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DR. DAVID V. ZAITSCHEK (1904-1990): AN ISRAELI VISIONARY ASTRONOMICAL OUTREACH  
PIONEER**Abstract**

This paper will pay tribute to a true pioneer in the field of public outreach – the founder of the Israeli Astronomical Association, Dr. David Zaitscek. Slovakian-born, Dr. Zaitscek, was a trained botanist and a bacteriologist when he immigrated in 1934 to the future State-of-Israel. Shortly after arrival, Dr. Zaitscek assumed a relevant position in the world-renowned Agricultural Research Organization, (1925), located in Rehovot, Israel. In 1936, Dr. Zaitscek relocated to Jerusalem to take a position at the Hebrew University. Not long after, Dr. Zaitscek became the manager of the on-campus botanical laboratories. In 1951, Dr. Zaitscek founded the Jerusalem Amateur Astronomers Club, along with Dr. Edgar Heilbroner and Dr. Joseph Zmora. In 1952, Dr. Zaitscek established a provisional astronomical observatory, which 2nd-hand telescope was donated by an overseas amateur. In 1953, under the blessing of the-then prime-minister Mr. David Ben-Gurion, the Club was re-affirmed to become the Israeli Astronomical Association (IAA). Still active today, the IAA is a nation-wide organization aimed to advocate Space and Astronomy for the benefit of future generations. In 1956, Dr. Zaitscek lead the establishment of the first planetarium in Israel, located at the new campus of the Hebrew university of Jerusalem. The building and instruments were donated by Mr. Nachum Ze'ev Williams, an affluent patron. Dr. Zaitscek voluntarily operated the planetarium for over 30 years, and was later replaced by his students. Some of his students, who were also IAA members, have since achieved high tenured research positions in physics and related sciences both locally and globally. Dr. Zaitscek authored the long-lasting bi-weekly publication of the IAA, reporting on Space-related advancements from 1957 to present times.