

On the occasion of ESRA's 40th anniversary, on behalf of The Jewish Agency and Jewish communities the world over, I'd like to express my gratitude for all the important work you have done in helping disadvantaged communities in Israel by providing a vehicle for English-speaking Olim to harness their energy toward Tikkun Olam.

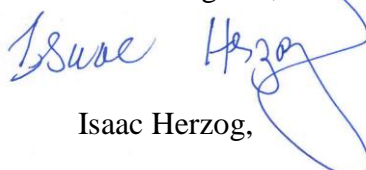
יצחק הרצוג
יו"ר ההנהלה

Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the
Executive

What's especially remarkable about ESRA is the structure whereby Olim help other Olim – to the benefit of each other's absorption into Israeli society. This formula for success is quite remarkable – and very close to my heart, having grown up surrounded by many English-speaking Olim. I have followed ESRA's activities for decades, from the time my father, Chaim Herzog, supported the organization both as a member of Knesset and president. Since then, ESRA has grown into a pillar of the English-speaking community in Israel, with much thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Merle Guttman throughout the years. I'd also like to acknowledge Brenda Katten for her dedication to ESRA's success.

On this day, marking 40 years of ESRA and 71 years since Israel's Declaration of Independence, may the values and spirit of your volunteers – whose work is a true testament to our founding values of creating a safe homeland for the Jews, where all are treated as equals – shine on and inspire the next generation to follow in your footsteps.

Warmest regards,



Isaac Herzog,

Chairman of the Executive