

# Program Review Committee report

November 2020  
Paul Bennick, Chair

Note: This committee typically “meets” only to review and collectively decide whether to approve submitted program proposals, and typically does so only via email exchanges. Therefore, no traditional meeting “Minutes” exist, but email exchanges are available on request, by contacting the Chair of the Committee.

Number of programs submitted in October, 2020: 1 (content set forth below)  
Status: Approved - 6 yes, 1 abstained

NOTE: The committee member who abstained expressed the following:  
*“I will abstain from voting on this program because I personally do not believe support for the State of Israel should be part of Judaism”.*

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## **Program Proposal 20-019IM APPROVED 11/4/20**

**Date Submitted:** 10.12.20  
**Requesting Group or Person:** Israel Matters Committee  
**Title of Program:** A Video History of Zionism (49 videos, each runs about 6-10 minutes)  
**Date of Event:** We propose to put a link to one video per week for the next 49 weeks in the e-tone news.

**Content of Program:** As you know, part of our IM mission statement is to “raise awareness about the Jewish homeland and Zionism through educational programs.” To that end, we would like to present links to the videos in the video library of the website of ZionismU: <https://www.zionismu.com/>

These videos are part of their Zionism 101 project. There will be no cost to those watching the videos. The website asks people to create a user name and password; however, we hope to provide a user name (Israel Matters) and password (yet to be determined)—we are in discussion with ZionismU on how to do this.

Below, please find documentation about this website. Instead of providing a synopsis of every video on the site (the titles are self-descriptive), I would suggest that Program Review Committee members go to the site, and choose as many videos as you like and watch them.

**Is the program related to Israel:** Yes

**Have you verified that the program content, speaker(s), and organization, including online/social media presence, is consistent with CBH Program Policy?**

Yes, to the best of my ability

**Any other relevant information (attach additional sheet, if necessary):** See below

**Other information:** Of course, the standard CBH disclaimer will be attached each time we provide a link.

Information about Zionism U's project Zionism 101 (taken from its website):

The author/editors: David and Raphael Isaac, sons of Rael Jean Isaac, author of *Israel Divided* (Johns Hopkins University Press) and *Party and Politics in Israel* (Longman), and Erich Isaac, eminent geographer, former member of the editorial board of *Judaism*, frequent contributor to *Commentary*. David Isaac writes, produces, and directs the site's films, and Raphael Isaac edits them.

The idea behind the videos taken from ZionismU's website:

"ZionismU's first project is [Zionism 101](#), a film series about the history of the movement, covering its earliest beginnings up to the creation of the State of Israel. The series consists of 47 carefully researched films containing rarely seen period footage and photographs collected from archives in several countries . . ."

"I would like to recommend a new website offering elegant narration, scrupulous history, scholarly conscience, and an abundance of film material selected from archives around the world. It is entitled "Zionism 101" and is the work of two brothers. Their goal is to create a place where anyone can go to learn about Zionism . . ."

The Isaac brothers believe that the level of Zionist education is so low, even among those who support Israel, that it is pointless to argue the merits of one position versus another when most people are unfamiliar with the most elementary facts. Their hope is to provide a foundational knowledge of Zionist history, not to impose a political position . . ."

The films, which are of a high technical as well as scholarly quality, are six to eight minutes long. The Isaac brothers have been very resourceful in obtaining footage. They've visited numerous archives around the globe, and have done an admirable job keeping the footage and photographs accurately fixed to time and place."

A list of the videos, we would link to (again, one at a time) currently available. They are currently working on ones post-1948:

Origins of Zionism: The Covenant  
Origins of Zionism: Dream of Return  
Origins of Zionism: Modern Zionism  
Rivals of Zionism  
Theodor Herzl: Part 1, Prologue  
Theodor Herzl: Part 2, The Dreyfus Affair  
Theodor Herzl: Part 3, The Zionist Congress  
Theodor Herzl: Part 4, Uganda  
Chaim Weizmann: Part 1, The Balfour Declaration  
Chaim Weizmann: Part 2, Setbacks  
Chaim Weizmann: Part 3, Ouster & Return  
Chaim Weizmann: Part 4, War & Statehood  
Vladimir Jabotinsky: Part 1, An Individualist  
Vladimir Jabotinsky: Part 2, The Jewish Legion  
Vladimir Jabotinsky: Part 3, Revisionism  
Vladimir Jabotinsky: Part 4, Lone Wolf  
David Ben Gurion: Part 1, Small Beginnings  
David Ben Gurion: Part 2, Battle for Authority  
David Ben Gurion: Part 3, A Gordian Knot  
David Ben Gurion: Part 4, Freedom of Action  
The First Aliyah, Part 1  
The Second Aliyah, Part 2  
The Revival of Hebrew  
Military Stirrings: Hashomer  
Military Stirrings: Nili  
Military Stirrings: The Jewish Legion  
The Marching Song of the Judeans  
Socialist Zionism, Part 1  
Socialist Zionism, Part 2, The Kibbutz  
Religious Zionism  
General Zionism  
Christian Zionism: The Jews' Society  
Christian Zionism: Lord Shaftesbury  
Christian Zionism: Hecher to Wingate  
Christian Zionism: Origins in America  
Christian Zionism: American Revival  
Christian Zionism: Bond with Israel  
The British Mandate: Part 1, The First High Commissioner  
The British Mandate: Part 2, Shutting the Gates  
The British Mandate: Part 3, The Jewish Brigade  
The British Mandate: Part 4, Illegal Immigration  
The British Mandate: Part 5, Step Ashore  
Song of the Illegal Immigrant  
The Jewish Undergrounds: Lehi

The Jewish Undergrounds: Irgun

The Jewish Undergrounds: Haganah

The War of Independence: "The War Before the War"

The War of Independence: "Fight To Survive"

The War of Independence: "Victory"

From a review of the series at:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2014/05/19/zionism-101-far-better-than-the-courses-at-vassar-or-stanford-and-about-60000-cheaper/>: