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GRAPEVINE
• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ AFTER MONTHS of campaigning, the eligible Zionist organizations in the US have elected their delegates to the 39th World Zionist Congress (WZC), which is due to take place in Jerusalem in October.

In Australia, the voting has just commenced. In outlining voting rules and eligibility, **Alon Cassuto**, the Jerusalem-born CEO of the Zionist Federation of Australia, was obviously aware of the voting scandals that marred the American elections.

There is little doubt that, scandals notwithstanding, the record number of voters was influenced by the escalation of antisemitism and the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. The 38th Zionist Congress in October 2020 was attended by some 700 people. More are expected this year following the huge turnout for the recently held World Jewish Congress, which was also held in Jerusalem.

The British elections to the WZC are due to take place between June 8-12.

Some of the delegates who own apartments in Israel will probably come for the High Holy Days, which begin on September 22, and stay until after Sukkot.

Traditionally, Evangelicals from around the world flock to Israel for their annual Feast of Tabernacles, which takes place during Sukkot, so the combination of WZC delegates and Evangelicals will be very good for Jerusalem's hotel industry.

The WZC, founded by Zionist visionary Theodor Herzl in Basel on August 29, 1897, is among the most veteran Jewish organizations.