



MERCAZ CELEBRATES ISRAEL AND A NEW PRESIDENT

Rarely do the Jewish and Western calendars line up as perfectly as they did last month as when the Fifth of Iyar (the official Hebrew date for Yom HaAtzmaut), May 14th (Israel's Day of Independence as per the Western calendar) and the MERCAZ USA General Council all filled the same weekend! But here they were, all these important dates, with the Fifth of Iyar on Friday, May 13th, then May 14th on Shabbat and then the MERCAZ general membership meeting and the election of new officers on Sunday, May 15th.

Congratulations to Dr. Marilyn Lishnoff Wind of Bethesda, MD, who was elected MERCAZ USA's new president, succeeding Janet Tobin who served as the organization's head since December, 2010.

Dr. Wind, a scientist by training who worked at the Consumer Product Safety Commission for more than 30 years, is a veteran lay leader with both the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and Women's League for Conservative



Outgoing MERCAZ president Janet Tobin (left) and incoming president Dr. Marilyn Lishnoff Wind (right)

Judaism and most recently served as a MERCAZ Vice President and Co-Chair of the MERCAZ/Conservative Movement Election Committee.

Others elected to officer positions at the May 15th event, which was held at Congregation Kol Shalom in Rockville, MD, included Rabbi Daniel Dorsch, Rabbi Eytan Hammerman, Martin Werber

and Rita Wertlieb (Vice Presidents), Gary Rosenthal (Secretary) and Eric Weis (Treasurer). In addition, the entire MERCAZ Board of Directors was elected to a new 30-month term of office which runs to late 2018/early 2019.

Rabbi Dov Lipman, the former American-born Member of Knesset from the Yesh Atid Party and current Director of Public Diplomacy for the World Zionist Organization, served as the keynote speaker at the preliminary session and signed copies of his latest book, *An American MK*.

Others participating in the biennial general membership event were Rabbi Matthew Simon, a former president of MERCAZ USA and MERCAZ Olami, who gave the Dvar Torah, Rabbi Alan Silverstein, the newly elected president of MERCAZ Olami, who gave greetings, and Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman of Congregation Kol Shalom, who installed Dr. Wind as MERCAZ president.

MAZAL TOV

... to Rabbi Alan Silverstein, who was elected the new President of MERCAZ Olami, upon the untimely passing earlier this year of Dr. Stephen Wolnek. Rabbi Silverstein has served in a number of leadership positions within the Conservative Movement including as president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Masorti Olami and the Masorti Foundation and was a vice-president of MERCAZ USA.

... to Dr. David Golinkin, who was named President Emeritus of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies upon reaching the term limit as stipulated by Israel's Council for Higher Education. Succeeding Prof. Golinkin as the new Schechter Institute president is Doron Bar, an Associate Professor of Land of Israel Studies.

... to Daniel Minden (Unionville, ON Canada), Brittany Sacks (Calabasas, CA), Raphael Gendler (Minneapolis, MN), Shulamit Weinstein (Bala Cynwyd, PA) and Tamar Wohlberg (Ambler, PA) whose essays were selected as the best in the biennial MERCAZ USA/MERCAZ Canada/Women's League teen essay contest which completed earlier this year. This year's topic was "A Critical Defense of Zionism."

