



April 2010 / Iyar 5770



WELCOME to the MERCAZ-Canada April 2010 e-newsletter. This April is a special month - not only do we celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the State of Israel, but we also celebrate Herzl's 150th birthday. We therefore dedicate this e-newsletter to Theodore Herzl z'l.

MERCAZ-Canada is the Canadian affiliate of **MERCAZ OLAMI**. In Canada we are the voice of Conservative Jewry within the Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF).

MERCAZ OLAMI is the Zionist organization of the world Masorti/Conservative Movement. We promote and support Zionist education, Israel programs and aliyah in our movement and work to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Israel. We believe in the centrality of

Israel in the life and consciousness of the Jewish People and the unity of the Jewish People wherever they may live.

MERCAZ represents the interests of Masorti/Conservative Judaism in the World Zionist Organization (WZO), the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and Keren Kayemeth LeYisrael (the Jewish National Fund-JNF). We are the advocate and the force that guarantees funding for religious streams that is so crucial to our Movement.

MERCAZ links Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora with Israel through tourism, Jewish education, study of the Hebrew language, "people-to-people" partnerships, short-and long-term Israel programs and Aliyah.



Marion Mayman, President MERCAZ-Canada reports

WZO Update and Thank You from MERCAZ-Canada President Marion Mayman

A strong MERCAZ within the WZO and JAFI is vital to the development of our Movement around the world and in Israel. It is also critical to our ability to influence the agenda and the distribution of resources of these organizations, which together have a tremendous impact on world Jewry - particularly in the areas of Israel-Diaspora relations, Jewish Zionist education, and Aliyah. To view the benefits to the Masorti/Conservative movement, derived from our participation within WZO and

JAFI, [please click here](#).

Our strength is a function of our representation within the Zionist Congress, which in turn is a direct result of our ability to "turn out the vote" during elections to the Zionist Congress, as well as our involvement in Zionist Federations throughout the Diaspora.

We have encouraged people to join MERCAZ-Canada - especially this past year - in all our publications and correspondence, with the thought that there might be an election within the Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF) for delegates (mandates) to represent Canada at the upcoming World Zionist Congress. We used the slogan "more members = more votes for MERCAZ-Canada". We were successful in all respects. Not only did we increase our total membership this year but by doing so we were able to come to an agreement with the other parties within CZF to obtain an additional delegate without going to a very costly election. In 2010, therefore, MERCAZ-Canada will have 4 delegates instead of the 3 we had in 2006.

This couldn't have been accomplished without:

- the effort and support of you, our members, who took up the challenge and joined;
- the Presidents and Executive Directors of our synagogues from coast to coast who encouraged their members to join MERCAZ-Canada by printing our notices in their Bulletins and Shabbat Sheets, forwarding our e-Newsletter to their membership database and sending in to our office in a timely fashion the names and money of the members who joined on their check-off system;
- the continued support and efforts of the members of the MERCAZ-Canada Board (for the names of the MERCAZ-Canada Board Members [please click here](#));
- our very capable staff of Marilyn Cohen, Rhonda Schild and Mark Heimann for facilitating the entry of data to bring our records up to date by the end of December.

This team effort gave me the much needed ammunition to fight and win a very stressful battle. I also want to thank Paul Kochberg, a member of the MERCAZ-Canada Board who joined me on the Area Election Committee of CZF where the discussions took place and the decisions were made. .

I couldn't have done it without all of you. Todah rabah, thank you.

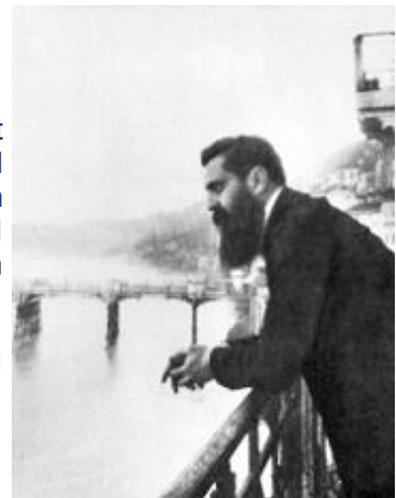
The 36th World Zionist Congress will take place in Jerusalem from June 15th to June 17th. The JAFI meetings will be held from June 20th to June 22nd. A report of these meetings will be featured in our Fall e-Newsletter.

COMMEMORATING HERZL'S 150th BIRTHDAY

Theodor Herzl is broadly known as the visionary of the Jewish state. His treatise *Der Judenstaat* ("The Jewish State"), written in 1896 set forth the reasons why a Jewish state was necessary. However, Herzl was not interested solely in creating a physical space for the Jewish people. Rather, as expressed in his less familiar novel *Altneuland* ("The Old-New Land"), published in 1902, Herzl had a vision, an almost utopian vision, of what that state should be like.

To read all about Theodore Herzl check out the HERZL MUSEUM website

<http://www.herzl.org/english/Article.aspx?Item=492&Section=491>





THEODOR HERZL EXHIBITS IN CANADIAN SYNAGOGUES

Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF) and MERCAZ-Canada have co-sponsored a poster exhibit on the life and work of Theodore Herzl. The Exhibit is comprised of 28 full size posters accompanied by printed explanatory materials depicting Herzl's early childhood, outside influences and motivations for his thoughts on Zionism, Antisemitism, Judaism etc., his writings and leadership accomplishments.

The following Toronto synagogues have displayed this exhibit in their shuls:



Beth Tikvah displayed the posters in their lobby during January in conjunction with their major concert on Israeli music and invited the teachers and children from the United Synagogue Day School, Bayview Branch to use it as a valuable teaching opportunity.

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am displayed the Exhibit for three weeks over Pesach.



Adath Israel will be having a Friday service and dinner on April 16th in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut and Herzl's 150th birthday and the Poster Exhibit will be displayed.

Other Herzl Programmes:

Beth Tikvah in Richmond, BC will be joining with another synagogue to celebrate Herzl's 150th birthday. It will be an open celebration for the entire Jewish community, with participation of the B'nai Mitzvah students and members of the congregations.



Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum

1700 Bathurst Street
presents two exhibitions on

Theodor Herzl

commemorating the 150th anniversary of his birth

Herzl, The Pursuit of the Zionist Vision: Up Close and Personal and

The Herzl Collection of David Matlow

from May 12th until November 28th, 2010

Highlights during this commemoration-

- Monday, May 10, 7:30 pm, documentary film and discussion - *The Name My Mother Gave Me* by award-winning Israeli director Eli Tal-El depicting challenges of integration and identity among Russian and Ethiopian Jews.
- Wednesday, May 12, Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum's two exhibitions: *The Pursuit of the*

Zionist Vision-Up Close and Personal and *The Herzl Collection of David Matlow* - includes posters, documents, letters, photos and many images of Herzl on coins, stamps and a huge piece using Rubiks Cubes. Students from both Jewish and non-Jewish schools are invited to tour the exhibit.

- Thursday, May 13, Tanenbaum CHAT Wallenberg Campus - Student lunch study program on Herzl with Beth Tzedec's Israeli Emissaries Gal and Danielle.
- Friday, May 28, Shabbat dinner and lecture with Professor Stephen Berk - *Herzl: A Birthday To Remember*.
- Throughout June and July screenings of seven documentary films, series entitled: *Did Herzl Really Say That?*

ESSAY CONTEST ON A HERZL THEME

Every two years, **MERCAZ-Canada, MERCAZ USA and Women's League for Conservative Judaism** conduct, an essay contest for high school students on Israel and Zionism. The winners will be announced at the Women's League Biennial Convention in December, 2010.

The winners are provided with scholarships to subsidize the cost of Conservative Movement sponsored trips to Israel (USY Pilgrimage, NATIV, Ramah Seminar, Conservative Yeshiva, etc). This year, the theme for the Essay Contest is centered around Theodore Herzl's vision of the Jewish State, in honour of the 150th anniversary of his birth.

We are pleased that three Canadian teenagers entered the competition with excellent essays. They are: Adam Miller, Beth Jacob, Hamilton; Elinor Milman, Har El, West Vancouver; Emma Pascoe, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, Toronto.



WZO CONGRESS - JUNE 2010

MERCAZ-Canada Delegates & Alternates

Delegates

1. **Marion Mayman** (Toronto)
2. **Alexandra Cyngiser** (Calgary)
3. **Rabbi Philip Scheim** (Toronto)
4. **Alana Bernick** (Toronto)

Alternates

1. **Rabbi Lionel Moses** (Montreal)
2. **Judy Silver** (London)
3. **Nola Lazar** (Winnipeg)
4. **Paul Kochberg** (Toronto)
5. **Stan Greenspan** (Toronto)
6. **Ron Hoffman** (Toronto)
7. **Rabbi Jarod Grover** (Toronto)
8. **Michael Ferman** (Toronto)

DAVID BREAKSTONE IN THE JERUSALEM POST

Keep Dreaming, the [Case for a Greater Israel](#) written by David Breakstone in the Jerusalem Post.

Dr Breakstone represents worldwide Masorti/Conservative Judaism on the executives of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, where he also serves as Head of the Department for Zionist Activities.



To read this very timely article [please click here](#).



DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR MASORTI/CONSERVATIVE SHULS IN CHILE

Below is a direct link to a comprehensive article by Rabbi Tzvi Graetz (Ex Dir MERCAZ OLAMI + MASORTI OLAMI) on the situation in Chile as it relates to their Masorti/Conservative community. Please note that if you wish to make a donation and receive a CANADIAN TAX RECEIPT, you must contact Rhonda Schild, c/o USCJ, 1000 Finch Ave W.#508 Toronto, ON M3J 2V5 or call 1 800 417 1332 or email Canadian@uscj.org .

[Click here to read article](#)

CONSERVATIVE YESHIVA SUMMER PROGRAMS

For a memorable summer program experience in Israel with fellow students from all over the world, consider attending The [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at United Synagogue's [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#). This intensive Hebrew and Jewish text study program will be offered for two sessions this summer: June 27 to July 15 or July 18 to August 5.

Click here for more info:

<http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/summer/>



YOM HA'ATZMAUT GREETING

We are delighted to wish Israel Happy 62nd Birthday. We salute the many accomplishments the people of Israel have achieved over the past 62 years. As the State has prospered, the Masorti/Conservative Movement in Israel has also prospered. We in Mercaz-Canada are very proud of the fact that there are now over 50 Masorti congregations in Israel, from Carmiel in the north to Eilat in the south. We gain a great deal of satisfaction from the knowledge that our contribution, through our participation on the WZO, has helped to increase funding for our Masorti congregations - helping to make them viable institutions of religion and learning. With your help and support, we know that our movement in Israel will continue to grow and flourish.

WHY JOIN MERCAZ-CANADA - *The Zionist Arm of Canadian Conservative Jewry*

We Jews love anniversaries. Last year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv, the first city of the modern Zionist movement. The year before, in 2008, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. And this year, 2010, is itself an "anniversary" year as we mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Herzl, the founder of the modern Zionist movement.



It was Herzl who convened the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in August, 1897. Fifty years (and a couple of months) later, the UN General Assembly approved the Partition Plan for Palestine, thereby endorsing the creation of the Jewish State, and we, today are the beneficiaries of these acts.

But while the Jewish State is a blessed reality, the mission of Zionism has not been completed. As long as there are Jews in need, as long as Israel is not secure, as long as the ideal Jewish society within the Jewish state has not been achieved, the Zionist movement will continue with purpose.

In June, the 36th World Zionist Congress, the heir of Herzl's first Congress, will convene in Jerusalem. The Conservative Movement, through MERCAZ OLAMI, is a full partner in the WZO and Jewish Agency. Our delegates to the 36th Zionist Congress will be working to push forward our agenda: to shape the nature of Israeli society with the values of religious pluralism and environmental awareness and to gain important resources for the development of institutions of Conservative-Masorti Judaism in Israel and throughout the world, including the Schechter Institute, the Masorti Movement and the Conservative Yeshiva.

But the work of MERCAZ doesn't end with the Zionist Congress. Upon our return from Israel, our thoughts will turn again to our ongoing work to strengthen the connection between the Diaspora and Israel. How do we infuse Israel more strongly into the life of our congregations? How do we get more of our children to spend time in the Jewish State? How do we promote the Hebrew language? These are among the goals of this organization for the past 25 years and they will continue to guide our work long into the future. (for details of our MERCAZ-Canada programs, visit our website: www.mercaz.ca)

BE A PART OF THAT FUTURE!

A strong **MERCAZ-Canada** helps ensure success of a vibrant Masorti Movement in Israel and throughout the world and a strong Zionist connection in our Canadian Jewish community. ***Your membership (only \$9/adult or \$18/couple) brings this goal closer to reality. Join MERCAZ-Canada, the Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement.***

For more information about membership, contact the MERCAZ office:

mercaz-masorti@intrr.net or 416-667-1717 or 1-866-357-3384 or www.mercaz.ca

MERCAZ-Canada

Marion Mayman, President

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MERCAZ-Canada is the Zionist membership organization of the Conservative Movement and the voice of Conservative Jewry within the Canadian Zionist Federation, World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and JNF/KKL.