

AJCongress Tour Traces Life Of Theodor Herzl

(Continued from page 1)

it retraces the voyages of Zionism's founder, Theodor Herzl.

The tour starts in England, continues into France, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, and ends in Austria. The eighteen day trip departs from New York June 15 and September 14, with an optional two-day extension to Istanbul and, for the September departure, an optional extension to Israel. It includes three nights in London, four nights in Paris, one night in Strasbourg, one night in Basel, three nights in Budapest, three nights in Vienna and two nights in Istanbul.

The tour, which features stops in the cities and lands which played important roles in the life of Theodor Herzl, is studded with cultural and romantically historic highlights. Each departure is accompanied by a professional tour manager and a guest author, who will travel as lecturer and provide insights into the life of Theodor Herzl.

Participants will attend theater, opera, concert, or ballet performances in London, Paris, Budapest, and Vienna, and spend a full day abroad the celebrated, restored Venice-Simplon Orient-Express train.

Amos Elon, Israeli author of *Israelis: Founders and Sons*, *Flight Into Egypt*, *Herzl*, a biography of Theodor Herzl, and co-author of *Between Enemies: A Compassionate Dialogue*, will accompany the June tour, and New York born Ronald Sanders, author of *The High Walls of Jerusalem*, a history of the Balfour Declaration and the birth of the British Mandate over

Palestine, will accompany the September tour. Formerly editor of *Midstream Magazine*, Sanders is the author of *Lost Tribes and Promised Lands*, *The Downtown Jews*, and *The Days Grow Short*, a biography of composer Kurt Weill.

Theodor Herzl was born in Budapest on May 2, 1860. The house on the Tabakgasse where he was born was adjacent to the city's huge liberal synagogue, Europe's largest, which stands to this day. The house was razed in 1909 to make room for the city's Jewish Museum.

Herzl and his parents moved to Vienna from Budapest when he was 17. In 1891 he was appointed Paris correspondent of the influential Viennese daily "Neue Freie Presse." It was here that Herzl became an ardent Zionist. Traumatized by the arrest and trial of French army Captain Alfred Dreyfus -- and the subsequent wave of anti-Semitism it generated -- Herzl concluded that the only solution to the "Jewish problem" was the mass emigration of Europe's Jews to Palestine.

He travelled often to London in search of support from Britain's Jewish notables. But his greatest personal support came from the poor Jewish masses in London's East End, who, only recently arrived in Britain from the pogroms of Russia, considered Herzl a savior.

The first Zionist Congress was originally set for Munich, but was moved to Switzerland's Basel on the River Rhine, a city with a centuries long Jewish history. At the second Zionist Congress in 1898 Herzl met Chaim Weizmann, who became Israel's first president, and Stephen Wise, who went on to found the American Jewish Congress.

Special features of the English phase of the Herzl tour will include a visit to Bevis Marks

Synagogue, London's oldest, St. Paul's Cathedral, the 17th century masterpiece which survived the Blitz, and the Tower of London, as well as Waddesdon Manor, a 200-room palace built by the English Rothschilds which contains one of the world's most extraordinary collections of paintings, tapestries, furniture and miniatures amassed by the Vienna Rothschilds.

Tours of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Louvre Museum, and the house of Claude Monet at Giverny will highlight the France stay. Participants will also visit the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center of Budapest, and the Byzantine-style Dohany Street Synagogue, Europe's largest, with capacity for 3,000 worshippers. Vienna points of interest will include the Sigmund Freud Museum, the main City Temple Synagogue, the Vienna Woods and the Opera House.

Travelers to Istanbul will see the Topkapi Palace and Museum, the Church of St. Sophia, and the Grand Bazar.

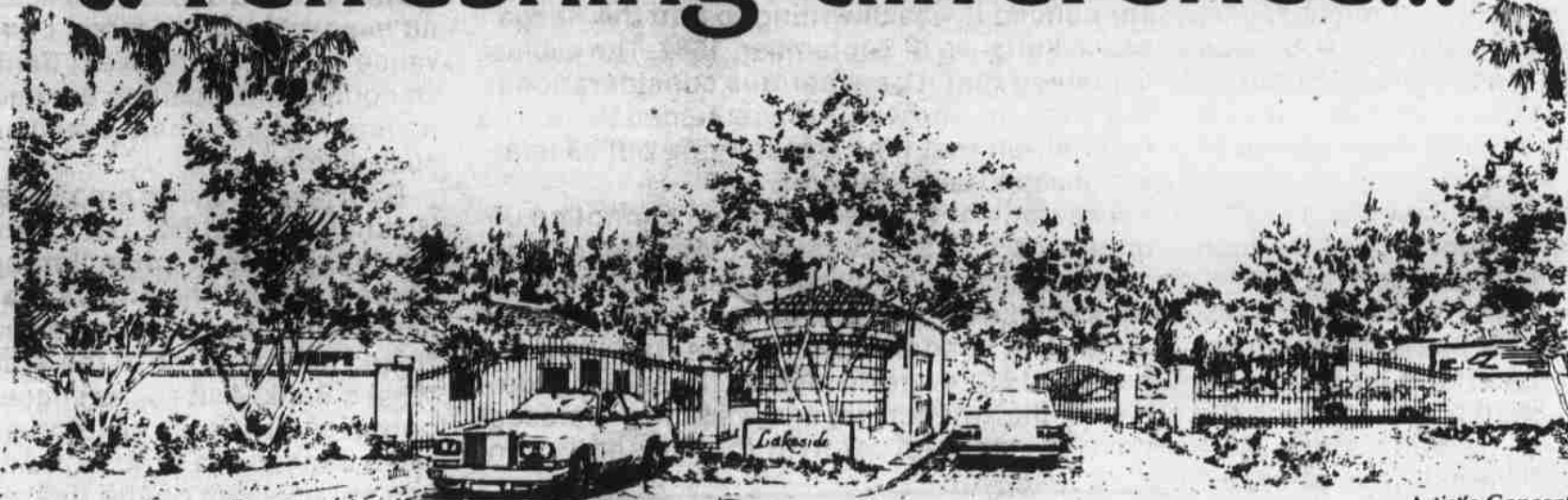
For information on "In the Footsteps of Herzl," or other AJCongress tours, call (212) 879-4500 in New York City, (516) 752-1186 on Long Island, (914) 328-0018 in Westchester/Rockland, or toll-free, 1-800-221-4694.

Caesars Palace director of publicity and advertising Don Guglielmino will begin reporting on Vegas each week to the Sig Sakowicz Show via the phone. He joins Frontier's Jim Seagrave, Maxim's Pat Wood and Sands' Fred Kosik.

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