

A Moment to Celebrate

Over 200 Religious Zionist Shlichim Head Out to Serve Am Yisrael

In July, World Mizrahi's Shlichut Center hosted a *Birkat HaDerech* farewell event for *shlichim* (emissaries) heading to the Diaspora.

This summer, 225 Religious Zionist *shlichim* are setting out to serve Jewish communities all over the world. Fulfilling the dream of *Ki Mitzion Teitzei Torah*, bringing the Torah of Israel to the whole world, the *shlichim* will take up positions in all six continents, from Australia to Austria, California to Canberra, and Nairobi to the Netherlands.

At the *Birkat HaDerech* event, former Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Omer Yankelevitch, addressed the *shlichim*,

who represent six different Religious Zionist organizations. She spoke about her personal experience of *shlichut*.

Her parents escaped from Soviet Russia to Israel, but they returned as *shlichim* to the USSR to strengthen Jews and Jewish communities there.

"My childhood experience taught me that we are part of a large and global people. We cannot simply focus on our homeland of Eretz Yisrael and ignore the destinies of our eight million brothers and sisters living around the world."

She also shared some of her experiences as Diaspora Affairs Minister over

the past year, interacting with Jews from across the globe.

"During the Coronavirus pandemic, we have been unable to welcome Jews from around the world to Israel, but I have had hundreds of Zoom meetings with Diaspora communities. I recall speaking to a group of Australian students during Operation Guardian of the Walls. One of the students started crying, explaining how hard it is to be Jewish on campus when her friends turn against her.

"You, as *shlichim*, have a critical role in strengthening and supporting Jewish communities around the world, in





Former Minister of
Diaspora Affairs,
Omer Yankelevitch.
(PHOTOS: DAVID STEIN)

ensuring that no matter the circumstances, Jews will always be proud of their identity and heritage.”

Mrs. Yankelevitch concluded with the beautiful poetic words of Rav Kook:

בְּנֵי אֲדָם, עָלוּ לְמַעַלָּה עִלּוּ, כִּי כוֹחַ עַז לָכֶם. יֵשׁ
לָכֶם כֹּנָפֵי רוּחַ, כֹּנָפֵי נְשָׁרִים אֲבִירִים.

“People, arise up and ascend, for you have great strength. You have wings of the spirit, like wings of mighty eagles.”

The outgoing *shlichim* will serve Jewish communities in 62 cities across 24 countries.

We wish them success as they head out to serve *Am Yisrael!* ■



Zeev Schwartz of Torah MITzion, World Bnei Akiva's new Mazkal, Ohad Tal, and World Mizrachi's Rabbi Yechiel Wasserman and Rabbi Doron Perez.

