



7.65x20.37	1	עמוד 13	the jerusalem post - in jerusalem	21/02/2020	72072204-4
בנימין זאב הרצל - בהקשר לציורו - 80790					

GRAPEVINE

• GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ BEGINNING ON Sunday, February 23, the Herzl Center is hosting a lecture series aimed at taking a fresh look at Theodor Herzl's utopian novel *Altneuland*, in which he outlined his vision of a modern Jewish, pluralistic and social democratic state in which Jews and Arabs would have equal rights. If Herzl had not been a journalist, it's quite possible that there would not be a State of Israel today. There was never a time in which there were no Jews in the Holy Land, but mass migration did not really begin until after the Second World War when Zionism had become a significant factor in Jewish identity.

As a journalist, Herzl covered the notorious Dreyfus trial in which a French Jewish army officer had been made the scapegoat for someone else's treason. This had a profound impact on Herzl and brought home the realization that Jews would always be scapegoats unless they returned to their ancestral homeland. Although this is the common belief as to what generated the modern Zionist movement, political scientist Professor *Shlomo Avineri* of the Hebrew University argued in his biography of Herzl that it was not so much the Dreyfus trial as what was happening in 19th century Europe in general that influenced Herzl's train of thought, especially with regard to the Austro-Hungarian empire, which Emperor Franz Joseph had turned into Europe's best country for the Jews, who enjoyed unprecedented emancipation during his reign. All that was changing rapidly.

Zionism quickly developed into a political movement, so it is fitting that both journalists and politicians should be the first to speak at the lecture series.

Former Labor Party leader **Shelly Yachimovich**, who for many years prior to her political career was a radio and television journalist and fellow journalist **Erel Segal** will be speaking together with Herzl Center chair Dr. **Aliza Lavie**, who is a former Yesh Atid MK, and who lectures at the School of Communications at Bar-Ilan University.