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**GRAPEVINE**  
• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ ISRAEL IS full of streets, statues, posters and other symbols memorializing Zionist visionary **Theodor Herzl**. We celebrate his birthday and commemorate his death. He was considered to be so important an inspiration for future generations of Israelis that his remains were removed from his grave in Vienna's Dobling cemetery and re-interred in 1949 on the mountain in Jerusalem that bears his name.

The question that is seldom asked is whether Herzl would have conceived the Zionist vision had he not in his capacity as a journalist covered the iniquitous trial of a French officer, Captain **Alfred Dreyfus**, who in 1894 was convicted on trumped up charges of treason. He was exonerated more than a century ago.

Herzl was incensed by the injustice of what he saw and heard, and it was from this negative element that he was inspired to advocate the return to the Jewish homeland.

There are some who think that Dreyfus was short-changed by history, and that without him the Zionist enterprise might never have eventuated.

Beit Hatfutsot, the Museum of the Jewish People hosted a French exhibition, part of which was dedicated to Dreyfus, but there's not much in Israel to remind people of who he was and how his story influenced Herzl.

Now people strolling along Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv, where the most dominant statue is that of the city's first mayor **Meir Dizengoff** on his horse, will be able to gaze at a statue of yet another historic figure – Dreyfus.

The statue which has been placed in front of the French Institute at 7 Rothschild Boulevard, will be officially unveiled this coming Tuesday, November 27 in the presence of Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai, French Ambassador **Helene Le Gal** and the descendants of **Alfred and Lucie Dreyfus**.