

American Jews & Israel

Navigating Our Shared Destiny

Featuring Natan Sharansky



Sunday, May 17, 2020

10:00am - 5:00pm

The J's Staenberg Family Complex

**St. Louis
premiere!**

jccstl.com/z3



About the Conference

The Z3 Project, an initiative of the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, CA, is committed to creating an ongoing, dynamic forum for opinions and ideas about Diaspora Jewry and Israel. The St. Louis Z3 conference will bring together high-level international and national thought leaders, scholars and journalists to educate and provide our community members an in-depth, nuanced understanding of pressing issues affecting Israel and the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish community.

The conference will run as follows:

- Opening Presentation
- Breakout Session 1 (eight options)
- Lunch and Israeli Organization Fair
- Breakout Session 2 (same eight options repeated)
- Conversation Cafe and Israeli Organization Fair
- Closing Presentation

\$45 includes lunch

Students 21 and under \$18

Scholarship funds available

In order to ensure breakout session and lunch choices, each person must register separately

Contact: Diane Maier

314.442.3190, dmaier@jccstl.org

Register online!
Details at jccstl.com/z3

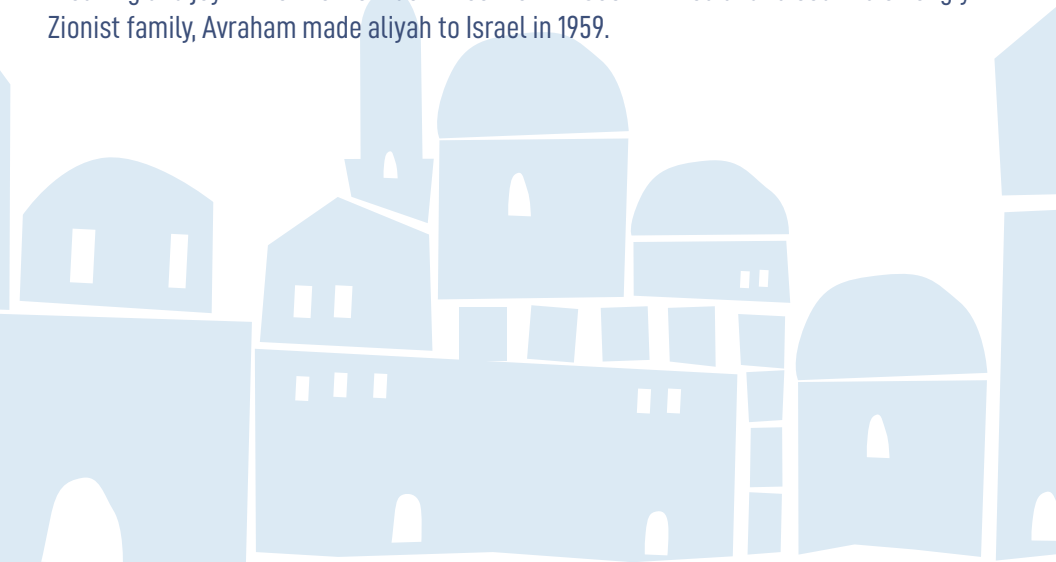
Opening Presentation – Avraham Infeld



Avraham Infeld is the President Emeritus of Hillel – the Foundation for Jewish Campus life. Today, he serves as a consultant on Tikkun Olam to the Reut Institute and is a member of the Faculty of the Mandel Institute. In May 2012, Avraham was elected Chairman of the Board of the Hillels of Israel. In 1970, Avraham founded Melitz, a non-profit educational service institution that fosters Jewish identity. He also served as chairman of Arevim, founding chairman of the San Francisco Federation's Amuta in Israel, and chairman of the Board of Israel Experience, Ltd.

Avraham was Director General of Gesher Educational Affiliates and the Shalom Hartman Institute, and served a three-year tour of duty in London as Director of the Jewish Agency's Youth Department for English speaking Europe. Avraham was Birthright's first International Director and led the planning process which created one of the most successful and formative educational programs in the Jewish world. He is a graduate of Hebrew University in Bible and Jewish History and of Tel Aviv University's Law School. In 2005, he was awarded the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's prestigious Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education. He was awarded honorary doctorates by Muhlenberg College and Hebrew Union College for his contribution to the field of education.

Avraham Infeld has dedicated his long and distinguished career to helping Jews find meaning and joy in their Jewish identities. Born in South Africa and raised in a strongly Zionist family, Avraham made aliyah to Israel in 1959.



Breakout Sessions

Conference Participants will have the opportunity to attend two of the following sessions. Selections are made during the registration process.



Israel's Inexplicably Robust Democracy: Its Strengths, Weaknesses and Surprising Origins

Haviv Retig Gur, Political Correspondent and Analyst for
Times of Israel



Between Nationalism, Ultra-Nationalism and Fascism

Dr. Tomer Persico, Research Fellow and Scholar in Residence
at the Shalom Hartman Institute and Koret Visiting Assistant
Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies at U.C. Berkeley



Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: A Historical View with Real Time Update

Dr. Elai Rettig, Israel Institute Teaching Fellow in Israeli and
Environmental Studies, Washington University in St. Louis



Peaceful Coexistence Projects between Jews and Arabs in Israel

Dr. Merav Ben-Nun, Founding Principal of Hand in Hand bilingual
integrated Jewish-Arab school in Haifa, Israel

Breakout Sessions



Dancing Between Identities: On the Changing Nature of What it Means to Be a Jew

Tova Birnbaum, Director of Jewish Content, Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto and Hartman Faculty Member



Zionism as a Jewish Conversation

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller, Director Emeritus of the Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life at UCLA and founding director of the Hartman Fellowship for Campus Professionals



Antisemitism as a Divisive Force in the Israel Conversation

Dr. Mijal Bitton, Fellow in Residence at the Shalom Hartman Institute and Rosh Kehilla (communal leader) of the Downtown Minyan in New York City



Israel on Campus – Opportunities and Challenges

Richard Walter, Vice President of Curriculum and Outreach, Center for Israel Education, Emory University

Closing Presentation – Natan Sharansky

Interviewed by Peter Maer



Natan Sharansky was born in 1948 in Donetsk, Ukraine. He was a spokesman for the human rights movement, a prisoner of conscience and leader in the struggle for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. After nine years of imprisonment and following an intense, due to intense international campaign led by his wife Avital, he was released on February 11, 1986, and immigrated to Israel. Upon his arrival in Israel he became active in the integration of Soviet Jews and formed the Zionist Forum, an umbrella organization of former Soviet activist groups dedicated to helping new Israelis and educating the public about absorption issues.

In 1996, he established the Yisrael B'Aliyah party in order to accelerate the integration of new immigrants into Israeli society. He served in four successive Israeli governments as Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

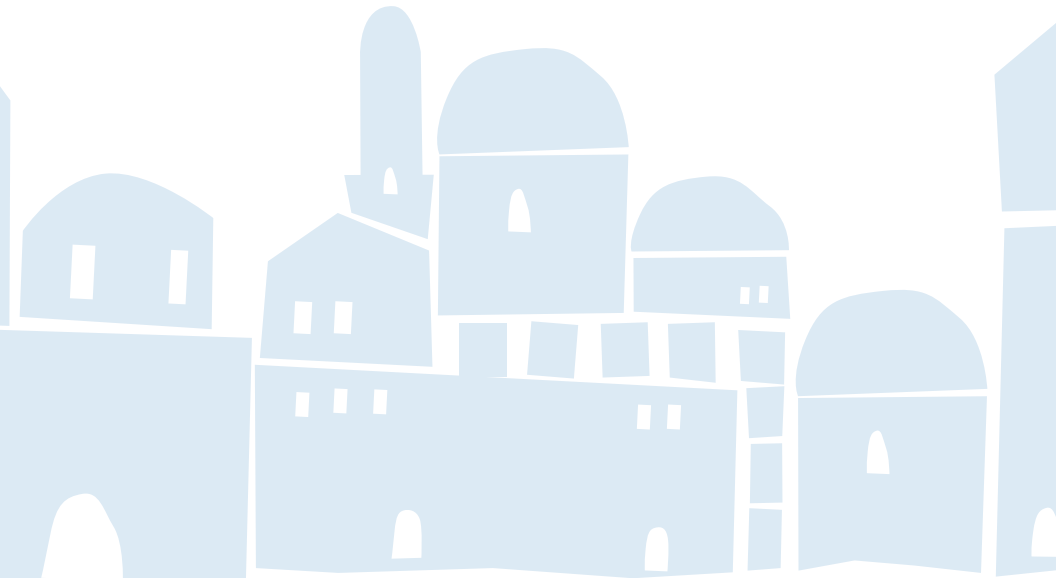
In 2009, he was appointed Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. In 2018 he received the highest Israeli award – the Israel Prize for promoting aliyah and the ingathering of the exiles. Mr. Sharansky is the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He is the only living non-American citizen who is the recipient of these two highest American awards. Recently, The Genesis Prize Foundation announced him as its 2020 Genesis Prize Laureate.



Sharansky is also the author of three books: *Fear No Evil*, *The Case for Democracy*, and *Defending Identity*. He remains a champion of the right of all people to live in freedom and believes that the advancement of human rights is critical to peace and security around the world.



Granite City native Peter Maer is a graduate of Southern Illinois University where he also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. He covered the White House for 17 years for CBS News as part of his nearly 40 years in broadcast journalism. His assignments included major world summits and other key events, including every political convention, campaign and election since 1980. Maer has won numerous awards in journalism, including an Edward R. Murrow Award for coverage of the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and another for feature reporting. He is a five-time recipient of the Merriman Smith Award for presidential coverage under deadline pressure. His most recent honors include Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame, Interfaith Alliance Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award and St. Louis Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award.



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Opportunities still available. Contact Rabbi Brad Horwitz, bhorwitz@jccstl.org

Presenter

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