



Zionism Forward: In the Spirit of Balfour **American Zionist Movement (AZM) Washington National Conference**

November 15- 17, 2017

In partnership with the Department for Diaspora Activities of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and the Balfour Initiative of the Israel Forever Foundation (IFF).

CONFERENCE PROGRAM (Draft as of October 19, 2017)

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF CONFIRMED SPEAKERS](#)

**Note: individual session topics and times subject to change due to speaker schedules*

Wednesday, November 15 – Vision

- 11:00am **Registration Opens at Conference Site - LIAISON CAPITOL HILL HOTEL**
415 New Jersey Ave. NW Washington, DC 20001
- Networking in the **Zionism Shuk** (Sponsored by WZO)
- “Year of Zionism” Program Showcase of all AZM organizations and WZO Departments with the “Tachles Café”
- 1:00pm **Opening at Hotel Conference Site:**
- Session I: Dr. Francine Stein, Chair AZM National Board
Welcome and Introductions
Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, Department of Diaspora Affairs WZO
Zionism: Vision, Dream and Reality
- Session II: **Opening Keynote: Zionism: Then, Now and in the Future**
- Session III: **Zionism in the Court of Public Opinion**
- Session IV: **Zionism Across the Spectrum - Unity Across the Zionist Community** - A panel of Rabbis from different streams/movements



Session V: Israel, Zionism and the Global Community

Session VI: Zionism: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

- A. Anti-Zionism = Anti-Israelism = Anti-Semitism
- B. Fighting the Battle for the Dignity of Zionism on the Campus
- C. The Jewish voice – Israel Diaspora relations.

5:30pm **AZM - WZO Café/Shuk Reopens** at Hotel Conference Site

6:30pm Departure to Evening Event at The Embassy of Israel

7:30pm **Session VII: The Balfour Gala – Party Like it's 1917
Celebrate Balfour Today, Tomorrow and Forever**

Under the Auspices of the Ambassador Ron Dermer at the Embassy of Israel

10:00pm Depart Embassy for optional late night bus tour of Washington;
Other busses will go directly back to hotel.

Thursday, November 16 - **Leadership**

7:00am – 8:30am AZM National Board Meeting – *For AZM Board Members Only* (at Hotel);

American Zionist Movement Day on Capitol Hill

8:15am Open Breakfast for All Participants - Capitol Visitors Center Room: HVC 201AB – arranged by Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY)

9:00am **Session VIII: Why Balfour Matters**

Dr. Elana Heideman, Executive Director, The Israel Forever Foundation

Balfour: Bold Diplomacy and Historical Relevance

Panel presentation:

- **Why Balfour Matters** to Jewish history and identity
- **Why Balfour Matters** to American Zionism
- **Why Balfour Matters** to Future Jewish Leadership and Diplomacy



Session IX: **In the Spirit of Balfour: Highlighting the Role of the UK from Balfour through the British Mandatory Period to Statehood and the US - UK - Israel relationship** – featuring speakers from the US Congress, Israel Knesset and UK Parliament

Session X: **The Role of the US in Seeking Long Term Solutions to the Arab Israeli Conflict**

Group moves from HVC 201AB to Senate Room Dirksen G50 – arranged Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)

- 12:15pm Session XI: **AZM Congressional and Diplomatic Luncheon** “In the Spirit of Balfour”
- Welcome and Moderator: Richard D. Heideman, AZM President
 - Remarks by Senators and Members of House of Representatives
 - Presentation of bipartisan Congressional resolutions and statements by Members of Congress
 - Presentation of the AZM Distinguished Leadership Award to Israel Ambassador Ron Dermer
 - Keynote Address - Ambassador Ron Dermer
- 2:15pm Session XII: **Balfour, Law and Justice**
- Session XIII: **The Legacy of Justice Brandeis as Inspired by Lord Balfour**
Chair: Fred Lawrence, Former Dean of GW Law/Former President Brandeis University (Confirmed)
- Session XIV: **Featuring the Zionist Work of the AZM Organizations**
- 5:00pm **Closing Remarks of the *American Zionist Movement Day on Capitol Hill***
- 6:30pm Opening Reception of the **WZO Symposium on Diaspora Affairs**
An Evening Salute to Young Professionals and Leadership for the Future
**Location to be announced*
- 8:00pm Feature Movie: *Epilogue – The Story of Ben Gurion*
- 10:00pm A Late Night Toast

Friday, November 17 – **Unity: The WZO Symposium on Diaspora Affairs**

7:30am WZO Networking Breakfast

8:00am **History in the Making: From Balfour to the Partition Resolution to the State of Israel**

Session A: The Vote @70: Seventy years since passage of United Nations Resolution 181

- **Beit HaAm 29th (Kaf Tet) November**
Re-enactment of the November 29, 1947 UN vote
- From The Exodus to Partition to Statehood

Session B: Social Diplomacy: The Shifting of Responsibility, the Importance of Impact, the Lessons of Beit Ha'Am

Zionism, Community, Unity

Closing Session: Zionism In Action

11:00am Adjournment - Participants Departure in Preparation for Shabbat

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