Colonel John Patterson’s Ashes To Be Buried in Israel

Alan Patterson is the grandson of Irish-born Col. John Henry Patterson, the commander of the both the Zion Mule Corps which fought in Gallipoli, and the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (“the Jewish Legion”) of the British Army. Patterson (1867-1947) fought alongside Ze’ev Jabotinsky during World War I in the 1918 battle to conquer the Jordan Fords, and during World War I in the 1918 battle to conquer the Jordan Fords, and assisted in the formation of the first Jewish military force in the twentieth century.

In 1999, Alan Patterson visited the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel, viewed the Archive’s files on his grandfather, and met with such personalities as Ze’ev Jabotinsky, the grandson of his namesake. Three years ago, Alan sent a letter to the Jabotinsky Institute expressing his desire to bring the ashes of his grandparents, now buried in Los Angeles, to be interred in Israel. Here they would be laid to rest alongside Col. Patterson’s soldiers, fighters from the Jewish Legion, in Avichayil.

Jabotinsky Institute in Israel Director Yossi Ahimeir approached then-Cabinet Secretary Zvi Hauser with the request, which Hauser immediately undertook to implement.

Recently, the effort to carry out Colonel and Mrs. Patterson’s reimenter in Israel has been renewed by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Defense Department for the Commemoration of Fallen Soldiers. In doing so, the State of Israel will pay the respect due to this British officer, who loved Zionism and the Bible, who was a personal friend of Ze’ev Jabotinsky, and for whom the late Lt. Col. Yoni Netanyahu was named.

Prof. Shechtman: Israel Must Place Priority on Education

“I want to be one of the people united around a common goal,” declared Professor Dan Shechtman, Nobel Prize Laureate for Chemistry (2011) and winner of the Israel Prize for Physics (1998), in his lecture at the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel on March 16, 2014. Professor Shechtman devoted this lecture to the social challenges facing Israel.

Prof. Shechtman, who hails from a Labor Movement home, first directed his comments to the Betar virtue of hadar, which he discovered as a youth when reading Jabotinsky’s novel Sanson. “This book contains a great many messages, one of which is the importance of ceremonies in both private and public life. The ceremony is quite influential, and possesses a coalescing, unifying element which inspires an esprit de corps.

Professor Shechtman’s lecture touched upon a host of topics which captivated the audience that came to meet the prize-winning scientist, who recently announced his candidacy for the office of Israel’s President on Israel State Television Channel One.

Professor Shechtman spoke of today’s world, which is free of general, cross-border wars, yet is rife with predominantly internal wars. These exist primarily in weak, poverty-stricken countries of the Arab and Moslem world (Libya, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Sudan, and others).

In Shechtman’s opinion, in today’s Israel there are no enough educational programs, no schooling hours and no social leaders. Thus, a national and public effort must be undertaken in the realms of education and culture.

The Jabotinsky Institute in Israel
38 King George Street, POB 23110, Tel-Aviv 61230
Tel. 03-5287320 Fax. 035285587 03-5287320
www.jabotinsky.org e-mail: office@jabotinsky.org

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מנחה מחבר עיתון: יוסי אחימאיר
"Adopt the Virtue of Hadar in Everyday Life"

The pamphlet "Jabotinsky’s 'Hadar' and its Place in Today’s Israeli Society", published by the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel, has been sent to Israel’s cabinet ministers and Knesset members. The current Moadon HaMachon lecture series, which is dedicated to this topic, has included lectures by Knesset members Amram Mitzna, Pnina Tamano-Shata, and former MK Naomi Blumenthal; Nobel Prize Laureate Professor Dan Shechtman, and former State Controller Judge Micha Lindenstrauss.

The pamphlet "Jabotinsky’s 'Hadar' and its Place in Today’s Israeli Society", published by the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel, has been sent to Israel’s cabinet ministers and Knesset members. Among the comments received was a thank-you letter from Interior Minister Gideon Saar:

The values embodied in Jabotinsky’s hadar are as relevant today as they were in the past, and perhaps even more so. We, the disciples of Ze’ev Jabotinsky, need to hone and to express a stance on this matter, and I commend the Public Council to Perpetuate Jabotinsky for their choice of this subject as the central topic for the year. Kudos on your ongoing activities to preserve and disseminate the national ideology and the legacy of Rosh Betar Ze’ev Jabotinsky.”

Speaker of the Knesset Yuli (Yoel) Edelstein wrote in his thanks, “Hadar, as a character trait and a human virtue, constitutes a fundamental value in Jabotinsky’s world view. I fervently hope that we shall assume the virtue of hadar in our everyday lives and within the parliamentary discourse, and everyone will know this virtue within himself and his comrade.”

Ariel Sharon, A Supporter of the Institute

"The Jabotinsky Institute in Israel shares in mourning the loss of your esteemed father Ariel Sharon, prime minister, cabinet minister and general. His long mission in the service of Israel’s security has come to an end, and now he has entered the pantheon of the great leaders of Israel. We of the Jabotinsky Institute shall always remember Ariel Sharon’s support for the Institute and the dissemination of Jabotinsky’s heritage, in his position as the head of the Likud Movement.”

These words opened a condolence letter sent by Jabotinsky Institute in Israel Chairman of the Board Mordechai Sarig to Ariel Sharon’s sons Omri and Gilad upon the death of their father on January 11, 2014, following eight years of being in a state of coma.

Indeed, Ariel Sharon cared deeply about the Jabotinsky Institute. In July 2000, he visited the Institute at the invitation of the directorate, then headed by the late Peleg Tamir. Here, Ariel Sharon personally greeted and shook the hand of each and every worker, and inquired about the nature of his or her work.

Following his visit, Sharon penned a letter calling upon all Likud activists and all who cherish Jabotinsky’s legacy to support and aid the Institute which bears his name.