

New Chairman at Likud-Herut UK

That you are receiving this newsletter either by post or email, is indicative of important changes which have taken place within the leadership of Likud-Herut UK. Subject to ratification at a future general meeting, Zalmi Unsorfer has been appointed chairman. Closely aligned with the ideals and principles of Menachem Begin, Zalmi has written a number of newspaper features on Jewish topics, including a recent front page article on his tour of Yesha settlements in which he has subsequently maintained a keen interest. With the help of Life President Eric Graus a new committee has been formed of Peter Simpson (Vice Chairman) Meir Malinsky (Hon Secretary) and Daniel Weisz (Treasurer). Vice President Joe Gellert, who splits his time between London and Israel is actively involved in charity work with victims of terror.



New Chairman Zalmi Unsorfer at a private Likud-Herut reception with Defense Minister, Shaul Mofaz



Welcoming the New Ambassador

Members of the Likud-Herut UK committee were pleased to meet Israel's new UK ambassador Zvi Heifetz soon after his arrival at the London embassy. The principal topic of discussion was Israel's bad press in Europe. It was felt that Ambassador Heifetz's credentials as a former newspaper executive on the board of Maariv would enable him to reach out to peer groups in the British press and establish some better understanding and reasonable balance in the media coverage of Middle East news. Pictured left to right are: Peter Simpson, Joe Gellert, Zalmi Unsorfer, Eric Graus, Ambassador Zvi Heifetz, Zack Gertler (One Jerusalem), Daniel Weisz, David Shalom (Betar Tagar).

Likud-Herut UK - Lecture Series

As a means of breathing new life into Likud-Herut UK and boosting its membership, we have decided to launch a lecture series in London. Visiting Israeli politicians and personalities will be invited to talk on subjects which concern us, our ideals and aspirations. The first in this series will be a talk by Samaria's first lady: Mayor Daniella Weiss of Kedumim. It is planned to hold future events with major figures like Binyamin Netanyahu and Natan Sharansky as well as leaders of the settlement movement in Yesha and others loyal to the original Herut platform and the ideals of Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Other activities will include breakfast meetings such as the one organised this month with Dore Gold, former UN ambassador and publisher of two hard hitting exposes on Saudi Arabia and the UN. We welcome members' ideas for future activities and events. Please email suggestions to: LikudHerut@aol.com

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW !

Be sure to receive future newsletters and invitations.
Email your contact details to LikudHerut@aol.com

Sometimes an article sums up our feelings better than we ever can. Here is one of Sarah Honig's famous 'open letters', this time to Benny Begin as published in the Jerusalem Post. It seems to hit the spot...

Dear Benny, According to the timeless wisdom of Ecclesiastes, there's "a time to keep silent and a time to speak." You had your reasons for silence, chiefly reasons of personal honor - rare in our milieu. For a time they may have been valid. No more. The other time has now come - the time to cry out, to reveal truths you know, to warn, to stop being a withdrawn gentleman, to roll up your sleeves, enter the fray and join the fight. Over the years you haven't concealed your dislike for Ariel Sharon. You said he's unfit to lead, but you intimated more than you disclosed. You were careful not to cross strict bounds of propriety you set for yourself. Yet you can't stay aloof and disdainful of the scuffle. To do so is to desert the struggle for our national survival. To your credit, you saw through Sharon when few in the national camp did. You refused to condone his conduct and look the other way, even when his popularity skyrocketed among folks who shared your ideals. You didn't buy Sharon's nationalist posturing, nor were you mesmerized by his "Constrictionist" zealotry. You didn't run with the pack. You distrusted Sharon when he seemed more Revisionist than the most ardent of Revisionists. You know what he did to your father, late prime minister Menachem Begin. You know how misleading defence minister Sharon was during his Lebanese adventure. You know Sharon destroyed your father's spirit and contributed to the sad end of his career. You recall your father's sardonic comment about how Sharon always kept the government informed of his every move, "sometimes before the fact and sometimes afterwards." YOU RECALL the hostile demonstrations outside the PM's residence when leftist picketers hoisted placards depicting your father in SS uniform and with vampire fangs dripping blood. You recall his agony at seeing the numbers of the fallen displayed outside his window and hearing protesters' provocative chants in the dead of night. You know it ate into his soul. You know who's responsible for the merciless non-stop vigils, and who extinguished the great hope of your father's tenure in office. You know who now uses your father's name in vain by equating the unilateral surrender of Gush Katif with the price your father paid for a peace treaty. You can define the difference for those with short memories and wishy-washy wishful thinking. Pardon the cliché, but the time has come for all good men to come to the aid of their country - even those good men who feel they did their bit but were rebuffed for it. To sulk now is to be a quitter. You have a story to tell. Don't just write. Shout. You carry moral clout. Nobody can brand you a seditious mutineer. It's crucial that those in the Likud, who retain warm sentiments for your father, hear you. They need to know who betrayed him and who cynically ignores all commitments to them. There's no way those who voted Likud in 2003 wanted or bargained for a government reliant for narrow parliamentary approval on militantly anti-Zionist Arab Knesset members and far-Left Meretz support. They didn't envision a PM who'd implement the very notions of unilateral retreat he had renounced as rewarding terror, and which the electorate indeed overwhelmingly rejected. They didn't imagine a Likud premier who'd override the verdict of a Likud referendum, which he rammed down the party's throat. No Likud ministerial luminary has the intestinal fortitude to risk speaking out. Someone must galvanize Likud voters who didn't cast their ballots to underwrite Sharon's whims, to allow his son to threaten opponents with score-settling nor to further the careers of Roni Bar-On, Avraham Herschson, and other dubious claimants to Revisionist legacy. Sharon, of course, is chief among those unworthy to don Jabotinsky's and your father's mantle. Not only were they dedicated men of principle whose ideology didn't shift radically, erratically, dangerously and inexplicably, but their personal lives were marked by humility and self-denial. Jabotinsky's worldly wealth when he died was \$6. You don't remember me as a small child when I lived across the road from your family (on Tel Aviv's Rehov Yosef Eliahu). I remember how you and your younger sisters grew up in a tiny two-room ground-floor apartment into which one had to descend a few steps. Your father strenuously refused all offers to help him afford more suitable quarters. How unlike Sharon of the sprawling Sycamore Ranch, always one step ahead of the lawman, with suspect ties to international fat cats, who funnel millions into his and his sons' accounts. Don't keep silent any longer. Silence isn't always golden. Sometimes it's cowardly yellow. Remember Jabotinsky's refrain in his Betar Anthem: "Silence is filth."

Sincerely, Sarah

Mofaz: A Worrying Subtext

One of the perks of being Chairman of an organisation like Likud-Herut, is that you get to meet ministers and other interesting political figures passing through London on their official or private visits. This month was my second encounter with Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and it left me and my colleagues troubled. In a 30 minute address, the minister outlined the process of disengagement, explaining how Palestinian forces would be deployed in Kassam launch areas of Gaza and how, in due course of time, such forces would be given control of Palestinian towns in Judea and Samaria. At no time during his narrative did the defence minister display any real conviction, either in body language or tone of voice. I found myself comparing his demeanour with the last time I met him, some six months prior. At that time, despite the bombs which were still going off in the streets of Jerusalem, he displayed a determination of will and spirit that was not present this time. Remember, this was one of the hawkish cabinet voices espousing the expulsion of Yasser Arafat from Ramallah. Now he was reading a prepared speech about trusting Abbas and faith in his ability to control Hamas, Hizbullah and Islamic Jihad. But with no apparent conviction. Almost as if this was about keeping his job as defence minister whilst knowing, in his heart of hearts, that a heavy price would have to be paid when it all went Oslo-shaped and his loyal troops would have to fight a bloody war from ever less-defensible boundaries. Undoubtedly Shaul Mofaz has aspirations of his own to succeed Ariel Sharon as Prime Minister. To succeed, he may have to take some risks. Like speaking his own mind on disengagement and the inherent security risks of losing strategic depth in unreciprocated goodwill gestures to a Palestinian leader who continues to rule out armed confrontation with terrorist insurgents. ZU