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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

In this week's *Magazine*, we are proud to share perspectives from some leading thinkers about the more-pertinent-than-ever topic of Theodor Herzl and Zionism, as well as a special address from the prime minister of the Jewish state that Herzl envisioned, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Gol Kalev offers new insight on the question of how Herzl came up with the idea of Zionism. In his analysis he highlights Herzl's strong Jewish consciousness and faith, illustrating how for Herzl Zionism was also about the return to Judaism.

Rabbi Dr. Benny Lau provides a fresh explanation of Rav Kook's eulogy of Herzl, which in turns leads to new understanding of Rav Kook's own view of Herzl.

Prof. Ariel Feldestein explains how Mount Herzl has turned into Israel's national temple. As such, Herzl, long after his death, continues to serve as a symbol of unity for Israelis at times of conflict and division.

Prof. David Faiman links Herzl's generation to today by sharing stories he heard from his grandfather about his friendship with Herzl - in particular, the dramatic events surrounding the Uganda proposal in which Faiman's grandfather, Rev. Goldbloom, played a key role.



(Marc Israel Sellem)

Finally, Prof. Shlomo Avineri brings in Herzl's vision, as expressed in *Altneuland*, to today's Israel. Avineri reflects on how Israeli society is functioning relative to Herzl's vision.

This week marks the anniversary of the First Zionist Congress (August 29-31, 1897). The journey Herzl led - from Basel, Switzerland, in that long-ago August to Jerusalem in August 2019 - continues onward. Understanding Herzl helps us understand who we are today, and it is my hope that this issue of the *Magazine* contributes to that effort.

As always, I welcome your comments and letters and thank you for your readership.

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