

ZF CONNECT

THE LEADING ISRAEL ADVOCACY MAGAZINE IN THE UK | ISSUE NO. 6 | JUNE 2017

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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



SOLIDARITY RALLIES

We organise rallies whenever mass demonstrations of support for Israel are needed, such as during times of war
Yearly cost £38,619



ADVOCACY MATERIALS

Printing leaflets and flyers helps activists to promote the truth about Israel directly to members of the public
Yearly cost £38,188



SPEAKER TOURS

We fly experts over from Israel to speak directly in front of both friendly and hostile audiences
Yearly cost £132,529



ACTIVIST TRAINING

We hold regular regional training days across the country, providing activists with relevant skills and knowledge updates
Yearly cost £50,535



COMMUNAL EVENTS

Bringing the community together for celebrations and concerts enables people to express their pride in Israel
Yearly cost £160,902



TRAINING STUDENTS

Informing and educating students on Israel, providing training, flyers and other resources, and the tools to stand up proudly for Israel
Yearly cost £48,105

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 this latest edition of the Zionist Federation's Connect Magazine, the UK's leading Zionist publication.

The ZF has continued to grow and build new and exciting programmes across the UK. This magazine is an opportunity for us to tell our story and the story of Israel, reaching audiences around the world. Through this magazine, the Zionist Federation is continuing to engage those closest to us, but also reaching new audiences and people with every edition. This magazine must continue to grow and spread its messages around the UK and beyond.

As you will read in the magazine, the ZF's activity is growing nearly every day. Our online reach has increased by almost 8,000 in the last year, and we have been producing numerous videos, flyers and infographics to help shape the conversation around Israel.

For those who prefer their Israel engagement to be face to face, we have been bringing engaging and exciting speakers, performers and experts to the UK. Since the last edition of this magazine we have brought one of the commandos from the IDF operation at Entebbe, former Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon, a Palestinian rights activist, the Director General of the Bank of Israel, and many more high-level speakers. This is the core of the Zionist Federation - creating engagement between experts and audience - and that is what we are continuing to do day in, day out.

But that is not all we have been doing. We have created and delivered training sessions to hundreds of young people. We have worked on university campuses across the UK, as well as in schools and with youth movements, delivering high level training in Israel knowledge, public speaking, and engaging audiences. These sessions have been well received and this is an area of our work which you will see expanding over the coming months.

The month of May has been set as Zionism Month. We are proud to be a founding partner of this, but are keen to see this grow and go from strength to strength. If you are able to do something, no matter how big or small, personal or communal, then do it. We each need to stand up and be counted as proud Zionists. There is plenty we can disagree on, but as committed supporters of Israel we should all be doing something to show our support for Zionism.

Finally I'd like to thank all of our supporters for continuing to ensure that there is a proud and vibrant Zionist Federation in the UK.

ZF Executive Director

CONNECT

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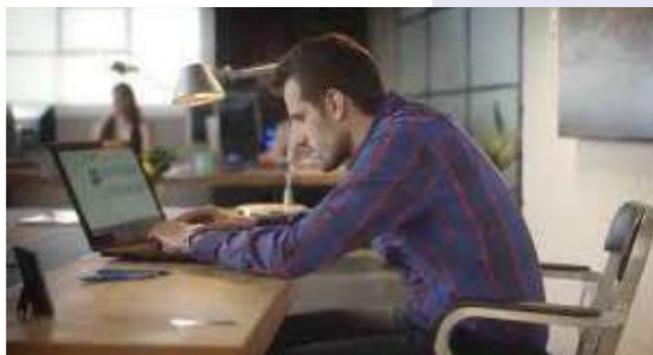
Meet 5 Israeli Start-ups

BY STEVE WINSTON

As the country with the highest number of start-ups per capita in the world, Israel has truly earned its nickname, “The Start-up Nation”. In just a few decades, thousands of Israeli start-ups have given rise to innovations in a wide range of fields, from agricultural irrigation and GPS navigation to life-saving cancer treatments. For this issue of ZF Connect, we have compiled a list of 5 Israeli start-ups which will, quite simply, change the way we do things.

UPRIGHT

Upright is the perfect product for concerned Jewish mothers everywhere: a wearable device that makes you sit up straight. According to Upright Technologies, habitually bad posture can begin as early as age 12. And with our culture having us sitting and staring at screens all day, bad backs can be hard to avoid. Upright aims to solve the problem with a small, white device that looks like a ball with a piece of sashimi on top. Place the “sashimi” - it’s really a sensor - on the small of your back and connect it to your phone; it will provide a gentle buzz whenever you slouch too much.



The app also guides users through a program to get them in the habit of using good posture. So, there’s no longer an excuse - stop slouching already!

LEXIFONE

In a global economy, not knowing English or another common language can be a barrier to doing business. Lexifone is an app that aims to solve the problem by making the “languages” section of your resume all but irrelevant.

Lexifone’s function is simple: It instantly translates whatever you say into the language of whomever you’re speaking to, and vice versa. So if you’re on a call to an associate in Spain, your conversation won’t be like one between Basil Fawlty and Manuel. You won’t need to know anything more than “hola” (actually you don’t even need to know that).



It’s easy to understand why this would be especially useful in Israel, a country with a unique native language that few others speak. Lexifone works in 15 languages, from Arabic to Taiwanese Mandarin.

BIRD

Sick of being glued to your phone, tablet or computer? Check out Bird - a wearable device - also somewhat sushi-like in appearance, that fits on the tip of your finger and turns any surface into a touchscreen. Yes, that’s right, any surface - tables, walls, you name it. Made by the startup MUV Interactive, Bird redefines digital interaction. It lets wearers move objects and click on icons simply by touching – on any surface. Kids can play video games projected onto walls and can write and draw on their bedroom walls without mum shouting about the mess or dad having to reach for the paint brush.



Use Bird’s technology to go from your smart phone to your television and interact with all your favorite apps in ways you never dreamed of.

UPnRIDE

UPnRIDE is a revolutionary new Segway-like device that allows quadriplegics to stand up and move around almost anywhere. It is, quite literally, poised to change the life of thousands of paralyzed people around the globe.

The Israeli device was developed by Dr. Amit Goffer, who already founded the revolutionary exoskeleton ReWalk, which enables paraplegics to walk and climb stairs. His new device will help quadriplegics (people paralyzed from the neck down) to stand and be mobile. Similar to a stand-up Segway or an electric scooter, the patented UPnRIDE moves over different kinds of terrains with the user’s guidance, using a joystick operated by hand or by mouth. Automatic balancing assures a safe ride uphill, downhill, and on slanted surfaces.

“Being able to stand and move is extremely important for people’s physiological health and their dignity,” Goffer says. According to him, the UPnRIDE reduces secondary complications of long-term sitting,

lowering the need for hospitalization, medications and physiotherapy.



NEXAR

Nexar is on a mission to rid the world of car crashes with its vehicle-to-vehicle technology. The Tel Aviv-based company has created a smartphone app that records what’s on the road in front of you when mounted to the dashboard and alerts you to potential incidents ahead of time. In the event of a collision, the Nexar app can provide drivers with evidence of events as they occurred to help them with their insurance claim.

Indeed, not only does Nexar record road conditions, including accident black spots, it can also keep tabs on specific dangerous drivers by remembering their licence plate and ranking them. So, you may be warned to avoid a driver in front of you if Nexar knows that they have a penchant for driving too fast and braking too hard. With integration to the hugely popular Israeli-invented Waze satellite navigation system, Nexar users can simply enter a destination in at the start of their ride, ensuring both safety and timely arrival at their destination.



Diplomacy and Daring at the ZF Annual Dinner

BY STEVE WINSTON

On 19th March 2017, the ZF was proud to host former defence minister of Israel, Moshe Ya'alon, at its Annual Dinner as well as Israel's Ambassador to the Court of St James's, Mark Regev, and Rami Sherman from the IDF operation at Entebbe.

Introduced by Ambassador Mark Regev as an "Israeli hero", Ya'alon made reference to the conflict, stating that "there's no chance of a better future" for the Palestinians while incitement and misinformation are key features of education in the territories and that for too many it's "not about occupation since '67 - it's about occupation since '48. It's about our very existence".

Despite Ya'alon's quitting as defence minister last year and his ambitions to topple Netanyahu at Israel's next election, he did however reflect the view of the Prime Minister, insisting that at the core of the conflict is the refusal of "too many parties in our tough neighbourhood" to recognise Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people. "We're still fighting our independence war until today," he said.

Ya'alon praised the ZF, recognising that the ZF is leading the battle against delegitimisation of Israel in the UK. He called on British Jews not to "underestimate the challenge" and urged people to challenge "fake news and alternative facts".



Rami Sherman, who served as an IDF commando in Israel's infamous operation in Entebbe, received a standing ovation during the dinner. He detailed the historic raid, from the government's early decision to negotiate with terrorists to its total turnaround leading to the daring rescue of over 100 hostages and the tragic death of Yoni Netanyahu.

Singer Tally Koren entertained the guests by singing 3 classic Israeli songs, "Chai", "Yerushalayim shel zahav" and "Hallelujah".

'The Zionist Federation was proud and honoured to host not one, but three exceptional speakers at our annual dinner'

ZF Chairman, Paul Charney said, "The Zionist Federation was proud and honoured to host not one, but three exceptional speakers at our annual dinner. Ambassador of Israel to the UK Mark Regev, Rami Sherman from the IDF operation at Entebbe, and Moshe Ya'alon, former defence minister of Israel were all absolutely top class speakers and the full house at our annual dinner thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The ZF is an organisation that makes pennies stretch to pounds and we will continue to do so, using the donations from our dinner to expand our work across all sectors but we need more support to ensure that there is a strong, loud, Zionist voice here in the U.K. The ZF is just that and, with the remarkable generosity of the Zionist community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, we will continue to be so for the future".



Hope was Not Lost

Why I Came Back to London

BY HEN MAZZIG

“...it embodies the desire of the people to condemn a Jew, and to condemn all Jews in this one Jew. Death to the Jews! howled the mob, as the decorations were being ripped from the officer’s coat... Where? In republican, modern, civilized Europe, a hundred years after the Declaration of the Rights of Man. The French people, or at any rate the greater part of the French people, does not want to extend the rights of man to Jews. The edict of the great Revolution had been revoked...”

On October 27th 2016, I was attacked by an angry mob, rioting outside and inside a classroom at University College London. Watching the videos after the event I was in shock, some of the chanting was too hard for me to cope with that night, but watching it again, the gut-wrecking footage, continued to haunt me. Imagine an angry mob, comprised primarily of students, shouting “Where is Hen?! Where is Hen?!” “Hen you war criminal! Come out!” “Shame! Shame! Shame!” they screamed. Finally, they shouted “Intifada! Intifada! From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!”, calling for the violent destruction of the Jewish state.



In their eyes I saw pure hate. As I left the classroom where the Jewish students and I were locked in, where we sang “Hatikvah”, where the London police were unable to reign in an antisemitic mob, I remember them shouting at me. I remember them calling me a murderer, over and over again. Looking back at that evening, I can’t help but draw a connection between the Dreyfus Affair and Theodore Herzl’s observation to that evening at University College London.

‘But what these students were really doing was reaffirming the crucial need for Israel’

The protestors didn’t know who I was, they didn’t bother to investigate my background. That I was a Jewish Israeli ex-officer was enough for them to hate me. As one of them said, “we don’t care who he is! We will not speak with officials.” I am not an official, not for the last 5 years. They didn’t care who I was because they were busy labeling me a “murderer” and accusing me of “war crimes” which I never committed, but they found me guilty. Through this riot and this attempt to “shame” me they tried to shame all Jews. Another student said to the cameras: “everyone in Israel need to get over themselves, it is the 21st century and we don’t need another Jewish state”. But what these students were really doing, was reaffirming the crucial need for Israel. Everything that she said just strengthened my belief that we need a Jewish state today, that Zionism is more than just an inspirational topic, it is necessary for the survival of the Jewish people.



British students in civilized Europe, or at any rate many of them, do not want to extend the rights to speak, to be heard, to feel safe, to Israeli Jews. In their eyes my very existence is a problem. For them I have no right to speak, I am not a human being. This demonisation will lead to only one ending. Some say to themselves; ‘Oh well, today in Europe it’s much safer, we are protected, we live freely and these are loud extremists that will never have any influence.’ Sound familiar? It should. How many Jews have said this to themselves in the past and woken up to find out that extremists control their own country. This is a reality we cannot afford, and a situation we have a moral obligation to fight, today.

I was afraid that night at UCL, as were all the Jewish students, but they remained inside and stood up to the vile hatred against them. I was so inspired by them that I realized that I cannot stay silent. If only for them I must do more, I must support them. This battle against antisemitism is bigger than me and you, but I have a role to play and so do you. That is why I came back to London with the Zionist Federation and I spoke on more campuses in the U.K. Most importantly I spoke at the Zionist Federation Israel Seminar - the real reason I said yes to coming back. The sight of pro-Israel groups together in one hall, learning how to stand up for Israel was incredible. Those people will be ambassadors of

education, of good speech, something which in these dark times we need more than ever. That’s where your help counts. This is not an issue of religion or ethnicity, and it is not about where you stand politically. It is about having a moral compass. It is about seeing danger, hatred, bigotry and yes, Antisemitism, and to call it what it is. It is about standing up for what’s right. It is our time, time that might be running out.



Hen Mazzig
Former IDF Humanitarian Officer, Writer and International Presenter.

Follow Hen on social media: [@HenMazzig](#) or visit his website: [henmazzig.com](#)

Celebrating 50 years of the Reunification of Jerusalem with an Unsung Hero

BY STEVE WINSTON

Last month the ZF, with the World Zionist Organisation, We Believe in Israel and the Board of Deputies, brought Dr Izack Ifat from Israel to speak to audiences here in England. A reservist paratrooper in 1967, he was suddenly called up to serve in the Six Day War. Izack was eternalised in history when he, together with two fellow paratroopers, were photographed by David Rubinger soon after they reached the Kotel/Western Wall on the 7th June 1967.

Dr Ifat, now a retired gynaecologist, spoke to packed audiences in Manchester; hosted by the Zionist Central Council, Leeds; hosted by Makor, Birmingham; hosted by West Midlands Friends of Israel, and twice in London; hosted first by the Board of Deputies where he was introduced by Ambassador Mark Regev, and then hosted by the Finchley/Kinloss synagogue.



He recalled his experiences from back then, telling how the IDF had been planning an operation in Egypt which was subsequently called off when they were told that Jordanians had launched an attack on Jerusalem and how they'd had to get on a bus and head there, where, upon entering the Old City, they were met by women offering cakes and hot drinks. Ifat explained how they arrived without a plan, no strategy, and how they almost immediately had to engage in direct combat with Jordanian soldiers. Dr Ifat described how, "one guy in front of me was hit in the buttocks, he was going to be shot again but I shot the Jordanian soldier first before he could do so". He told how after shooting that soldier, his rifle had no more bullets and that before he could refill it, "a Jordanian soldier came at me with a bayonet. Somehow I grabbed it, kicked him between the legs, overcame him and shot him."



Ifat also recalled how they wandered through the narrow streets of the Old City, not knowing exactly where they were, but looking for the place from which they had been banned from accessing since 1949. He recalled how, "suddenly we came through a small iron gate and saw it", 'it' being the Kotel, the Western Wall. Dr Ifat was among the first paratroopers to arrive there. He told his audiences how the Kotel wasn't as open as it is now, how it was surrounded by houses on all sides and how his friends "had tears in their eyes when they realised what was happening, that we came to the place we've been waiting for for 2000 years."

When asked what he was thinking of, looking deep in thought in the now iconic photo, Dr Ifat responded, "I was thinking of my grandfather, of Jewish history, of all the stories I was told...then I thought of my friends who had just died, including my best friend, Yair Goldberg. We were all so close, like a big family"



More than 100 soldiers from both the Israeli and Jordanian sides were killed during the battle. Ifat spoke about how he and his fellow troops made a small monument of stones to those who lost their lives and how they also built one for the Jordanians who lost theirs, "because they fought bravely". For him and his fellow troops, he told the audiences that it was an important thing for them to do but that "it was important also that Jerusalem was now in Jewish hands" and how for Dr Izack Ifat, "it must always be".

This speaking tour was part of a wider range of activities organised by the WZO around the world to celebrate Jerusalem Day and the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.



Historic Hospital at the Heart of the Battle

BY JAMES MARTIN

Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Centre has cared for patients from all religions, races and backgrounds for 115 years with life-saving medicine and cutting edge research, but in the never-to-be forgotten summer of 1967, it was literally operating at the heart of the city facing its biggest existential threat.

During the Six Day War in 1967, Shaare Zedek served as a front-line military hospital, treating 450 wounded in 70 hours and conducting over 200 operations. Doctors, nurses and volunteers saved many lives through their relentless efforts.

In the early hours of Monday June 5th 1967 the "hot line" from military headquarters rang the Hospital and within 15 seconds the coded "State of Emergency" had been activated and well-oiled volunteer plans were set-in-train. Doctors and administrative staff soon arrived, led by the legendary Dr Falk Schlesinger, the Hospital's then director.

Activity was intense, groups of volunteers joining the Hospital effort, all windows with blackout material, sandbags everywhere. The Hospital's main corridors were soon lined with extra beds and stretchers. Non-emergency patients were soon evacuated to create vital space, and the nursing school and staff dormitories were converted into emergency wards - so within 2 hours the Military Hospital was alive and kicking.

A retired blood lab technician remembered, "It was a Monday morning. It started like every morning. I arrived at Shaare Zedek and started to make the rounds

drawing blood from patients in different departments. One of the patients soon told me that the war had broken out. By 8am they started moving patients to the basement where we turned storage rooms into hospital rooms. By 11 am mortar shells were flying around us..."

"We set up an operating room in the basement. We dug holes in the ground where we put anything that could ignite. Everyone stayed in the hospital, no one left - by the second day injured soldiers started coming to the Hospital."



Volunteers heroically aid the Hospital workers

The whole of the city echoed with sounds of the war. For 70 hours the Hospital's surgeons worked non-stop, aided by exemplary and brave volunteers and the heroic energy and skill of the medical staff.

The Hospital itself was within the line of fire. Shaare Zedek boarded windows and made many efforts to protect the building and everyone inside it from enemy attacks. Although the conditions were very challenging, doctors, nurses and volunteers stayed in the hospital throughout the war and worked around the clock to save hundreds of lives.

The retired technician added: "There were so many miracles. A shell hit outside of the baby nursery and exploded but no one was injured. A second shell came into the attic of the hospital but it did not explode. You cannot imagine what it was like ... there were so many wounded, so many things were makeshift and we had no idea what was happening with our families."



Moshe Dayan flanked by hospital officials

After the war, Shaare Zedek was lauded by military and civilian authorities for its outstanding achievements. Today, as with then, the Hospital beats at the heart of the city, performing miracles on a daily basis, saving lives and responding even in the hardest of times with calm, authority and the very best of the human spirit. This includes treatment of victims of terror attacks in Israel, and sharing expertise for the greater good, including by setting up internationally lauded field hospitals in international disasters, like Haiti and Nepal.



Well-known personalities like Moshe Dayan came to Shaare Zedek to visit the injured.

But the summer of 1967, evoked by Shuli Nathan's "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav", remains embedded in the Hospital's DNA.



Shuli Natan singing "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav"

About Shaare Zedek

Shaare Zedek Medical Centre, celebrating its 115th birthday, is a world-class medical facility that is run according to traditional Jewish values and cares equally for all people regardless of race, religion or financial means. Patients have nicknamed Shaare Zedek the "Hospital with a Heart". Please visit www.shaarezedek.org.uk to find out more, including how to partner in our future by considering leaving a Legacy.

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An IDF Officer's Love Affair with Israel

BY KEREN HAJIOFF

Captain Keren Hajioff is the Head of Public Diplomacy in the Israel Defence Forces. Keren was born and raised in London, graduated from Hasmonean High School and, after being active in Bnei Akiva and FZY, made Aliyah to Israel in 2009.

She also graduated from the ZF Ambassador programme and regularly speaks at ZF advocacy events.

For the past few years, Keren has compiled a list of reasons why she loves Israel, which she posts on social media on Israel's Yom Ha'atzmaut / Independence Day. The number of reasons equates to the number of years of Israel's independence being celebrated. With each year celebrated, Keren creates a whole new list.

So here is Keren's list in celebration of 69 years of independence, a list with many reasons easily categorised under the catchphrase "only in Israel".



1. I love spotting old and tattered Israeli flags that are worn out but still waving. They represent this country - we may be getting older, we may be wearing out, but we are still here and we're not going anywhere.
2. I love that time I was getting my nails done and the woman doing my nails took out dried fruit from her bag and started feeding me (against my will).
3. I love that the taxi driver didn't have a problem having a fight with his wife on loudspeaker with me in the car.
4. I love that when walking home from the army down Ben Gurion Boulevard late one night, someone called down from a balcony and invited me to a party in his apartment.
5. I love how friendly I have become with one of the workers at my local supermarket - we are on a "text each other when we hear the other is sick" basis. Muhammad is much more than just a worker, he is a friend.
6. I love that there is a "national shidduch WhatsApp group" in Israel. There are different groups for different ages and hundreds of matchmakers trying to match the people they know.
7. I love that a phone call with my internet provider Bezeq somehow ended up being a conversation about

a book that the guy from customer service had recently read and strongly recommended.

8. I love that a Druze pilot asked me out on a date and claimed to "have a thing for religious girls".

9. I love the taxi driver that saw me on the street at 5am in uniform and drove me to base free of charge.



10. I love that someone from my shul saw me in the queue in the supermarket and felt comfortable enough to take the peanut butter out of my basket, put it on the side and say "you don't need it". He may have indirectly called me fat, but... that's what family does.

11. I love that I saw a bus driver, with a full bus, stop his bus in the middle of the street, get out and buy a falafel.

12. I love that within 20 minutes I saw 2 more bus drivers do the same thing. I couldn't believe my Zionist eyes.



13. I love how everyone pushes in the shuk on a Friday, it means that everyone is rushing to prepare for Shabbat. The more I get pushed, the holier Shabbat becomes.

14. I love that the most common questions that I get asked by visiting dignitaries is "How do you do it?" We are strong, we are advanced and we are a great nation.

15. I love that when I was flying from the US to Israel and working on my university paper, the guy sitting next to me, who was clearly reading what I had been writing, started helping me with it. It turns out that he is a famous Jewish historian.

16. I love that my commander invites me to her house for Shabbat. Every Shabbat.

17. I love that time I was on a bus, it pulled up to a bus stop where a blind man was waiting. Instantly two people at the front of the bus got up for him. The blind man didn't end up getting on the bus.

18. I love that whilst waiting at a bus stop, 2 young boys got up from the bench when they saw an old lady arrive. She demanded they sit down because she "sat down enough today".

19. As I write this down on my list, the same old lady started consulting with all those at the bus stop, as to the best way to deal with her mouse problem.

20. I love that graffiti in Israel is a great source of inspiration.

21. I love that it's considered natural to offer the person you are sitting next to on the bus a piece of gum if you take one out for yourself.

22. I love that taxi drivers regularly pick up passengers even if they already have a passenger in their car.

23. I love that time that the above happened to me and the other passenger turned out to be an American soldier (I too was in uniform)... the taxi driver wouldn't let me out of the car until I gave the American guy my number (he literally locked the doors)

24. I love that my cleaner, originally from the Philippines, knows more about Pesach cleaning than I do.

25. I love that time I took my soldiers for dinner and someone anonymously paid for our meals.

26. I love that at 19:48 my soldiers and I will stop what we are doing in order to sing Hatikva. We will never stop appreciating where we are.



27. I love that when meeting with the deputy head of my unit, he spent more time talking about my love life than he did about the formal issue of the meeting.

28. I love that IDF Generals message me on WhatsApp. In what other military could such a thing happen!

29. I love that it was normal for me to invite the woman who does my nails to stay in my apartment when she broke up with her boyfriend that she was living with. I knew others would do it for me...



30. I love that ahead of Shavuot, all dairy foods are on sale in the supermarkets.

31. I love that ahead of Yom Ha'atzmaut, clothes in shop windows will be blue and white.

32. I love that when my friends throw a party in their apartments, most of the time, they'll invite their neighbours in the building and most of them will actually come.

33. I love that the owner of Nini Hachi felt it appropriate to send me text messages with his opinion whilst I was on a date in his restaurant.

34. I love that the Prime Minister of Israel follows me on Twitter.

35. I love that when I feel an excessive amount of love towards Israel, I can literally just lie down on the ground and hug it out.

36. I love that every time a woman with a buggy gets off the bus, there will always be more than one person offering to help her off.

37. I love that I got a message from a friend telling me that he had found my other friend's ID on the floor, that he had searched for him on Facebook and saw that I was a mutual friend and that is how his lost ID was returned.

38. I love that I get to be a spokesperson of the Israel Defence Forces. All I have to do is tell the truth...

39. I love watching two dog owners meeting as a result of their dogs taking an interest in one another and talking as if they're friends. These encounters happen all the time, I love them!



40. I love that on the way back from a night out with friends, I made up a game whilst on a Monit Sherut (taxi bus) called "six degrees of separation – let's see if we all have a connection to one another". All the passengers had a connection to one another.

41. I love that one of the guys that I played this game with actually added me on Facebook. He's probably reading this now, hello!

42. I love that the optician "Halperin" has a sale every year with the percentage off of optics based on the year of independence that Israel is celebrating (69% off everything this year!)

43. I love the guy who walked down the train cabin to give out wafers to the passengers.

44. I love that the school next to the IDF Headquarters rings to the tune of Golden Boy. In the middle of very important meetings I hear "I'm a golden boy come here to enjoy..."

45. I love that whilst in a meeting with a senior representative of the Ministry of Defence, I noticed he had a charity box on his table with 3 coins next to it. I asked him what they were for and he said "I want everyone who comes into my office to give charity!"

46. I love that Mendel, the old man at the wine shop next to my apartment, salutes me every single evening when he sees me walking home from the army.

47. I love when bus drivers sing loudly to the music playing on the radio.

48. I love when the passengers join in too.

49. I love Israeli soldiers. I may be one myself but that doesn't stop me from loving them.

50. I love that as I sit down to write this list, a soldier literally came up to me and gave me a rose.

51. I love that passive aggression doesn't exist here. If people are angry, they will tell you to your face.

52. I love that when someone goes to the toilet, they'll ask a stranger at the next table to keep an eye on their bag. I do it too.

53. I love that when I let one of my best friends crash at my apartment for a few weeks, she ended up meeting her future husband... the Israeli guy who lives upstairs.



54. I love how normal it is for Israelis to wear jeans to weddings. This isn't the most stylish thing of all, but it shows how damn comfortable everybody is with one another.

55. I love that on Memorial Day, even the passengers mid-flight will stand for a moment of silence.



56. I love that the last time I wrote a list like this, an Israeli guy reached out to me via Facebook, and for two years following he would add me to a Facebook group every few weeks with a different guy he wanted to set me up with each time. "Josh meet Keren, Keren meet Josh, you're both Zionist and single" and would then leave the group. Only two years after regularly doing this did we actually meet.

57. I love that the word for "@" in Hebrew is Shtrudel.



58. I love that a local restaurant sent me over some free chicken noodle soup when they saw me walking home from the army sick.

59. I love that at weddings it is customary to say mazal tov to one another even if you're not the one getting married.

60. I love Herzl Biton, the bus driver who took down a terrorist and lit a Torch at the National Independence Day ceremony - watch it on YouTube, you will cry.

61. I love that on numerous occasions, I have witnessed people on the bus have heated conversations ranging from politics to relationships. It really is quite phenomenal.

62. I love that a conversation that a random guy had with me on the bus ended up in a series of successful dates.

63. I love that numerous people passed me tissues when at the funeral of a fallen soldier.

64. I love that my next rank in the IDF (the rank of Major), in Hebrew has the nickname of "falafel" because it is a leaf that resembles a falafel.

65. I love that the Hebrew word for a get together is a "happening" (said with an Israeli accent).

66. I love that my commander is the one who tells me when I need to get my eyebrows done.

67. I love that when I went to my bank, the guy behind the counter was extremely friendly and invited me to his home for Shabbat. A few days later, he texted me to see how I was and tell me that my credit card had arrived.

68. I love waking up in the morning and seeing my IDF uniform on my hanger, knowing that I have a huge privilege of defending the state of Israel.

69. I love that this is only my list and that everyone else has lists of their own - experiences, stories and moment that can only possibly happen in Israel.



Leave a lasting legacy for the future of Israel



Remember the ZF in your will - together we can ensure that Israel has a voice in the UK

The ZF works tirelessly up and down the country to create new platforms and experiences to bring the UK closer to Israel. We have been promoting the close and eternal bond between the UK and Israel since 1899 and will do so long into the future.

We need your help to ensure that current and future generations will be inspired and empowered to stand up for Israel.

This is where the ZF Legacy will help us achieve that goal. With your commitment, we will be able to go on to do bigger and better things, for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and many generations to come. It is so important in these times that Israel has a friend here in the UK. With your commitment and ours, together we can ensure that this remains the case.

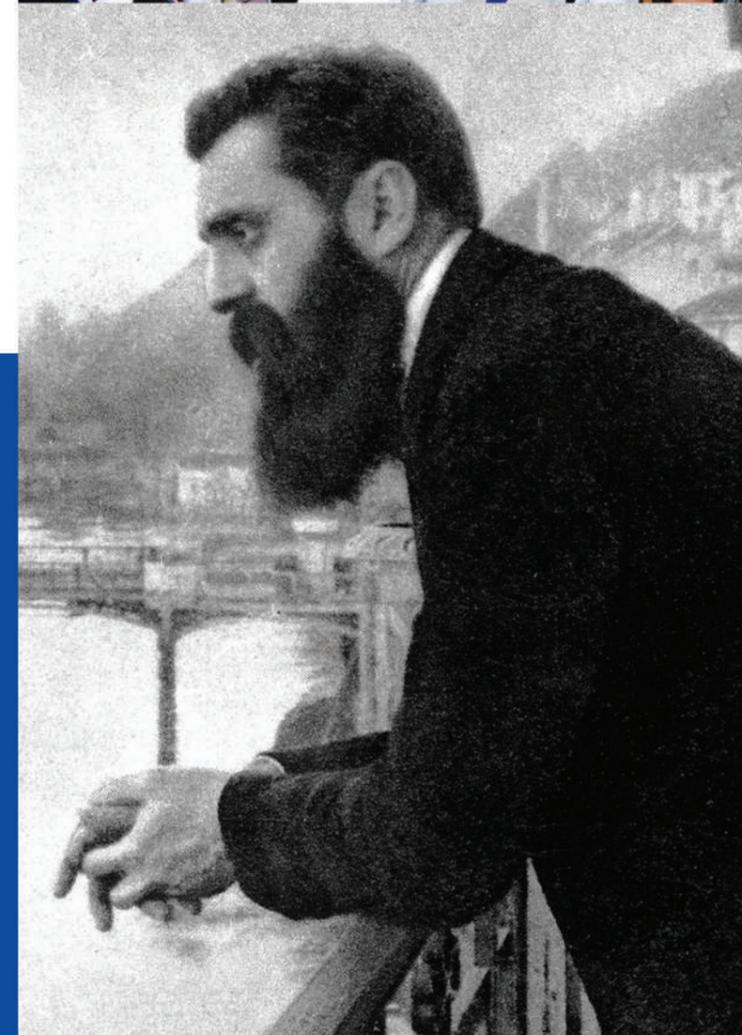
Your legacy gift to the ZF will help to support our student and other activist training events, young leadership programmes, campaigns, media activity and speaker tours, as well as many other projects.

The best way to join the ZF Legacy is to make a bequest during your lifetime which costs you nothing. The ZF Legacy will be a testament to your lifetime of commitment to, and love for, Israel. Together we can ensure future support for Israel

If you require any further information regarding a bequest to the ZF or you would like to discuss any aspects of the legacy, please contact Amit Fraser, Director of Fundraising, on 020 8202 0202 or email amit@zionist.org.uk

ZF Events Across 2016-2017

SOME OF THE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
THE ZF HAVE ORGANISED RECENTLY



Use the
**MONTH
OF MAY**
to celebrate
**ZIONISM
YOUR
WAY**



Al Quds Day counter rally



Balfour 99 Lecture



Speaker event - Col. (Res.) Grisha Yakubovich



Annual Israel Seminar - Hen Mazzig



Counter rally against support of UN bias



Lobby Day



Annual Dinner



Yom Ha'atzmaut 69



Rally to welcome PM Netanyahu





Celebrating Zionism

Last month, May 2017, was Zionism Month, an annual initiative first launched in May 2016 by the ZF and We Believe in Israel. This has been a great success, with people proudly identifying as Zionists across the UK.

The future aim for Zionism Month is that it takes place with no organisation having “ownership” over it and that anyone who wants to, can do something during the month and celebrate Zionism in their own way, however they and their organisation see fit, in much the same way as Pride Month, Environment Month or Black History Month, where no individual organisation is responsible for all activity during that time.

For Zionism month this year, we produced graphics for sharing on social media, highlighting just some of those characteristics that form the very essence of Zionism – humanitarianism freedom for all and inclusivity, to name but a few.

With Yom Yerushalayim/Jerusalem Day being in May this year, and because of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem, the ZF, together with the World Zionist Organisation, Board of Deputies and We Believe in Israel, brought a very special speaker from Israel to speak to audiences in England, where they got to listen to the stories of a man who’s image was captured in eternity by renowned photographer, David Rubinger, at the Kotel/Western wall when Israeli troops reached it in June 1967 (more can be read about this on pages 10-11)



What Does it Mean to be A 21st Century Zionist?

BY ARIEH MILLER

From around the mid 1800s until 1948, modern Zionism was encapsulated by the desire for Jewish self-determination in a state of our own. The majority of Zionists believed this state should be in the historic homeland of the Jewish people, with Jerusalem as its capital. And the Zionist dream was successful! The Jewish state exists. It exists in the land of Israel, with Jerusalem as its capital city. So, now that we have achieved all of that, what is Zionism today? What does it mean to be a Zionist? And what are we striving for in these modern times?

Zionism today is far too often defined by anti-Zionist movements. It is defined by anti-Zionists, with the sole intent of demonising Israel and Israel supporters. “Zionist thugs” is often a phrase that gets banded about. The accusation that all Zionists are racist is also something that is regularly hurled at Israel supporters, including in the 1970s by the United Nations.

Zionism isn't that, but then what is it? As it stands, any answer to that question must start with the phrase “For me, Zionism is...”. There simply isn't a universal definition which is part of the problem. It is hard, if not impossible, to wholeheartedly identify with an ideology that is so undefined in a modern context, yet it is an ideology that so many feel a part of. In order to ensure that Zionism, as an ideological movement, has a future, we need to look at the past. In the period of what is known as modern Zionism, the Herzl era, there were multiple streams of Zionism – Political, Cultural, Religious, Revolutionary, Labour, and more! But they all had one fundamental commonality; the striving for a homeland for the Jewish people. In the early 1900s this developed into the striving for a homeland for the Jewish people in the historic land of Israel, but even this wasn't a given. Herzl, the father of Zionism, himself was willing to accept the Uganda Plan, to establish a Jewish state in part of what is now modern day Kenya, but that very quickly got rejected by the wider Zionist movement.

So today, Zionism needs to be redefined. We are no longer striving for the creation of a Jewish homeland in the land of Israel. We have succeeded in this goal. So Zionism needs to develop along with time. It is a movement, an ideology, an entity that is designed to adapt and develop, whilst keeping a specific set of values at its core. This is what the fundamentals of a movement with an ideology are, and that is now what Zionism must do.

So let's take the bold step and define Zionism right here. Let's be pioneers of modern Zionism and let's seek to make a real difference, reclaiming Zionism as our own and taking it back from the anti-Zionist movements who have, for too long, told us what we must believe rather than listening to us and allowing us to self-define.

So here's a crack at defining Zionism. Any conversation about borders, capitals, governmental structure, population, economics, immigration etc., I see as explanation of the definition, rather than the definition itself. But I believe that this baseline definition is something that can work for multiple streams of Zionism and Judaism and provides the Zionist movement with a platform from which to self-define.

Zionism: a 21st Century definition:

- The belief in the right of the Jewish State, the state of Israel, to exist and thrive.
- Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state and shaping it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character, marked by mutual respect for the multi-faceted Jewish people, striving for peace and contributing to the betterment of the world
- Upholding the values of the declaration of Independence and supporting Israel as a country for all of its citizens.
- Standing strong against blind hatred of Israel, in particular, standing up against those who question Israel's very right to exist.

The Herzl Museum

A Zionist Experience for the Entire Family

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANISATION

The Herzl Museum includes a spectacular audio-visual encounter with the visionary of the Jewish State. The presentation provides a thought provoking 60 minute look into the Jewish world according to Herzl's insights. The visit to the museum allows one to be an active participant in understanding Herzl's bold aspirations and disappointments during his stormy personal journey. Through the encounter with Herzl's great achievements, the visitor senses himself a part of Herzl's enduring heritage.

One of the Centre's underlying principles is creating a bridge between past and present, which will promote Herzl's legacy and his Zionist vision among the younger generation, in order to ensure a Jewish future with values, vision and imagination.

The Herzl Museum is a unique educational center that offers a hands-on encounter with the Zionist Movement and its founder, Binyamin Ze'ev (Theodor) Herzl. The design of the Museum is young and modern, and it describes Herzl as a person and a leader, using contemporary language and spectacular audio-visual technology.

The Museum is located at the entrance to Mt. Herzl, and visits there can be combined with guided tours to the Leaders of the Nation Cemetery, the Military Cemetery, and other national sites.

The Herzl Centre was built on the 100th anniversary of Herzl's death, in order to depict the impact and power his activities had on our contemporary reality.

The audience joins Herzl on a journey to Zionism, accompanying him as he formulates his positions, identifying with his hopes and disappointments, and understanding the importance of the legacy he left behind while examining the challenges we presently face.



Herzl's ideas and the theory underlying the Zionist Movement have had an impact on all of us and have made their mark on the path of our history. A visit to the Museum allows us to conduct a thought-provoking dialogue between the past and present, and to examine how we envision the future.

The general public is invited to take part in a unique experience and benefit from educational enrichment while also enjoying a pleasant time. Youth and educators, soldiers and students, adults and new immigrants – everyone is invited to become reacquainted with the Zionist vision and to see how it is being realized.



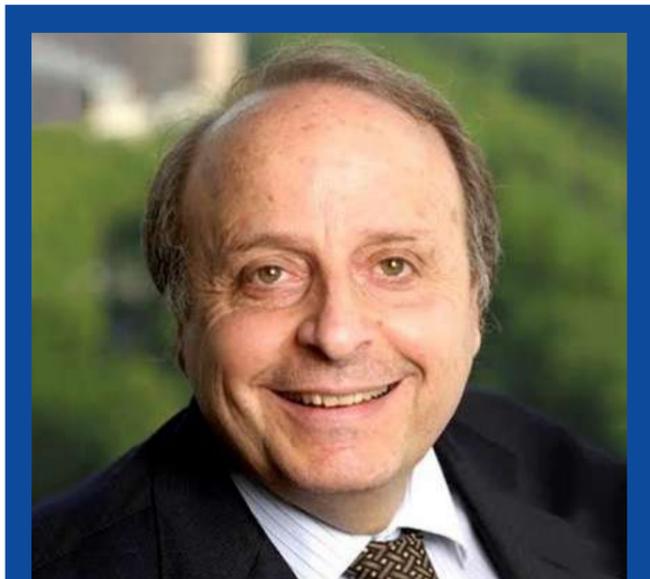
Interactive Exhibition

The Herzl Centre's digital display allows visitors an in-depth discussion of modern Israeli issues in the fields of Zionism, religion, society, immigration and the environment.

Individual activity on the "Smart Wall" allows a meaningful discussion on the vision, in comparison to today's reality.

- The activities are aimed at age ten and older.
- Length of the visit – about half an hour
- A visit to the display may be combined with a tour of Mount Herzl, or a visit to the Herzl Museum.

The Herzl Centre was established by the Department for Zionist Activities of the World Zionist Organization, which was founded by Herzl himself at the First Zionist Congress in 1897; in cooperation with the Jerusalem Foundation and with support from the Jewish National Fund, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, and the Jewish Colonial Trust.



Dr Nissim Levy

The London businessman and philanthropist who was recently appointed Chairman of the Board of the Herzl Museum in Jerusalem and who hosted the Annual Gala Dinner of the ZF this year, highly recommends a visit to the museum when you are next in Jerusalem.

Visits to the museum must be arranged in advance. Other visitors will be permitted to enter on a space available basis. The Museum is located at the entrance to Mt. Herzl, Herzl Blvd., Jerusalem. Call us: 972-2-6321515 or E-Mail: museum@wzo.org.il
The Museum is wheelchair accessible

Five “Must See” Places in Israel

BY BOAZ YACOBI

Shlomo Sixt Car Rental is the largest car rental company in Israel with over 30 branches nationwide, including in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Eilat and Haifa and a 24/7 branch in Israel’s Ben Gurion airport. We offer a huge range of car rental vehicles, from family and luxury vehicles to trucks & cooling vehicles.

“We are Israel’s representative of Sixt worldwide car rental which offers over 4,000 car rental locations in over 115 countries around the globe. We are committed to the international service standard of Sixt rent-a-car worldwide and are proud to offer the best car rental experience in Israel, with the cheapest rates and best service.” *Boaz Yacobi*

If you’re planning a vacation to Israel soon, don’t forget that Israel is a country rich in history, tradition, culture and diversity, so a rental car from Shlomo Sixt will enable you to access all that and more.

With so many sights and places to choose from, narrowing it down to the 5 top places was challenging but nevertheless, here they are and not to be missed. So buckle up and get ready for an exciting adventure that you won’t forget.

Jerusalem

With over 2 million visitors annually, add Jerusalem to the top of your list of places to visit in Israel. Jerusalem is Judaism’s holiest city and is also of religious importance to Christianity and Islam. This ancient city is filled with world-class museums, biblical landmarks and religious sites. Within the Old City itself, there is

the Western Wall, Dome of the Rock and Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Old City, divided into four quarters – Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Armenian – also has countless narrow streets with unique shops selling antiques, clothes, jewellery and religious artefacts as well as restaurants serving delicious cuisine.



With 2 branches in Jerusalem, car rental in this ancient revered city has never been easier than with Shlomo Sixt.

Tel Aviv

If you enjoy a cosmopolitan atmosphere and beautiful beaches, then Tel Aviv is not to be missed. Tel Aviv is the business and industrial centre of Israel and its second largest city. It’s also home to a wonderfully diverse variety of world-class restaurants, stores and nightlife as well as the largest number of buildings in the Bauhaus/International Style of any city in the world, earning it UNESCO recognition as a World Cultural Heritage site. Tel Aviv was voted one of the top ten beach cities in the world by National Geographic Magazine. The beachfront offers great restaurants and bars as well as spectacular sunsets.

Shlomo Sixt has 5 branches in Tel Aviv, so whether picking up or returning, car rental with Shlomo Sixt has never been easier.



The Dead Sea

This “sea” is just a large lake and the lowest point on earth. The Dead Sea derives its name from the high concentration of salt in its water. This provides two direct benefits for Israel. Firstly, it’s considered to be a large natural health spa and is THE destination for people who have a variety of skin ailments. Secondly, it has enabled Israel to become one of the world’s largest suppliers of minerals. There is also a nearby nature reserve, Ein Gedi, which offers hiking trails, breath-taking views and small ponds and waterfalls.



Haifa

A coastal city in the north of Israel built on the slopes of Mount Carmel, Haifa is full of beautiful sites and beaches. The Baha’i World Centre with its iconic golden dome is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a destination for Baha’i pilgrims. Its immaculate gardens consist of 700 steps surrounded by manicured lawns, flowers and plants. Take a drive on Yefe Nof Street and experience the amazing view of the harbour and other



side of the bay. On a clear day you can see Lebanon and Mount Hermon. There are winding roads throughout Haifa with hidden pubs, restaurants, little shops and cafes.

Eilat

If you’re looking for a place with first class hotels and pristine beaches, then head to Eilat! This resort city is located at the southernmost tip of Israel along the shores of the Red Sea. Eilat’s coral reef makes for some incredible scuba diving and snorkelling. Eilat is home to the Coral World Underwater Observatory, the biggest public aquarium in the Middle East and Dolphin Reef, a marine biology and research station where visitors can swim and interact with dolphins. For the more adventurous traveller, Eilat offers parasailing, skydiving, camel tours and jeep tours in to the Negev desert. Eilat is also widely considered a fun party city due to the vibrant nightlife, bar scene and general all year round holiday atmosphere.



Boaz Yacobi
VP for sales & marketing at Shlomo Sixt

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Helping Jewish People Return to Israel

BY ALISON EASTWOOD, UK DIRECTOR

“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth” – Isaiah 43:6

Ebenezer Operation Exodus is a Christian organisation helping the Jewish people return to the land of Israel.

We are represented in over 50 nations worldwide. Since 1991, we have assisted over 150,000 Jewish people to return to the land of Israel from many nations. We also have an office in Jerusalem to support olim as they settle in the land.

In our operational areas, we reach out and encourage Jewish people to make aliyah. We provide support, hope, encouragement and practical assistance. We also support vulnerable Jewish people in some nations by providing much needed humanitarian aid. We have special projects for Holocaust survivors, shoes, clothing, food and medical supplies, showing love and care in practical ways.

All this is founded on prayer and we have a worldwide prayer family who pray without ceasing. As one nation sleeps, another awakens and continues the covering in prayer.



We have a close working relationship with the Jewish Agency, and it is a privilege to serve with them in the successful aliyah of a number from the UK. Next year in Jerusalem?

בבקשה

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World Zionist Organization The Department For The Promotion Of Aliyah

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Sending special greetings and congratulations to Israel on her 69th Independence Day. We continue to stand with you in prayer, support and love.



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