

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM

HADASSAH 
the power
of women
who **DO**

Women Who Learn

September/October 2018



PRAZE Division
Jewish/Zionist Education
jewisheducation@hadassah.org | (212) 303-8136

hadassah.org

©2018 Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. Hadassah is a registered trademark of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Letter.....2

Zionism and the Druze Community.....3

Arthur Stark.....6

Chaim Nachman Bialik.....8

Ivan Schwebel.....10

Book Review: Remains of Love.....12

Zionist Resources.....16

Karen Feit Co-Leader Jewish Zionist Education Team	
Miriam K. Aron Contemporary Zionists and Editor	Rita Shapiro Zionist Education Co-Team Leader
Dina Lipschultz Contributor	Loren Roth Israeli Literature
Rebecca Krasnegor Zionism and Art	Judy Shereck PRAZE Division Coordinator

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Dear Learners,

On behalf of the entire Women Who Learn Team, I would like to wish you all a *Shanah tovah u'metukah*, a happy and sweet new year. May this coming year be a year of peace, prosperity, love, learning, and blessings for us all.

This issue kicks off the new year with

- A study of Israel's Druze community. Although they are not Jews, their values are close to our own, and their support for the State of Israel is unquestionable.
- A biography of American Zionist leader Arthur Stark
- The life of Chaim Nachman Bialik, Israel's National Poet
- A review of The Remains of Love by Zeruya Shalev
- An introduction to the life and work of artist Ivan Schwebel, an American who made *aliya* to Israel
- A guide to Hadassah's Zionist resources.

We hope that these articles will give you ample opportunities for personal enrichment, as well as program and study ideas for your units.

B'vracha,

Karen Feit

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Zionism and the Druze Community

Several years ago, on one of my trips to Israel, my cousins and I spent the weekend in a village in the north called Beit Jann. We stayed in a small B and B owned and operated by a Druze family. The head of the household was a veteran of the IDF. His sons were currently serving. My family is a military family...My cousin was the commander of Tel Hashomer at the time. The other guests were, purely coincidentally, military couples on a weekend vacation. We feasted on *maqluba*, a traditional Druze dish. The host was especially solicitous of us once he learned of my cousin's status in the IDF. We asked a few questions about the Druze religion and culture that quickly revealed our ignorance of the Druze. Our host responded by asking us to pull our chairs around the fireplace and he continued to educate us about the Druze, answering questions and disabusing us of misconceptions for the better part of an hour.

Not many people have had the learning opportunity that I have. Though historically the Druze are an outgrowth of Islam, they are not Muslims. They interpret the pillars of Islam in a unique manner and consider themselves the followers of Jethro (*Yitro*, father-in-law of Moses, who embraced monotheism). Ethnically they are Arabs with Iranian, Kurdish and European roots, as well. Druze neither marry non-Druze nor do they accept converts to their community. Polygamy is forbidden. Chastity and modesty are highly valued, as is fidelity. "Hospitality is an important feature of the culture. The Druze are known for their generosity and are guided by a sense of chivalry and honor. This concept compels the Druze to look after each other, including widows, orphans, and the destitute. If the extended family cannot take care of a member, the larger community will find a means of support." <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Bu-Dr/Druze.html>

The Druze religion has no ceremonies or rituals, and no obligation to perform precepts in public. Both *uqqual* (religiously enlightened or "clever" Druze) and *juhal* (ordinary, non-religious elite) must adhere to the following main tenets of their faith:

- Speaking the truth (instead of prayer)
- Supporting your brethren (instead of charity)
- Abandoning the old creeds (instead of fasting)
- Purification from heresy (instead of pilgrimage)
- Accepting the unity of God
- Submitting to the will of God (instead of holy war)

Druze are forbidden to eat pork, smoke, or drink alcohol.

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-the-israeli-druze>

The Druze are extremely secretive about their religious practice. Only the *uqqual*, who comprise about 10% of the community are conversant with Druze sacred texts, tenets, and practices.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Our dinner host also told us that no Druze couple is permitted to marry until the prospective husband has built a home for the couple. He also explained that reincarnation is one of the core beliefs of the community. Men used to wear specially designed baggy pants because it was believed that the messiah would someday be born to one of them. Funerals are not as somber as they are in other religions. Instead, they are opportunities to bid farewell...since every soul is immediately reborn into another body.

According to a Pew research study published in 2016, "In Israel, the Druze are active in public life and subject to the military draft. In fact, for more than four decades, the Israeli military had a primarily Druze infantry unit called the [Herev, or sword battalion](#). This is in contrast with Israeli Arabs, who are exempt from military service. About six-in-ten (45%) Druze men included in our (Pew) survey say they have served or are currently serving (15%) in the Israeli military. Druze women are not required to serve."

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/03/21/5-facts-about-israeli-druze-a-unique-religious-and-ethnic-group/> The religion teaches allegiance to the government of the land in which the Druze live. Druze soldiers are well known as trackers who know the mountains well and also serve as Border Police.

Since 1957, the Israeli government has officially recognized the Druze as a distinct ethnic community, at the request of the community's leaders. Their prominence in the military and political life of Israel is far out of proportion to their numbers. Since Israel's independence in 1948, the relationship between Israeli Jews and Druze is both emotional and practical, in part because of the considerable number of Israeli Druze soldiers that have fallen in Israel's wars; this is referred to as *brit damim*, "covenant of blood." <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Druze>

This special relationship has been called into question in recent weeks in reaction to the passage of Israel's Nation State Law. On August 4, 2018, tens of thousands of Druze came to Tel Aviv to rally in protest of this law which, leaders felt, called their "Israeliness" into question.

Druze religious leader, Sheikh Mowafak Tarif, spoke first at the rally. The following are excerpts from his speech which were quoted in the Israeli media:

"I'm not a political person and I'm not used to making speeches at the city square, but I'm speaking here tonight as one whose love for the land and the state is absolute and unequivocal. I came here to tell you simple truths that come from the heart. I do not seek popularity, and what guides me is the best interest of my country and my sector... We're all proud of the democratic and free State of Israel, where human dignity and freedom are the supreme values. We've never doubted the Jewish identity of the state. We recognize its Jewish character with full equality for its non-Jewish citizens...No one can teach us what sacrifice is and no one can preach to us about loyalty and devotion — the military cemeteries are a testament to that. We are determined to fight alongside you for the state's character and the right to live in it with equality and dignity..."

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Despite our unconditional loyalty to the state, the state doesn't see us as equals...The cry of the Druze community is real. They feel justifiably that someone seeks to take their Israeliness away...We identify with the State and the Declaration of Independence," Tarif stressed. "Last Independence Day, I lit a torch for coexistence, the alliance between the Jewish people and the Druze people and for the glory of the State of Israel...I see the masses that came to show their solidarity and it warms our hearts. I thank you on my behalf and on behalf of my Druze brothers. This is the beautiful Israel, ladies and gentlemen."

Surely, there can be no more eloquent expression of what it means to be a Zionist than the Sheikh's words. These words have been matched by actions for more than seventy years. The Druze community in Israel is comprised of proud Zionists. We owe them respect and gratitude.

Karen Feit

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Today's Zionist Leader: Arthur Stark



The modern Zionist leader on which I'm focusing this month is the current chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, Arthur Stark. Mr. Stark assumed this position on June 1st after being unanimously elected. The Conference of Presidents is made up of the top lay leaders of 51 Jewish organizations. These leaders coordinate policy on Jewish issues, especially issues of Jewish interests that get presented to the White House.

Mr. Stark held a seat on the Conference of Presidents for years due to his role as the National Chairman of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF). He assumed that position in 2005 and still serves the FIDF in that capacity. Like other American Zionists highlighted in this column, Stark has been active in other Jewish organizations, as well. He has served on AIPAC'S National Council, the Jewish Federation Board of Central New Jersey, the Board of Trustees of The Rabbinical College of America and the Board of Trustees of the Kushner Hebrew Academy and High School, an Orthodox day school in Livingston, NJ where his four children were all educated. Malcolm Hoenlein, CEO of the Conference of Presidents, is quoted as saying this about Arthur, "At this critical time, we are once again privileged to be led by an outstanding leader who brings to the conference chairmanship decades of distinguished service, exemplary personal qualities and broad leadership experience."

Mr. Stark was born in Budapest, Hungary. His parents were Holocaust survivors who escaped from Hungary with their infant son, Arthur, during the 1956 uprising and fled to the United States. Mr. Stark is 63 years old today.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Friends of the IDF is one of the most successful “friends of” groups supporting an institution in Israel. They provide financial relief and recreational programming for Israeli soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds or those soldiers living in Israel without family. Stark is well-known to politicians both in Israel and in the U.S.

In his professional life – as opposed to all the roles he’s played in his volunteer life – Mr. Stark joined Bed Bath and Beyond (BBB) in 1977. From 1999 to 2006, he served the company as their Chief Merchandising Officer. In 2006, he became President of BBB, overseeing 150 stores across North America. Since this past June, Arthur’s been the Senior Advisor to BBB’s CEO, Steven Temares, an “uncompensated” position.

Stark has been married for more than 30 years to his wife, Sylvia, who immigrated to the US from Morocco in 1967. They have four grown children. Their two sons, Adam and Jordan, served in the Israeli army and are veterans who “served with distinction” during their time in the IDF.

Stark is known to have extensive experience in dealing with international issues; he has a deep love and concern for Israel and the Jewish people. Clearly, these attributes are seen as a source of great strength for his role as Chair of the Conference of Presidents.

Miriam K. Aron

Sources: Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations Website
Article, *Arthur Stark of Bed Bath & Beyond to Chair Top Jewish Policy Group*, April 25, 2018

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Chaim Nachman Bialik, 1873-1934

Chaim Nachman Bialik, known as Israel's National Poet, was born in the Ukraine (Russia) into a poor family. His father died when he was 7 and his mother, who was left penniless, sent him to live with his grandfather. There he received an orthodox and traditional upbringing for the time. At the age of 15, he entered the Yeshiva of Volozhin where he encountered many diverse ideas, conflicting with traditional and new thinking about Jewish National Revival (Zionism).

As a student, Bialik saw the conflicts between the old and the new, the yeshiva student and the poet, faith and agnosticism. He became a follower of Achad Ha'am (known as the founder of "Cultural Zionism"); he conceived of the return to Zion as the means for the Jewish People to recover and renew its ancient spiritual freedom and cultural life. He left the yeshiva and went to Odessa (Russia) where he read and studied secular, modern writings. In Odessa, he was introduced to Russian, German and Spanish writers. Later, Bialik translated *Don Quixote* into Hebrew.

Chaim left Odessa, went into the timber trade and married Manya Averbuch in 1893. Then he returned to Odessa and spent the next 20 plus years as writer, editor and publisher of Hebrew literary journals. It is said the essays, stories, poems and translations he produced during these years made him the "unchallenged" leader of the national literary re-awakening. During this time, he wrote most of his poems. His work reflected his personal conflict between the age-old "Jewish exile" themes and his denunciations of Jewish shortcomings. In one of his poems, "The City of Slaughter" about the pogrom in Kishinev (1903), he rebukes the victims for their loss of all human dignity. This poem is said to have played an important part in the development and encouragement of a new national will for self-defense.

In 1924, Bialik settled in Tel Aviv, pre-state Israel. Then, he began to collect and edit the great Hebrew poets of Spain and the legends of the Aggadah (Jewish legend). He expanded his *Dvir* publishing house and took part in the foundation of the Hebrew University. However; he almost completely stopped writing poetry until a few years before his death.

Bialik wrote in Hebrew in the Ashkenazi accent and not the Sephardi accent which became dominant in the revived spoken language of Israel. One of his English translators, Ruth Nevo, said that he was "sadly aware that children in the schools of *Eretz Israel* would not read his poems in their native rhythm, would not ... perceive the musicality at all unless taught to do so." His work is rarely translated literally because of this. However; he was and is highly regarded and respected by the students in Israel. He is also well known for his passionate love poems, his personal verse, and his nature poems. Bialik's songs for children are a staple of Israel's nursery schools.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Bialik's poems have been translated into at least 30 languages and set to music as popular songs. These poems, and the songs based on them, have become an essential part of the education and culture of modern Israel.

Bialik died in Vienna, Austria, on July 4, 1934. He was buried in Tel Aviv; a large mourning procession followed from his home on the street named after him to his final resting place.

Rita Shapiro

Sources:

Various Internet articles.

Internet article: Poetry International. Ruth Nevo. August 1, 2005.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Ivan Schwebel - Israeli Artist

Ivan Schwebel was born in West Virginia in 1932; his family moved to Georgia and then to New York where he grew up. He joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War. When the war ended, he was sent to Japan to be an "information officer." There he began painting and was taught by the painter Kimora Kyoen. Kyoen's influence may be seen in Schwebel's landscape paintings and dramatic compositions. After serving in Japan, Schwebel returned to New York where the American painter Philip Guston encouraged him to paint rather than studying any further.



DANCING IN TEL AVIV 1988-89 OIL ON CANVAS

Schwebel traveled in Europe for a year and then moved to Israel in 1963 where he lived and painted in a stone house in the Jerusalem hills of Ein Kerem. In 2011, while out walking his dog, Ivan died suddenly. Israel lost a truly great and unusual artist.

Schwebel, as he preferred to be called, combined the Bible, particularly the book of Samuel, with his art by illustrating the stories of King David in the current settings of Jerusalem and other locations. He often appeared himself in these paintings and etchings.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

His technical expertise in the etchings is evident in the details of every piece of art. Each painting or etching is most powerful and more than a simple illustration. In the etching below, Schwebel depicts the hills of Ephraim. The round building at the top of the sketch is the Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem.



Ivan Schwebel was an artist outside of the mainstream of Israeli art; he never really fit in with the art of other Israeli artists of the time, although he had shows at the Israel Museum and the Ramat Gan Museum. His work is represented in the Tel Aviv Museum collection.

Finding it difficult to display his work, he took to writing journals about his art and illustrating his thoughts and ideas with major work and, as is often the case, including his self-portrait.

One wonders if, had he lived longer, Schwebel's work would have brought him the recognition that he so richly deserved.

Rebecca Krasnegor

Sources: Anne Sassoon, *The Jerusalem Post*, 8/23/2011 Schwebel, *The Arena of Jerusalem*, Adama Books, New York, 1987; Burston Graphics of the Israel Museum, *Artist's Notebook no.2*, Hillman Books, Jerusalem, 1980

September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Book Review: The Remains of Love

Author: Zeruya Shalev

INTRODUCTION

Set in modern Israel, The Remains of Love is a powerful and provocative novel exploring themes of love, longing and loss by delving deeply into the Horowitz family's relationships. Zeruya Shalev presents a poignant and intimate view of the novel's three main characters, Hemda and her children, Dina and Avner, along with their entanglements, desires, hopes and frustrations.

THE AUTHOR

Critically acclaimed and bestselling Israeli author and editor, **Zeruya Shalev**, has written three other novels prior to The Remains of Love: Love Life, Husband and Wife and Thera (which was reviewed in Go Forth and Study in September 2011). She is the recipient of numerous literary prizes including, but not limited to, the Book Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes four times, the ACUM Prize twice (1997, 2005), the French Wizo Prize (2007), and the prestigious Welt-Literature Award (2012). The Remains of Love is a finalist of the Bottari Lattes Grinzane Prize (Italy, 2013). Her books have been translated into twenty-five languages.

Born on Kibbutz Kinneret and married to writer Eyal Megged, Zeruya Shalev lives in Jerusalem. She is the cousin of Meir Shalev.

THE TRANSLATOR

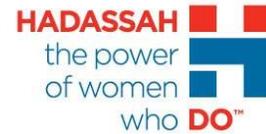
Philip Simpson has translated the works of other Israeli authors including A. B. Yehoshua (The Lover) and Amos Oz (Where the Jackals Howl). He lives in Norfolk, England.

CHARACTERS AND PLOT

An elderly mother, Hemda Horowitz, lays on her deathbed and contemplates every aspect of her life, from learning to walk with the help of her powerful father to marrying a man she did not love, to having and raising children -- one whom she adored and the other who virtually raised herself. Hemda's children, Avner and Dina, now in middle age, reflect on their own circumstances -- how their mother's love affected them, how their marriages grew and how they had children; they toil in careers that are both rewarding and unproductive, and generally take hold of themselves and their unfulfilled desires.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

The Remains of Love is an intense psychological portrait of an Israeli family. The author, Zeruya Shalev, shows how a parent's love and affection can affect children, both positively and negatively, through three generations. Yet it remains hopeful that with each child, there is always a chance to redeem oneself as a parent and raise a child who is strong, intelligent, self-assured and loved.

FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Some of the online reviews* for The Remains of Love compare the novel to Philip Larkin's poem, This Be the Verse,** noting that parents pass many traits, including psychological neuroses, on to their children. Consider the relationships between Hemda and each of her children, as well as the relationships between Avner and his children and Dina and her daughter, Nitzan. Do you think the comparison is applicable? Discuss Hemda's relationships with her own parents.
2. Before starting a career as a writer, Zeruya Shalev wanted to be a psychotherapist. However, after working as a social worker in the army, she determined, "it was safer to work with imaginary characters."*** Family, love, and the pain of complicated relationships between lovers, parents, and children are recurring themes in Shalev's novels. Think about Hemda's roles as a parent, a child and a spouse. How did she parent each of her children differently? Discuss the effects of her affection (or lack of it) on her children. How do Dina and Avner behave toward their own children? Consider the characters' other relationships. Do you think the portrayals are realistic? Why do you think Avner becomes obsessed with Talia?
3. Children are extremely important for the future of any society and are particularly valued in Israel. Reflect on the instances where having children is discussed in the book, for example, when Dina discusses her idea of adopting a child with her friend Naomi who has four children of her own. What is Gideon's reaction and how does it change over the course of the novel? Why do you think the scientist, Rafael Allon's, favorite song was Mahler's Kindertoten Lieder (Songs on the Death of Children)?

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

4. Hemda was the first child born on the kibbutz on which she lived as a child. Her children were also born on a kibbutz but the family later moved to an apartment building when Dina and Avner were teenagers. In many ways, the Horowitz family's lifestyle mirrored the growth of Israel over the past 70 years. Discuss other features of The Remains of Love that bear witness to the growth and conditions that are part of modern Israel. Consider the characters' careers; for example, Rafael Allon and Talia Franco are both scientists, Dina teaches Spanish/Portuguese history related to the Expulsion and Avner is a lawyer for the Bedouins. How do these vocations reflect different facets of Israeli society? Contemplate the careers of the other characters, as well.
5. The kibbutz movement was a significant aspect of the early development of *Eretz Yisrael*. It provided a major support system for Zionist settlement and agriculture and many of Israel's leaders, writers, artists and academics came out of the original kibbutz system. With the changes in the kibbutz system over the past several years moving toward privatization and specific industry, do you think the Zionist movement has changed, as well? Do any of the characters in The Remains of Love strike you as Zionists? Why or why not?
6. Talk about Shalev's writing style in the novel. Did it help or hinder your understanding of each of the characters?
7. Hadassah's online series entitled, Defining Zionism in the 21st Century, covers a range of topics presented by a variety of speakers and panelists. Consider "binge watching" one or two segments of the series, for example, that of Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. His segment, entitled "Different Values, Different Zionist Politics", explores the different generational shifts around Israel. Reflect on the content with your discussion group.

CONCLUSION

In his February 4, 2014 review of The Remains of Love in The Star, Michel Baslilieres calls the novel "a splashy panorama and an ornately drawn triptych." Covering the growth of Israel through the kibbutz movement and its focus on children and parenthood, Zeruya Shalev deftly explores and analyzes human relationships in this intense and powerful novel. I am sure it will generate extensive and robust discussion!

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Sources: **Happy Countries Are All Alike; Every Unhappy Country Is Unhappy in Its Own Way* by Adam Kirsch, Tablet Magazine, January 2, 2014; Review by David Cooper, New York Journal of Books, October 2013

*** This Be The Verse

By Philip Larkin

They fuck you up, your mum and dad.
They may not mean to, but they do.
They fill you with the faults they had
And add some extra, just for you.

But they were fucked up in their turn
By fools in old-style hats and coats,
Who half the time were soppo-stern
And half at one another's throats.

Man hands on misery to man.
It deepens like a coastal shelf.
Get out as early as you can,
And don't have any kids yourself.

***From the Jewish Book Council website, Notes from Mishkenot Sha'ananim: Zeruya Shalev and Siri Hustvedt, May 06, 2010

Loren Roth

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Israel/Zionist Resources for Women Who Want To Learn More

Hadassah offers many resources for units and members to deepen their Zionist connections, to understand issues related to Israel and what to do with the news. We will highlight these resources in each edition of Women Who Learn and offer suggestions as to how these resources can be used, alone or in combination.

Any one of these resources could be used as a brief part of a program or expanded into a complete program. Don't keep them secret!

As we celebrate Israel's 70 years of independence, this is the perfect time to use these resources to deepen our personal connections to Israel.

1. Defining Zionism in the 21st Century

This is an online monthly presentation featuring leading Zionists. The short conversations can be viewed at:

<http://www.hadassah.org/connecting-to-israel/defining-zionism/>

Can politics and Zionism be separated? What's the Zionist rationale for a two-state solution? How can we move beyond politics to actualize our Zionism? How should we respond to Israel's ban on BDS supporters? How can liberal Jews counter anti-Zionist forces? Where can we find a model for diversity in Israel?

A new series of short videos features Israeli author and startup partner Michael Bassin discussing "Humanizing Zionism in the Arab World."

This entire program is divided into several short videos that could be viewed individually or in sequence.

Each Defining Zionism video could be the spark for discussion at a unit meeting, or for study/discussion groups at home.

2. Domestic Advocacy Alert

Sign up to be part of the email action alert network at

<http://www.hadassah.org/advocate/#become-an-advocate>

Hadassah will alert you about pending legislation at the national or state level and what you can do to influence this.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

3. How to Talk about Israel

Hadassah, in collaboration with the Israel Action Network developed *How to Talk About Israel*, a guide to effective pro-Israel advocacy. Download at:

<http://www.hadassah.org/advocate/files/2015-how-to-talk-about-israel.pdf>

This guide includes numerous suggestions for using the material.

4. Women Who Learn

All of the previous editions of Women Who Learn (and Go Forth and Study, its predecessor), are available on My Hadassah. Use the keywords Women Who Learn, or the link:

<http://www.hadassah.org/cmssearch/search.jsp?folderID=677666610&includeSubfolders=true&query=women+who+learn>

If you cannot download these resources, please contact the PRAZE Division.

5. Missions

There is one more super-special Hadassah mission in 2018, and seven more planned for 2019. Each mission has a different focus, but all will offer a powerful Israel experience. All of the Hadassah missions are truly outstanding!

The October 2018 mission is part of Celebration 2018. From Dream to Innovation: Hadassah Milestone Mission, will celebrate the 100th year since Hadassah sent the first medical unit to Palestine, as well as the 100th anniversary of the School of Nursing and Department of Ophthalmology. There's still time to sign up!

Be sure to invite a recent mission participant to one of your meetings!

More information can be found at: <http://www.hadassah.org/connecting-to-israel/missions.html>

6. Hartman Institute I-Engage Study Groups

Hadassah has partnered with the Shalom Hartman Institute and trained facilitators to offer an in-depth seminar on the Israeli-Palestinian relationship from a Jewish values perspective.

A sampling of the topics covered include: The Israel We Imagine, Attitudes Towards the Land, Living with Difference, etc.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

Check if your region or chapter has started a study group, or suggest starting one for next year. In addition to the in-person study groups offered last year, Hadassah is now offering an **on-line interactive I-Engage Study Group** that will be offered using Zoom Technology. This will be available to any member. Contact the PRAZE Division if interested in participating.

7. Day in the District/Date with the State/Day on the Hill

Build relationships with elected officials. Hadassah members train in the basics of lobbying and then get up and go. Spend a **Day on the Hill** in Washington, D.C., meet with Members of Congress and staff and receive briefings from government agencies and foreign embassies. If you cannot leave town, you can meet with your US Representatives or Senators in their regional offices on a **Day in the District** program. Or participate in a **Date with the State** and lobby your state-level officials about matters of importance to women and the Jewish community.

Connecting with our state and local representatives establishes a strong relationship with Hadassah and an understanding of our position on many issues.

Contact your chapter, region, or the PRAZE office to schedule one of these activities. The PRAZE office can help with the logistics of a program, and will supply talking points to the participants.

These programs can be as effective with small groups as well as large groups. Legislators really do want to hear from their constituents -- even the ones with whom they don't agree!

In May, over 200 women participated in a Day on the Hill as part of the Hadassah Health Summit. If members of your unit participated, let them share the experiences.

As this is an election year, please follow the guidelines for permitted activities.

Remember to vote: November 6!

8. Gil Troy video

Gil Troy, a product of Young Judaea and a leading Israeli Zionist, speaks about his new book, *The Zionist Ideas*, and about Hadassah and practical Zionism. This ten-minute video was previewed at the recent National Board Mid-Winter Meeting, and many felt that it succinctly spelled out what Hadassah has been doing for over 100 years.

<http://www.hadassah.org/news-stories/gil-troy-hadassah-zionist.html>

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

9. Hadassah Policy Statements

Hadassah issues policy statements on a variety of Zionist topics. Recent policies include recognition of the reunification of Jerusalem, combating de-legitimization of Israel, anti-Semitism, Iran, etc.

Use these statements as part of a program or in communication with elected officials, or in defining Hadassah to current or potential members.

<http://www.hadassah.org/advocate/policy-statements/policy-zionism.html>

10. Hadassah National Action Center

Select specific areas that interest you and register to receive targeted emails with information and ways to advocate. Sign up at: <http://cqrcengage.com/hadassah/?0>

Areas currently in the Zionism & Israel listing include: Combat Dangerous Rise in Anti-Semitism, Prevent Genocide and Mass Atrocity Crimes, Secure Foreign Aid to Israel & Hadassah Hospitals, Demand Strict Monitoring of Iran, Stand with Israel Against Palestinian Violence and Urge Congress to Combat BDS.

11. Hadassah Website Home Page Articles

The main page of the Hadassah website <http://www.hadassah.org/> has a constantly changing array of press releases and stories regarding Hadassah's actions. Be sure to scroll down to the News & Stories section. Share these stories with others! It's not enough for us to feel the pride in our organization; we want others to know what Hadassah and Israel do for the world, for medical treatment and research, and for gender equity.

12. Never Again Education Act

Hadassah supports HR 5460, the Never Again Education Act, introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in April. This national legislation will give teachers across the United States the tools and training they need to teach middle and high school students lessons of the Holocaust and the consequences of intolerance and hate.

As of the end of July, 31 legislators had signed on as co-sponsors, split almost evenly by party. Contact your legislator to support this action! <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5460/cosponsors> for the latest information.

WOMEN WHO LEARN

HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
THE JEWISH / ZIONIST EDUCATION TEAM



September/October 2018
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5778

13. Zionist Highlights

Zionist Highlights is a monthly compendium of hyperlinked news articles about events in Israel, as well as significant articles. There's good news and bad news – tourism, sports, medicine, politics, terrorism.

Contact zionisted@hadassah.org to sign up.

Dina Lipschultz