel groups in communities, and the ever increasing number of Israel Societies on university campuses.

Though these accomplishments are significant, we must also take this opportunity for introspection. In particular, we remember with great sorrow those whose lives have been lost at the ruthless hands of terrorists. Our societies are facing extremists willing to employ the vilest of means to destroy the freedoms that we cherish in order to instigate a new dark age of tyranny and despotism. We must confront Islamist terrorists with renewed purpose and vigour, and stand against those seeking to destroy our freedoms.

While the New Year will present fresh challenges to the Israeli Embassy in the United Kingdom, thanks to your friendship and support, we can face the future with confidence, knowing that you – and many others – will continue to speak up for the precious bond between our two democracies. I hope that the year ahead will be a happy and successful one for the Zionist Federation, and wish you and your families all the very best.

Shanah Tovah!

Mark Regev
Ambassador of Israel to the Court of St James's

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CELEBRATING ISRAEL, CHALLENGING HER ENEMIES
**ZF IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
2015-2016**



Established the Israel-Britain Alliance: a game changing organisation that brings our political advocacy into the 21st century, building a national network of activists engaging regularly with parliament



Brought the biggest and best names to the UK, including Alan Dershowitz; Lt. Gen (ret) Benny Gantz; Father Gabriel Naddaf; and Major Alaa Waheeb - the highest ranked Muslim soldier in the IDF



Brought hundreds of people onto the streets for demonstrations and rallies in support of Israel and against terrorism



Delivered 1000 packs of supplies to lone soldiers in the IDF, providing them with essentials whilst showing our immense gratitude and appreciation



Spoken on 10 different university campuses and ran sessions in 15 schools, engaging students from Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds



Ran high-profile campaigns, including tackling Hamas' re-armament; banning Hezbolla flags on our streets; and supporting the purchase of Israeli goods from supermarkets



Established the Pakistan Israel Alliance: a ground breaking partnership reaching out to Pakistani Muslim communities, breaking stereotypes and challenging hostility



Provided advocacy training for over 700 activists around the country, helping them to gain skills, knowledge and confidence



Engaged with over 100,000 individuals digitally through social media and the largest electronic newsletter in the UK

Printed over 30,000 flyers, leaflets, booklets and magazines



How saving kids' lives in Africa is Zionism

BY JENNI FRAZER

Paul Charney is a South African-Israeli living in Britain, acting as a Zionist advocate while helping children in Gambia. Sounds complicated? It's not.

LONDON - It's taken nearly 30 years but finally, Paul Charney is back in Africa. And it's safe to say that the 15-year-old who left Johannesburg for Israel with his parents in the early 1990s never imagined he'd be honored by the president of Gambia for his humanitarian work.

Charney, now 44, is one of the newer adornments of British Jewry, which is cheerfully accepting new community leadership from wherever it can. There are Americans within the UJIA, the main fundraising body for Israel, South Africans - including Charney - heading charities, and in the last few years, French Jews have started to play leading roles here.

But Charney's story arc is less direct than most, given that he is definitely the first leader of the British Zionist Federation (ZF) to have been a decorated IDF tank commander. He is also, almost uniquely among community leaders in the UK, unashamedly on the right wing of politics, though he tries to downplay that in his leadership of the ZF.

"For the first year, I didn't know where I was, but I was in a very good school in Ramat Hasharon which has a special program for new immigrants. But I still

felt I didn't know what I was doing, and I was getting a good bagrut (matriculation). So I chose to move to the Ostrovsky school, which is the main Israeli high school in Raanana."

After that, Charney says, his integration into Israeli society improved, and so did his academic results.

He had not, initially, planned to go into the army, and hadn't taken all the pre-army courses that his Israeli-born peers were doing.

'Our family made aliyah to Ra'anana, he says, and it is a bit of an Anglo-bubble'

"Some of my South African friends went back there to study, some went to America, and some did go to the army. Then I decided, yes, I would go to the army," he says.

'Our family made aliyah to Ra'anana, and it is a bit of an Anglo-bubble'

But first he took a post-high school trip around Europe, visiting London for the first time, and "falling in love" with the city. "I always felt I would come back to the UK."

Back in Israel, Charney joined a tank division in the IDF and was then asked to go on an officers' course. He served in Gaza and the West Bank and concluded his service in late summer of 1996. He was then invited to join Shin Bet.



Charney agreed and began the recruitment process, but at the same time applied -almost as an afterthought - to study law in the UK.

"I didn't know anything about places outside London but I asked friends in Raanana and they told me about some of the bigger Jewish communities," he tells The Times of Israel.

And Charney, slightly to his own surprise, it seems, told the Shin Bet - who were not very happy - that he would not be proceeding with them, and instead headed to Leeds, in northern England.

He was almost 25, and was already a young man in a hurry. Older than most of his fellow students, he became active in Jewish student politics and was the warden of Leeds Hillel House, the residential center for young Jews from other cities.

"The reason I did law - and I told him, years later - was that I read a book by Alan Dershowitz, 'Chutzpah,' and it seemed to me there was a tremendous amount of social justice in what he did and that being a lawyer meant you could make a difference. I was sitting in the tanks, at night, reading his book. That tipped the balance," Charney says.

Being out of Israel - where, he says, he felt "protected" - and in Leeds, Charney says he felt "vulnerable. It was the first time I'd seen anti-Semitism, kids chasing after you in a park and calling you a bloody Jew. Israel gives you a sense of security, and especially in the army, there's a feeling of collective strength. You can do, you can protect, you can defend. It's a very different mentality."

"I still have Israeli mannerisms. Recently I went into a shopping center in Oxford Street [in central London] and I walked straight, to cut through it. There were some young Israelis on a stall, spraying perfume. And

one of them came over to me and started speaking to me in Hebrew. I said, 'How the hell did you know I was Israeli?' He said, 'I can tell by the way you went, straight as an arrow, you knew what you were doing, no messing around.' You can take the boy out of Israel," Charney laughs, "but not Israel out of the boy."

He jokes about it, but Charney does bring a hands-on, can-do, attitude to his communal life. He says he is a glass half full kind of person and makes a point of asking if something can work - and if not, why not.

Charney practiced as a lawyer in the UK for some time before starting his own business.

"I like to be master of my own destiny," he says.

He was concentrating on building up his business when the first Gaza war erupted.

"It was the frustration of nothing being done [by the community] and the misrepresentation of Israel, of it getting an unfair hearing," he says. "I thought, if you want to make a difference, you have to stand up and do something."



At first he went to the embassy and asked if he could do his miluim (reserve military service) by helping there. But then he found the Zionist Federation, and made a rapid climb up its hierarchy until becoming chairman in 2012.

He had felt, he says, that the ZF was “probably a natural home,” because of its support for Israel regardless of politics. In his time as chairman the ZF, which had been in danger of becoming moribund, has assumed a new lease of life, attracting many younger supporters and a huge number of Christian Zionists.

In December last year, Charney went on holiday to Gambia with his fiancée, Anzia Smith, whose father owns a hotel there. In the hotel he met the country’s one-time minister of tourism, Fatou Mas Jobe, who now runs “Operation Save,” a charity headed by Gambia’s First Lady, Zeinab Jammeh.



“We had a long conversation, I wanted to understand more about Gambia. It is an Islamic Republic but it does have minimal diplomatic relations with Israel. It’s not one of the African countries where Israel has done work, but it’s relatively peaceful,” he says.

Fatou took Charney out with her to see her latest project - “literally pulling kids off the streets and saying, come to school! It’s a pre-school nursery, and it’s a great scheme. We started talking about health and she said the biggest problem was infant mortality. So I said, I don’t know if I can do anything, but let me see the hospital.”

Charney went to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Banjul, the country’s capital. It was a depressing experience.

“The building itself is perfectly fine,” he says, “but

as you walk in, the hallways are empty, the rooms are mostly empty, the beds haven’t got mattresses on them.”

‘The hallways are empty, the rooms are mostly empty, the beds haven’t got mattresses on them’

The children’s ward was just as dispiriting. Many of the children suffer from heart disease and Charney was dismayed to see “children just lying there, with the hopelessness of the parents, patting their children because there was nothing they could do.”

In the back of Charney’s mind was the Israeli charity Save A Child’s Heart (SACH), a regular stop-off for ZF missions to the Wolfson Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

“I knew how it worked and that it had treated children from many parts of the world. I said to Fatou, let’s try and save one child. And she was very dubious, because they had recently sent several children to Venezuela and they’d sent them all back without treating them because they said they had the wrong kind of heart conditions. I told her, don’t worry, with SACH we’re in safe hands,” Charney says.



Charney returned to London and began ferociously networking. Soon SACH doctors had identified seven children who could be treated. Fatou got some funding from Dubai, Charney himself put money in, and SACH matched the money raised. Brussels Airlines agreed to fly the young patients, together with relevant carers and family members, to and from Israel. The first group of four children arrived in March this year.



“Slowly, Gambia started to see how phenomenal the work was that was being done with the kids,” Charney says. “All seven children were saved and for the first time SACH had an open link with Gambia. The trust now, between the two countries, is fantastic. Now we are on to the next stage, helping to train local doctors - and then start building a better hospital.”

‘The trust now, between the two countries, is fantastic’

For his groundbreaking work, Charney was among 110 honored in a ceremony this past August by the

President of Gambia Yahya Jammeh. But the vastly optimistic and impatient Charney says it is part of the work he has pledged to do for the ZF.

“I want to explain Israel and Zionism to people, and this is one of the ways I’m doing it,” he says. “People can see what’s happening. I’ve been hearing about this thing called pro-active advocacy for years. But this [project], in essence, is just that. It’s doing something. Of course, the primary objective is to save the children. At the same time, if Israel gets better known in Gambia and Africa, that’s a lovely by-product. I’m not going to let go of that.”

This article originally appeared in the Times of Israel. For more information visit www.saveachildsheart.com

The Great Danger Facing Israel? Complacency

BY MICHAEL McCANN

In a speech about Palestine and Israel in the House of Commons on 13 October 2014, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Tobias Ellwood MP, said that the British Government was a staunch supporter of Israel's right to defence, that Israel was a friend and that the [British] government was proud to pursue a strong bilateral relationship.

No need for alarm then about Britain's relationship with the state of Israel. I'd ask you to read the whole debate but, if you can't spare the time, here are a few quotes.

Dr Matthew Offord MP (Hendon) said: "The Palestinian Authority is seeking to create opportunities for new diplomatic and legal fronts on the conflict with Israel that enable a distraction, an alternative and an escape route from the bilateral principle entailed in the Oslo accords."

Mike Hancock MP (Portsmouth South) said: "We did not listen then [to the Palestinians] when we could have given a two state solution in '48, we chose not to do it."

Andy Slaughter MP (Hammersmith) said: "Since the triumph of military Zionism and the Likud-run governments, we have seen a new barbarism in that country."

Mr Slaughter also said that the British people supported the recognition of Palestine and that "more than 50,000

emails had been sent to MPs over the past two or three years". These quotes tell us at least three things.

First, there are MPs who support the state of Israel and understand the real political circumstances that Israel faces on the ground. Second, some of our MPs are ignorant when it comes to their knowledge of the subject matter. And third, some MPs are simply hostile towards Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East.



What I lamented more was that there was no alternative narrative delivered to MPs from their constituents. Andy Slaughter said that 50,000 people had emailed MPs backing his position. But why did the people who understand the challenges Israel faces not take to their keyboards and say this:



"Dear MP,

"As one of your constituents I support Israel and want to tell you I want peace in the Middle East. I want Israel to live side-by-side with its Palestinian neighbours in harmony. I want Israel to spend more of its wealth on schools, hospitals and on global goods rather than spending 7.4 percent of its gross domestic product on defence because of the multiple security threats it faces on its borders, including Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south.

"However, it is Israel's experience that every time it enters negotiations in good faith, the leaders of the Palestinian people have shown bad faith. When Palestine was offered the opportunity to exist by the UN in November 1947, it was rejected. When Yasser Arafat, Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak came so tantalisingly close to a peace deal in 2000, it was Yasser Arafat who collapsed the deal, saying that the Jewish people had no history in Jerusalem.

"To that backdrop, I can't agree that a premature recognition of the Palestinian State by the House of Commons helps anyone but those Palestinian leaders

who seek to profit politically from the lack of opportunities that they've failed to create for the people that they purport to represent. So please explain that narrative in the House of Commons on 13 October. And say this: genuine statehood is a prize that can, with goodwill, be secured at the end of what will be a long and difficult negotiation. Don't vote for a cheap stunt."

MPs didn't receive any emails like that, but I don't believe that is because Britain is anti-Israel. On the contrary, most people across Britain understand the challenges that Israel faces, they support and celebrate Israel and they are in awe of the huge strides this small country has made since 1948. There are hundreds of thousands of Christians in our country who celebrate the Hebraic roots of their faith and value our country's strong bilateral ties with Israel. That's why their voices must be heard.

The Israel-Britain Alliance (IBA) will harness their support and work with friends across Britain to let our parliamentarians know that there is a different narrative. It's a narrative for peace. It's a narrative that can bring to an end decades of violence and it's a narrative that is shared by the silent majority of the British people.

Why I became A Zionist

BY NOOR DAHRI

On the 30th March 2016, I first met the Zionist Federation UK, and, following a lengthy meeting, acquired honorary membership. This received mixed responses from my various social circles, especially those related to the South Asian world.

Some in my own Pakistani community were surprised and even mortified when I proclaimed by adherence to Zionism. On the other hand, I received many messages from Muslims across the globe, welcoming my brave and courageous step. Many others were simply curious, especially given perceptions of hostility between Zionism and Islam. Here are some the answers I gave.



Paul Charney, ZF Chairman and Noor Dahri

“Why did you join the Zionist Movement, being a Muslim?”

Firstly, before I can answer this, I need to answer another question: What is Zionism?

For me, Zionism is a political reclamation movement to establish a separate, safe and inviolable state for the world Jewish community in Palestine. This movement was crucial for the Jewish people, providing them with a secure place away from the persecution of both European and Middle Eastern peoples. Before Zionism, there were pogroms, ethnic cleansing and genocide; before Zionism Jews were too often abandoned.

The Zionist movement is an authentic national liberation movement, with many people of various religions supporting it in solidarity with the Jewish people - often because they themselves had suffered racism. Dr Martin Luther King Jnr, for example, supported Israel and Zionism because of his own experiences with racism. Zionism is a liberation movement, like Martin Luther's African-American civil rights movement and Nelson Mandela's anti-Apartheid Revolutionary Movement.

And I'm not the first or only Muslim to support Zionism; many of us have done so. I joined because I believe the Jewish community in the UK needs more support, especially from someone who campaigns for peace between Muslims and Jews, and can build bridges to the Pakistani world. This is why I decided to join the Zionist Federation, which is a great honour for me.

“But isn't Zionism against Islam and Muslims?”

There are many conspiracies against Zionism and Zionists in the world. So many people blame Zionism for every wrong that happens in the world and one of their claims is that Zionism is against Islam and the Muslims. These accusations are totally baseless and flimsy; Zionism is concerned with creating a homeland for the Jewish people, without any agenda against any other religion or people. The Zionist Federation does not support hate against anyone.

Moreover, supporting Israel does not mean being against Muslims. 20% of the Israeli population consists of non-Jews and most of them are Arab Muslims. Muslims are living in peace and harmony under Israeli law and there are about 400 Mosques in Israel, which are protected by the Jewish state. There is freedom of speech and freedom of religion for Muslims in the state of Israel. Muslims live in the only democratic country in the Middle East without fear and persecution. Muslims have more rights than any other Islamic country in the Middle East.

“But aren't Islam and the Quran against Zionism?”

People often cite certain Arabs and Islamic figures to justify hostility towards Israel, and to put forward the argument that Jews have no right to any land in the area. What is less understood is that there are Islamic counter-arguments to those who see the conflict in primarily religious terms.

For example, according to British-based Imam Muhammad Al-Hussaini, traditional commentators from the 8th and 9th century onwards have uniformly interpreted the Qur'an to say explicitly that the land of Israel has been given by God to the Jewish people as a perpetual covenant. Hussaini bases his argument upon the Qur'an in which Moses declares:

“Oh my people, enter the Holy Land which God has prescribed to you, and turn not back from fighting in his name, lest you become losers.” (Quran 5:21)

Or Sheikh Abdul Hadi Palazzi, a pupil of the Grand Mufti of Cairo, who stated that:

“The Qur'an itself grants the whole Land of Israel to the Jews, so that any opposition to the Jewish state is an

offense against Allah.”

While the basis for accepting Israel should not be reduced to a theological debate, these examples demonstrate that the argument that Islam can never accept a Jewish state in the Middle East is false.



Noor Dahri

Conclusion:

My main objective in joining the Zionist Federation is to unconditionally support my Jewish brothers and sisters. Through this political and advocacy platform, I will educate my Muslim (particularly my Pakistani) community to stand firm with the Jewish community who have endured for thousands of years. We must raise our voice in solidarity with Israelis who have very great skills in every educational field, especially in science and technology.

We Pakistanis are suffering from terrorism and from violent extremism for decades and the only option to defeat this monstrous ideology is to make good relations with those whom we considered our enemy. Every Pakistani who visited Israel has changed their view about Israel.

It is not against our religion or culture to support our Jewish cousins and we must open our arms to embrace the nation of the Prophet Moses (PBUH).

Cojones for Hasbarah

Time to Awaken the ‘Silent Zionist’ In You

BY KEITH FRASER, FOUNDER, COJONES UK

Most people who achieve anything have one thing that propels them - ‘Cojones’ - i.e. Courage, guts, audacity.

I have heard the great Alan Dershowitz say that college students and lecturers alike approach him regularly and say “I’d love to speak up for Israel, but am scared.”

You can be certain that the IDF soldier going into war is very scared, in fact fearful for his life, but does that stop him from protecting his people, i.e. Israelis and, effectively, all of the diaspora? Absolutely not.



Keith Fraser

Does the IDF soldier push through his fear, and do what he has to do? Definitely.

Are you, what I call a ‘silent Zionist’? Are you afraid to do your bit? Of what? Your life? Being proven wrong? Having too little knowledge?

You’re probably fearful of failure. But like the Israeli soldier, he trains to defend his people. Why don’t you?

Remember ‘Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail.’

You can be sure, it’s a lot easier being a member of the Intellectual Defence Force (also the IDF - and very important) than being in the actual IDF.

Yes, it takes courage, to stand up and speak out.

My consultancy is called Cojones. That’s right, the Spanish slang for ‘balls’, courage and yes,chutzpah. I inspire people to let out that inner warrior, that tiger.

You see, it does take Cojones for Hasbarah. Why? Because:

It takes Cojones to be different

It takes Cojones to stand up and be counted.

It takes Cojones to stand up and defend your people.

Having Cojones is important in most areas of life, be that in sales, communication, just being oneself, or even simply being different and a whole lot more. I talk on all of these, but for today ask yourself: Isn’t it time you do your bit, step up and be counted for your people - and to be blunt - “Grow a Pair!”

If you do care, then be a proud outspoken Zionist, and not a silent one.

For more information on booking Keith for entertaining keynote and motivational speaking, or as a host for your conference or event, be that corporate, industry or public sector, please call 0208 365 2017 or 07956 559 054 www.cojones.biz Twitter: @realcojones Facebook: Cojones UK

Showing the true face of Israeli ‘Apartheid’ on campus

BY ZF STAFF

Every year, anti-Israel activists organise “Israeli Apartheid Week” – a global extravaganza designed to delegitimise the Jewish state and intimidate those who support it. Focused primarily on campuses, IAW is dedicated to portraying Israel as a racist, violent, indefensible state on a par with the Apartheid regime in South Africa. It goes without saying that Israel – the lone democracy in the Middle East – is the only country in the world that is singled out in this fashion.

It is particularly notorious for condemning Israel’s attempts to defend itself from terrorism. Activists frequently erect fake checkpoints and separation barriers, with no mention of the context as to why Israelis believe such measures are necessary. As well as being intimidating for Jewish and other Israel-supporting students, it perpetrates the libel that Israel’s soldiers are brutal monsters who deliberately harm innocent Palestinians due to a desire to see them suffer.

In order to defend Israel, her army, and those on campus who support the Jewish state and the safety of its citizens, the Zionist Federation set out to find speakers who would be best able to demolish the misconceptions and deceptions of Israeli Apartheid Week. The two we found couldn’t have been better.

First, we had Captain Daniel Elbo, a Jewish Israeli medic in the IDF who was a first-responder at the scene of multiple terrorist attacks. As you’d expect, he had considerable experience of treating Israeli victims of violence. But what many didn’t know was that the Israeli army also treats Palestinian terrorists as well. Daniel

explained how, rather than being racist, Israeli medics are ‘race-blind’ - treating perpetrator and victim alike.

That commitment to equality extended to our second soldier, Major Alaa Waheeb - the highest ranked Muslim soldier in the Israeli army. Alaa explained how, despite being raised in an anti-Zionist village and not even speaking Hebrew until the age of 17, he joined the Israeli army. Initially serving at the time of the Second Intifada, he has continually sought to further his career in the army in order to better serve his country.

And so we took these two heroes around the country to speak directly with students. Their incredible, unique stories of the challenges and triumphs of defending Israel showed a completely different side to the country. But apart from speaking openly and honestly about the complexities of the living in the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, the obvious friendship between the two men also had a huge impact on audiences. At a time when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict often causes tensions between Jews and Muslims, it was heartening to see the obvious affection they had for each other, bonding over a shared commitment to defending their homeland.

But we didn’t just bring their stories to campuses and communities up and down the country. Alaa also wrote about his life for The Jewish News, in an article that was shared thousands of times around the world. Israeli Apartheid Week, after all, is a global phenomenon - so Alaa’s words helped challenge their lies not just in the UK, but globally as well.

There's no Apartheid in Israel - and I would know

BY ALAA WAHEEB

Earlier this year, students across the UK have been involved in Israeli Apartheid Week. Some have supported it. Others have opposed it. Invited by the ZF UK, I was able to attend campuses up and down the country specifically to address and counter some of the claims involved.

These fall into roughly three categories. Firstly, that Israel is an inherently racist, and therefore unacceptable country, comparable to Apartheid South Africa. Secondly, that its army defends this racist status with acts of illegal and immoral violence. And thirdly, that the only solution to this problem is through the isolation tactics of boycotts.

Like many I met during my visit, I oppose these views. But perhaps more than most people on either side of the debate, I am better placed to argue against them. Because I am an Israeli, an Arab, and the highest ranked Muslim in the IDF.

Is Israel inherently racist, an apartheid state? Well, do you think that such a country would tolerate a person like myself getting to the position I am today? Forget for a second (BDS supporters would like you to forget permanently!) that 20 percent of Israelis are non-Jewish, have full rights, and are represented throughout society. It's one thing, after all, to have Arab politicians, Christian voters, and Muslim doctors - although we do have them, and quite a few at that.

But a non-Jewish army Major? Someone who has not only fought alongside Jewish soldiers, but now trains them too? Would a truly racist state allow me to play

such an integral role in our nation's defences?

And while we're on the subject of those defences, let me tackle accusation two: that the Israel army is a particularly immoral one. I am not particularly religious, but as the Holy Quran says, "if anyone killed a person, it would be as if he killed the whole of mankind; and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole of mankind."

I do not serve in the army to kill people - I serve in it to save people. When Hamas fires rockets, or Fatah encourages stabbings, we are here to protect the lives of all Israeli citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish.

And so on to the last point - that the best way to resolve violence and conflict is through the kind of tactics advocated by the Boycotts movement. Namely, isolation and intimidation. For me, this is the most important issue, and the one which makes me shake my head with anger and sadness the most.



Alaa Waheeb

Like I said, I visited the UK to combat Israeli Apartheid Week, to challenge the lies and mistruths hurled at the country I am proud to call home. But what hurts me the most is not how unbelievable they are. The opposite, in fact. They are all too believable, and I should know - because I once believed them too.

The reality is that the town I grew up in did not recognise the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state. While Arabic is an official language, I did not learn Hebrew until I was 17. I was raised to believe the worst things about Jews, and, had I not eventually met and worked alongside them, I might still believe those things today.

In my role as a soldier, I have met all kinds of people both in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Jews, Arabs, Religious, Secular, Left-wing and Right-wing. I have met Israelis who were prejudiced against me. But I have also met Palestinians who appreciate the work that I do to maintain some sort of peace and stability in the most dangerous part of the world.

Forget slogans and shouting. Peace - real peace - will only come when people talk to each other. Not necessarily agree - just agree to listen. But the irony of Israeli Apartheid Week is that it wants individuals to

focus on differences, not similarities. Instead of building bridges between communities, it wants to build walls.



During my time in the UK, I spoke alongside a fellow soldier, a medic who has treated both Israeli soldiers and Palestinian terrorists without distinction. We were the Muslim who protects Jewish lives, and the Jew who saves Muslim lives. There's only one country in the Middle East that could produce a couple like that - and it sure as hell isn't an apartheid state.

ZF Events Across 2016

A SELECTION OF SNAPSHOTS FROM SOME OF MANY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES WE'VE ORGANISED THIS YEAR



Israel Apartheid Week, St John's Wood Synagogue



Business Breakfast



Israel Science Day



Annual Balfour Lecture



Annual Gala Dinner



Yom Ha'atzmaut 68



Lobby Day



Lobby Day Briefing



Al Quds Day Counter Rally



Private Briefing

Creating the Future of Medicine Where Miracles Happen

BY A MEMBER OF BRITISH FRIENDS OF
RAMBAM MEDICAL CENTRE

What do Gil Rustin and the young girl with the clown have in common - they were both cared for by Patapouf, a medical clown who helped in their treatment and recovery. The medical clown programme is supported by the British Friends of the Rambam Medical Care Campus in Haifa, Israel.



In the recent Maccabi GB Fun Run, one of the competitors was Gil, now 4 years old. Watching the happy and energetic runner, one could never guess the long road that he had travelled and that no so long ago he could not even walk, let alone run.

Two hours after he was born at Rambam Hospital, Gil's legs were bound in plaster to correct a serious deformity. After 8 weeks, he was operated on and he spent his first years with his legs in metal braces. Nearly 5 years later having completed this year's run, he has vowed to do 5km next year.



Gil with his winning medal

To honour this brave child and Professor Eidelman who performed this miracle, the British Friends are buying a children's operating table. Formed in 1993, they have over the years, purchased equipment for nearly every department of this expanding campus.



**We wish all our donors a truly
Happy Rosh Hashana and
a peaceful life for all of us**

For more information please contact
Anita Alexander-Passe, Director
British Friends of Rambam Medical Centre
0208 3711500 anita@rambamuk.co.uk
www.rambamuk.co.uk

**If you remember Rambam when making
your Will, Rambam will remember you.**

Hundreds Celebrate YH68 with Dana International!

BY ZF STAFF

One of the biggest dates in our calendar is always Yom Ha'atmaut - the celebration of Israel's independence day. The Zionist Federation always puts on a show, to give Israel the party it deserves on its birthday! 2016 was no exception, but we gave it a twist - this year, we would also celebrate Israel's relationship with the Eurovision Song Contest!

Superbly hosted by radio legend Nick Ferrari, over 700 people joined us for a raucous night of song and dance. Our 'Eurovision Extravaganza' put Israel's music at the heart of the event, with international performer Shimi Goodman belting out many fan favourites from across the decades.



Of course, Israel's 68th birthday was also an opportunity to reflect on the incredible achievements of the Jewish state, and who better to make the case than His Excellency Mark Regev - Israel's new Ambassador to the UK!



But the undoubted highlight was the show-stopping headline performance from none other than Dana International herself! With blue and white flags everywhere, Dana got the audience on their feet with a selection of her greatest hits - including Diva, her Eurovision winning entry from 1998!



Israel, like Eurovision, gave me freedom to be who I am

BY DANA INTERNATIONAL

The noise. The size. The crowds, the lights and, most of all, the pride.

If there is one night in my life that I will never forget, it's 9 May 1998. On that date, standing in front of hundreds of people, I won the Eurovision Song Contest. In the space of a few hours, millions around the world saw a different side to my country - Israel - than the one they were used to seeing.

As an Israeli, it was incredible to win for my country, a country that only that year was celebrating its 50th birthday. As a transgender woman, it was amazing to be the first openly trans entrant in the competition's history. And as a human being, it was beyond belief to achieve recognition, acceptance and success on such a global stage.

So when the Zionist Federation UK invited me to headline its Eurovision-themed Yom Ha'atzmaut party this year, of course I was going to say yes. Another chance to strut my stuff in London, while also taking part in the biggest celebration of Israel's birthday in the UK? How could I say no?

But this night is about more than just re-hearing some of our favourite pop songs. The story of me and Eurovision is more than that. It's a story about Israel, and what it represents.

It would be easy to joke about a comparison between the two.

A noisy competition between many different candidates offering their unique visions? Watching votes get allocated in mysterious ways that often surprise you? A long night waiting to see which of the front-runners is eventually crowned the winner? Let's be honest - it's basically a more fabulous (and only slightly more frequent) version of our own Knesset elections!



“If there is one night in my life that I will never forget, it's 9 May 1998. On that date, I won the Eurovision Song Contest”

Dana International

More seriously, Eurovision and Israel have a remarkable connection. The message of Eurovision is one of peace, tolerance and hope, of people being brought together despite their differences. This is a message that resonates in Israel, a tiny sliver of those values in a part of the world where they are in short supply.

Eurovision celebrates the freedom to be who you are, and to express that freedom as you wish. Freedom is like a thread – from the same material you can fashion different designs, and it takes a lot of different threads to make any one item.

I couldn't have the freedom to live my life without you having your freedom – and vice versa. And it's all those different threads, all those different strands of freedom that make up Israel.

Part of that is the freedom to be proudly Jewish. I have Romanian-Yemeni roots, no longer growing on opposite sides of the world, but now interwoven in the same soil that first nurtured the Jewish people more than 2,000 years ago.

Only in the past few months have the last few Yemeni Jews been rescued from a county which, tragically, they can no longer call home.

But the response has to be love, not hate. I have many Arab fans across the Middle East, and my dream would be to tour the region so I could meet them, for them to share the freedom I have. Who knows what we could achieve? For decades, the politicians have tried to negotiate peace, so far without success. But I know music can reach the places they can't. Art can build bridges, culture can smash stereotypes.

Let's celebrate our music, our freedom, our Israel! I'm so glad so many of you made the Zionist Federation's Yom Ha'atzmaut party the biggest party for Israel in the UK! Eurovision was a night I'll never forget. This year's Yom Ha'atzmaut was just as unforgettable.



CHANGING LIVES BUILDING FUTURES



"As a teacher at WIZO Beit Hakerem, I can tell you first hand about the wonderful results among students here, thanks to your generosity. It is not only me who sees the change in these kids and how they've turned their young lives around. More importantly they see it themselves.

On the culinary programme it is clear how therapeutic the course is and how these practical studies help create a personal connection between teacher and student, far beyond the classroom. As an educational programme, it allows these faltering students to graduate with full matriculation and gain important experience that will improve their military service and exit into the job market.

For young people from struggling families these opportunities are priceless.

Tamar Blay
Head of Culinary Studies
WIZO Beit Hakerem

From unteachable to unbeatable...

TAL LUZON

"WIZO has given me not only a future but helped me turn my life around. If you could have seen me before coming to WIZO, you wouldn't recognise me. I wasn't this girl you see now, speaking politely. I caused trouble, I didn't go to classes. I was lost, physically and emotionally. Here at WIZO I totally changed, thanks to the special care of the amazing staff."

ELIOZ GOEL

"Before WIZO I didn't attend classes for a whole year. WIZO is my family." ElioZ admits that the years on the culinary course changed him immeasurably. "I learnt so much about myself, how to deal with stress and anger - never to give up. My dream is to work in the world of gourmet cuisine and one day, to open my own restaurant".

INBAL BUBLIL

"I have a genetic problem with my vision, so I don't see well, but I won't let that stop me from doing what I love, even though the kitchen can be a dangerous place." The WIZO Culinary Track has allowed Inbal to confront her fears, engage in her education and overcome personal problems caused by the issues she has had to face.



1st place trophy & award for best flavours. National award winning WIZO culinary students.

NEW YEAR - NEW HOPE

Israel's greatest resource is its people.

As we approach the New Year, WIZO prepares to continue its work, ensuring as many disadvantaged Israeli citizens as possible may look forward to a happier, fulfilling future.

WIZO is the largest social welfare provider in Israel and our 800 projects care for thousands of Israel's most vulnerable citizens regardless of race or religion.

More than 53,000 infants, children and teenagers attend our day care centres, after school clubs, youth villages, vocational schools, and pre-school centres, which keep children at risk, safe and secure.

Shelters for victims of abuse and community centres which support single-parent families, immigrant groups, vulnerable teenagers and the elderly, are all part of WIZO's vital and unique life-changing expertise and commitment.

How special it feels to know that so many of those who have benefitted from the **IMPACT**, **EXPERIENCE** and **PASSION** of WIZO will enjoy New Year celebrations looking ahead with renewed hope and excitement.

I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

Michèle Pollock
Chairman, WIZOUK



IMPACT

By delivering outstanding education, effective social care and impactful campaigns, WIZO is committed to ensuring that no one who is left behind, stays behind.

EXPERIENCE

Started by pioneering women with a vision to care for vulnerable Israeli citizens across all population groups, WIZO is Israel's largest independent social welfare organisation with nearly one hundred years' experience. WIZO is trusted to change lives and build futures.

PASSION

WIZO is passionate about everything it does, going the extra mile to protect and nurture tens of thousands of women, children and families. WIZO strengthens Israel's future.

65 Years of a Global Economic Partnership with Israel

BY ALAN CURTIS, DIRECTOR OF SALES, ISRAEL BONDS

In the five years that Israel “Izzy” Tapoohi has led the Development Corporation for Israel – commonly known as Israel Bonds – the broker-dealer has gone from underwriting and selling \$600m worth of Israeli government bonds in the U.S. annually to yearly domestic sales exceeding \$1b.

The 65-year-old organization has been transformed from a specialty investment vehicle primarily for supporters of Israel into a significant option for investors looking to balance and diversify their portfolios.

As he prepares to hand Israel Bonds over to his successor, Tapoohi talks about what he has changed, the accomplishments he is proudest of, and why he thinks Israel’s economy is still a great bet.

“In the United States over the past five years we turned this organization around to be recognized as a true brokerage firm and not as a non-profit organization. I am very proud that, from a regulatory point of view, we are in full compliance with the most rigorous requirements. We have transformed Israel Bonds into a high-powered, competitive brokerage firm that still maintains its Jewish heart.

“Sales have nearly doubled because I changed the corporate narrative from the geopolitical to the economic. Instead of making the pitch solely about supporting Israel, we made it about making a good investment as well.

“I spent my first 18 months in the U.S. moving the American operation forward, ensuring that we were

following all the regulations and expanding our marketing in an effective way. Then, we were able to start looking at the international sales operation.

“Today, in addition to the UK, we sell in France, Germany and Belgium, and we are hoping to expand into additional European countries.

“The Canadian operation is now being converted into a fully-compliant brokerage firm. We have opened offices in Mexico and Brazil, and we are looking at Argentina and other Latin American countries.

“Currently, international sales are roughly \$250m annually, on top of more than \$1b in the United States. We are aiming to achieve annual sales of \$500m internationally within the next three years.

“We have been able to successfully communicate the strength and resilience of Israel’s economy during the past few years, which have seen so much global economic tumult.

“When you compare Israel to other countries, we have been doing relatively better. If you say “Israel only grew



Israel Tapoohi



by 2.5%,” well, Europe grew by much less and the U.S. by no more, so in relative terms we are doing very well. Tell me, how many countries have a debt-to-GDP of 64.9%?

“Israel has a currency that is much more stable, because our trade is better balanced among various currency areas and we have a healthy trade balance.

“It is true that Israel is in a rough neighborhood, but the wars and instability have hardly affected the economy or the stock market.

“Israel Bonds needs to continue the message we have been communicating for the past five years. At the end

of the day, the people who invest in bonds care about helping Israel, but they also care about a good return. The majority of visitors to our website are looking at rates. It shows we have really converted this to a business narrative. It is important to keep that narrative.”

For more information, prospectus and for current rates, please visit our website www.bondsisrael.com or contact Israel Bonds UK office on 020 7446 8670 info-uk@bondsisrael.com

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Carltone Group

BY ALEX ZADAH

Alex Zadah is a BSc professionally qualified engineer with a family background in the Eastern art world, with interests around the world.

He is a third generation collector in fine textiles, Persian carpets and antiquities with pieces being provided to international museums, as well as world-renowned auction houses, such as Sothebys and Christies.

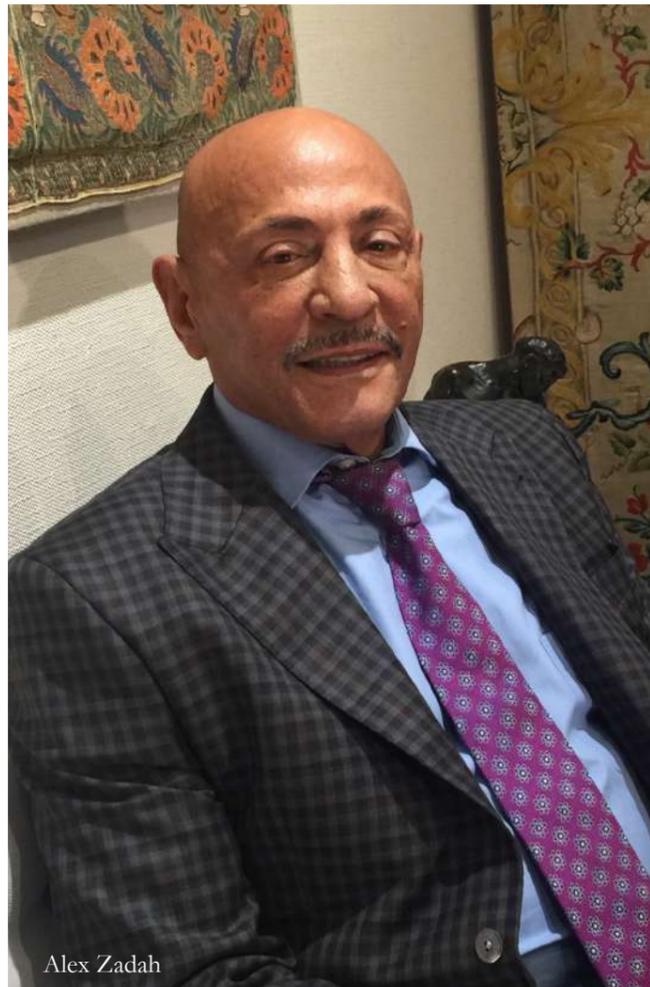
His property career began in the 80s in London with his company, Carltone Limited being initially set up to develop a portfolio of high quality residential and commercial properties for rent.

Providing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his clients, Alex has since focused his activities in property acquisition, redevelopment and conversions into luxury apartments for rent and sale, covering the Central and North London area.

Carltone Ltd develops high-quality residential and commercial properties in Central and North London, offering elegant and refined contemporary developments of all sizes.

“Carltone Group’s investors are not only clients and partners; they are very close associates. Our ever - expanding portfolio of properties offers excellent opportunities for the savvy investor to establish or expand a London based portfolio.”

“We strive to provide the style, charm and grandeur expected from our high calibre clientele, and our professional team of architects, surveyors, engineers and interior designers help us accomplish work of excellence.” said Alex.



Alex Zadah

An overview of some of Carltone’s projects

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Property investors

Carltone work closely with a select number of property investors from the UK and overseas, partnering on excellent opportunities for luxury residential and commercial developments, primarily in London.

As the founder and Director of the Carltone Group, Alex is an entrepreneur with a variety of art and antique collection.

**Carltone Group Wish the ZF
A Very Happy New Year**

For more information about Carltone Group, please visit our website www.carltone.co or contact +44 (0) 20 7935 7125 mail@carlton.biz

The New Generation of Property Investors

BY GABY BLAUER

Orit and Chen Lev were born in Israel and came to London 12 years ago. After serving in the Israeli army's engineering department as a building project manager, Orit worked as a property manager in a local company. Chen was importing merchandise from the USA.

The property world always fascinated them and, whilst Orit was on maternity leave, Chen started working in this field taking on his wife's role. His temporary position became permanent and part of his life. Slowly but surely, both Orit and Chen managed more and more properties. Today Lev Lettings and Sales manage 400 properties, Lev Properties serves dozens of property investors.

Why property?

Chen: The property business is not a routine job. Every project or deal has its own challenge so to get up in the morning to do something different each day makes my adrenalin pump.

What is so special about it?

Orit: To search every day for the next adventure and to find the right investor or the right tenant is to do what I've always wanted in life.

Chen: The idea that you can buy something that is in a disastrous state and, with Orit's strong ability as an

architect to understand what can be achieved and done, to identify the right project, and to get to the point that the end result is fascinating and profitable.

As an Israelis are you different from any other local property business?

Orit: The fact that we are Israelis gave us the opportunity to approach many Israeli investors especially now with the low pound following Brexit. We also advise fellow Israelis who arrive in London with our property knowledge. We opened a Facebook forum which gives answers in Hebrew to many relevant questions they may have, as well as trying to help them resolve any problems they may encounter.

Chen: As a proud Israeli, I have always supported Israeli charities and have sponsored property events for the Israeli community with all the proceeds going to help disadvantaged people in Israel - giving back is something that is inherent to us.

How competitive are you compared to other businesses?

Chen: First of all, we work all around London and we do not concentrate in any particular area. We charge much less than our competitors and our rates are very attractive, for example, 4% on lettings and 0.75% on sales. We are fluent in both English and Hebrew, and we have Italian and French speakers in our team too.

What is your uniqueness?

Orit: Since we are also landlords, we have a greater understanding of both tenants and landlords and we consider any specific property as if we own it ourselves.

We would like to wish the community a Happy and Healthy New Year

For more information about Lev Properties:
020 8213 3062 lev@levproperties.co.uk
www.levproperties.co.uk
www.facebook.com/LevProperties
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Orit and Chen Lev

As a landlord, I treat my clients' properties as my own.
Lev Chen Hayem

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Securing a Future in Israel with Hold Real Estate

ADVERTORIAL

The company he heads offers attractive investment opportunities in the Israeli residential real estate market, but Ari Shapiro, the founder and CEO of Hold Real Estate, based in Kiryat Tivon near Haifa, says his company does more than just sell homes. "The relationship with people who purchase property in Israel doesn't end with the signing of a sales contract," he says. "In fact, it only begins there."

"We are very customer-focused," says the South African-born businessman, who came to Israel as a child. "Our vision is to provide our Jewish foreign investors piece of mind by pairing them up with capital-growth opportunities, and managing everything for them



Ari Shapiro

from the moment a purchase contract is signed, through legal guidance, negotiating mortgage terms, managing payments and cash flow, supervising construction and design all the way through to finding and managing tenants," explains Shapiro, who established Hold in 2007. He continues a family tradition - his father Max who made Aliya in 1975 was a broker who built a successful business helping members of his native South African community invest in Israel. To which Ari Shapiro adds an interesting footnote: "Many of my first clients were the children of my father's original customers, and today we are seeing the third generation step in as well."

A quick look at the client quotes on Hold's newly designed website says it all - Hold goes that extra mile to make sure investors are cared for in the best possible

manner, a commitment that's appreciated by clients around the world. To this end, Hold has responded to the growing interest from UK based investors by appointing Marc Heller as local representative. Heller, who brings extensive experience in the residential real estate market, supports Hold's UK clients, together with the team in Israel.

Ari Shapiro points to what he sees as are two especially attractive opportunities offered currently by Hold - in Jerusalem's J19 Residences, a gorgeous boutique apartment building atop a luxury hotel in the very center of Jerusalem, a truly prime location where purchase is accompanied by free consultation from the exclusive Armani/Casa design company, and in three seafront buildings in Netanya's up-and-coming Ir Yamim neighborhood. "We are seeing tremendous interest in both projects which offer both a good investment and a comfortable home for years to come. At Hold we secure your future in Israel."



For more information on Hold Real Estate and projects please visit www.hold.co.il or contact Marc Heller (UK Sales Representative) on 07428 762 047 / marc@hold.co.il

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and the ZF members a very Happy New Year,
full of prosperity, success and health

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FOREIGN OFFICE
 NOVEMBER 2ND, 1917
 DEAR LORD ROTHSCHILD, I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN CONVEYING TO YOU. ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF SUPPORT WITH JEWISH ZIONIST ASPIRATIONS HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO, AND APPROVED BY THE CABINET. HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT VIEW WITH FAVOUR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL HOME FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE, AND WILL USE THEIR ENDEAVORS TO FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS OBJECT, IT BEING CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NOTHING SHALL BE DONE WHICH MAY PREJUDICE THE CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF EXISTING NON-JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN PALESTINE OR THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY JEWS IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD BRING THIS DECLARATION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ZIONIST FEDERATION.
 YOURS, ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR

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LONDON ברוך מובילי תבל

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To Am Yisroel*

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Gillian & Eric
Moonman*

**HARVEY & SANDRA
ROSE**

wish THE ZF

A Happy New Year

Happy New Year

from
Paul MacDonald

Happy New Year

from
Ann & John Curtis



**The Department for the
Promotion of Aliyah**

wishes you an abundance of blessings
of the New Year:

Health, joy, happiness, prosperity
and success.

New beginnings and that your
dreams should be fulfilled

Blessing of the home, in our home!



WISHING ALL ZF MEMBERS
A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

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