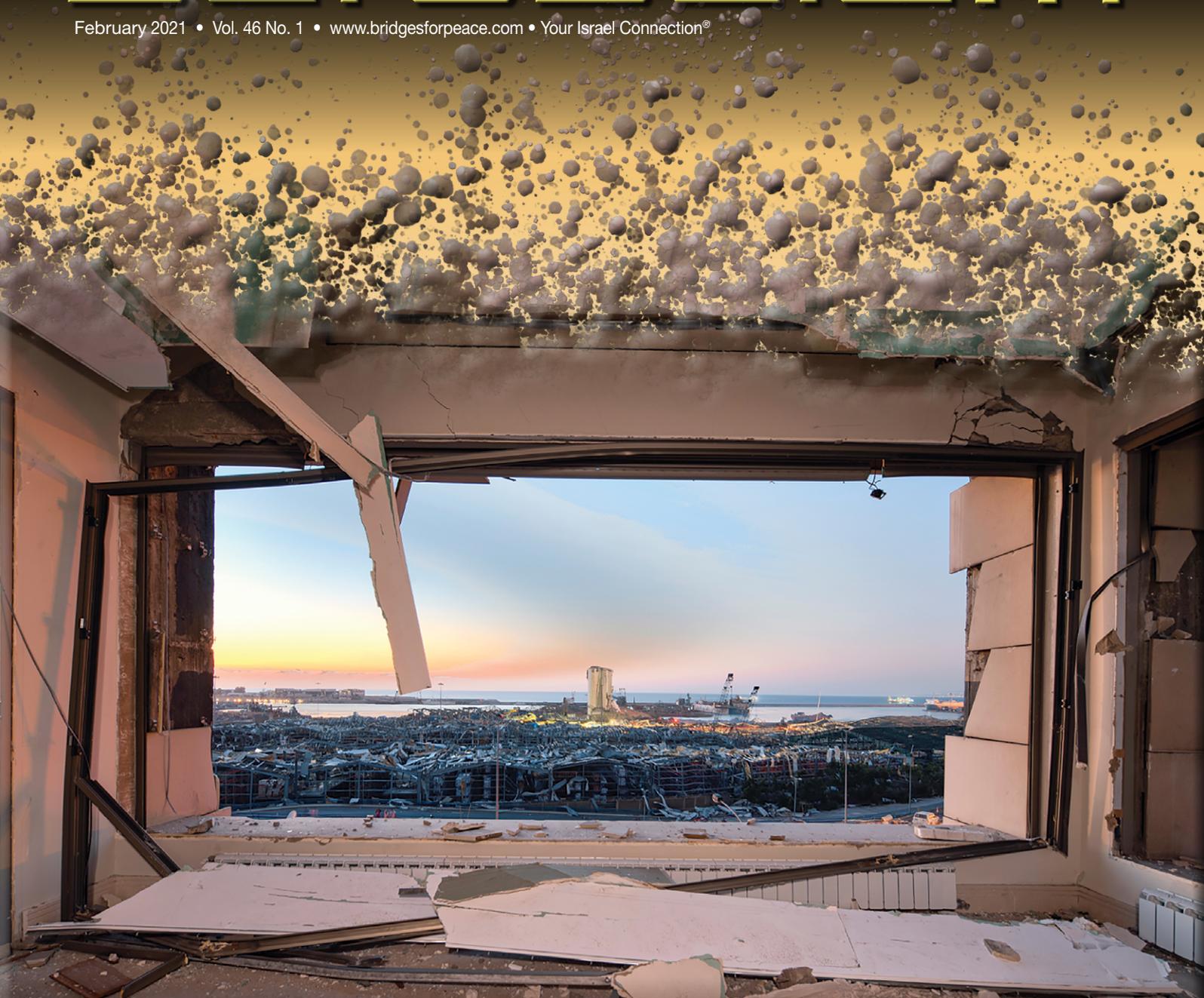


dispatch **from** Jerusalem

A Publication of Bridges for Peace

February 2021 • Vol. 46 No. 1 • www.bridgesforpeace.com • Your Israel Connection®



Trouble Brewing for Hezbollah

BRIDGES FOR PEACE

Christians supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

It is our desire to see Christians and Jews working side by side for better understanding and a more secure Israel. Bridges for Peace seeks to be a ministry of hope and reconciliation. Through programs both in Israel and worldwide, we are giving Christians the opportunity to actively express their biblical responsibility before God to be faithful to Israel and the Jewish community. For too long Christians have been silent. For too long the Jewish community has had to fight its battles alone. It is time Christian individuals and congregations speak up for the people who gave us the Bible.

We are committed to the following goals:

To encourage meaningful and supportive relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

To educate and equip Christians to identify with Israel, the Jewish people and the biblical/Hebraic foundations of our faith.

To bless Israel and the Jewish people in Israel and worldwide through practical assistance, volunteer service and prayer.

To communicate Christian perspectives to the attention of Israeli leaders and the Jewish community-at-large.

To counter anti-Semitism worldwide and support Israel's divine God-given right to exist in her God-given land.

Dispatch from Jerusalem

The *Dispatch from Jerusalem* is Bridges for Peace's signature publication presenting positive news and perspectives from Israel to encourage understanding and support for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

Editor in Chief Rebecca J. Brimmer
Associate Editor Cheryl L. Hauer
Assistant Editor Ilse Strauss
Publications Manager Brenda Groat
Graphic Designers Kathy DeGagne,
Brenda Groat, Sarah Yoder

Subscription information

Contact your national office at the address listed to the right or refer to page 33 under "Information & Publications" for the subscription fee in your currency. For all other locations, a one-year subscription costs US \$25 and is mailed from Israel. Contact our International Headquarters listed below.



International Headquarters
PO Box 1093
Jerusalem, Israel 9101001
Tel: (972) 2-624-5004
FAX: (972) 2-624-6622
intl.office@bridgesforpeace.com

www.bridgesforpeace.com



BFP-USA
ECFA Member



Join us in practical expressions to bless Israel by becoming an active bridge-builder and participating in fulfilling biblical prophecy through the following educational and humanitarian programs of Bridges for Peace.

Publications: The bimonthly *Dispatch from Jerusalem*, the monthly in-depth study of the *Israel Teaching Letter* and the weekly e-mailed *Israel Current News Update with Prayer Focus*. To subscribe, sign up on the front page of our website at www.bridgesforpeace.com

Chai (Life) Night Prayer and Study Groups: A monthly intercessory prayer program for groups desiring to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6).

Bridge-building Projects: Promote better Christian-Jewish understanding and support for Israel at the local and regional levels around the world. Projects offered include Hebrew classes, film series, Israel awareness programs, speakers bureaus and study seminars.

Bible Study Tours in Israel: Bridges for Peace provides a variety of travel opportunities and lectures to help you or your tour group gain a deeper understanding of Israel. (See page 28 for current tours).

Discovery Groups: Groups have the opportunity to serve with us for a period of one to four days.

Short-term Service: A wonderful opportunity for Christians to build sincere relationships by volunteering to serve as short-term staff assisting Israel's poor.

Operation Ezra Projects: Through our food banks, food gifts are distributed to help Israel's needy.

Project Rescue/Project Tikvah (Hope): These programs help the poorest Jews in the countries of the Diaspora.

ZEALOUS8:2: This branch of Bridges for Peace aims at reaching and impacting the young adult generation (18-30) with the message of God's plan and purpose for the nation of Israel (www.zealous82.com).

For more information, contact any of our national offices. We are also available to help you plan activities in your area. When you come to Israel, we would like to meet you or speak to your group. Please contact us in advance to visit our International Headquarters and Outreach Center in Jerusalem.

Offices

Australia

Tel: (61) 7-5479-4229
bfp.au@bridgesforpeace.com

Canada

Tel: (1) 204-489-3697
Toll free: (1) 855-489-3697
info@bfpcan.org

Japan

Tel: (81) 3-5637-5333
bfp@bfpj.org

New Zealand

Tel: (64) 7-855-5262
emather.nz@bridgesforpeace.com

South Africa

Tel: (27) 21-975-1941
info@bridgesforpeace.co.za

South Korea

Tel: (82) 70-8772-2014
bfp@bfpkorea.com

Spanish

Tel: (52) 646-238-7206
intl.spanish@bridgesforpeace.com

Russia

Tel: (7) 903-309-1849
info.ru@bridgesforpeace.com

United Kingdom

Tel: (44) 165-673-9494
ukoffice@bridgesforpeace.com

United States

Tel: (1) 321-637-0010
(1) 800-566-1998
Product orders: (1) 888-669-8800
postmaster@bfpusa.org



10

Resurrection of the Iran Deal?

Worldwide alarm over Iran's nuclear ambition has increased even as that nation constantly engages in a game of cat and mouse with the IAEA. But what is actually in that Iranian arsenal, and where did it come from?

By Cheryl Hauer

12

Through the Streets of History

Jerusalem does not have regular street names like Maple, Magnolia or Main. Rather, those who influenced the history of the Jewish people or the rebirth of Israel are immortalized in the names of the thoroughfares crisscrossing the city.

By Nathan Williams

14

Life Above All Else

The many accounts of Israel's commitment to preserving life—regardless of whom the life belongs to and how that life is spent—raise an obvious question: why does Israel invest life in those who seek her demise?

By Ilse Strauss



18

A Sanctuary for Birds and Birders in Jerusalem

The Nili and David Jerusalem Bird Observatory, tucked within the heart of bustling Jerusalem, offers a safe haven within a concrete jungle for birds and bird lovers from all backgrounds.

By Kate Norman

20

Something Old, Something New

Walk with us through the streets of Jerusalem as we explore a treasure trove of ancient history ever present amidst the contemporary everyday hustle and bustle of life.

By Sarah Yoder

22

Shanghai: The Noah's Ark of the Orient

For 20,000 desperate Jewish people seeking to flee Nazi Germany, Shanghai was a city of refuge, an Oriental "Noah's Ark." Neither Israel nor the families who found sanctuary from the storm will ever forget.

By Kathy DeGagne



24

Trouble Brewing for Hezbollah

2020 was not kind to Hezbollah or Lebanon, as both the terror group and the country faced crisis after crisis. What does that mean for Hezbollah's domination of Lebanon and threat to Israel?

By Joshua Spurlock

REGULAR FEATURES

- 4 BFP In Action
- 6 Signs of the Times
- 8 Archaeology
- 16 Out of Zion
- 26 Quotes
- 28 Volunteer Opportunities
- 29 Recipe
- 30 Good News

PHOTO CREDITS: Bridgesforpeace.com: Daniel Kirchhevel, Jenna Solomon, Terry Mason, Brenda Groat, Jordan Miles, Sarah Yoder; flickr.com: IRIN Photos, Israel Defense Forces; IAA: Dafna Gazit, Shai Halevi; Israel Defense Force Facebook; Pixabay.com: Mollyroselee, Truong Trinh, Laurent Schmidt; saveachildsheart.org, wikimages, OpenClipart-Vectors; Shutterstock.com: hxdbzxy, RHJPhotoandillustration, cozyta, keko64, diplomedia, Alex Gakos, Abed Rahim Khatib, Oxford Media Library; wikimedia.org: Thephotostrand, Frank Vassen, Moshe Pridan, wilhelmtittes; unsplash: Patrick Ward, Bench Accounting; www.idf.il

WARNING

Israel's prophets were often used by God to warn of impending doom. Today many voices are calling out words of caution, words of warning and calls for action. Seventy-five years ago, the Second World War ended, bringing to an end one of the greatest bloodbaths of all time, including the systematic murder of 6 million Jews. Even as former enemies of Israel reach out a hand of peace, others are beating the drums of war. The world remains in the clutches of a worldwide pandemic. Confusion reigns, and hatred has not gone into lockdown.

- In the aftermath of the assassination by remote controlled weapons of Mohsen Fakhriadeh, Iran's leading nuclear scientist, Iran is threatening Israel with severe retaliation.
- Terror groups Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza continue to breathe out words of hatred, spurring young people to acts of terror.
- Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Even in the United States, where Jewish people have found a haven, the American Jewish Committee's report on anti-Semitism reveals that 37% of US Jews take steps to conceal their Jewish identity in public. This is already the case in Europe, where many Jewish men don't wear *kippot* (Jewish head coverings) in public. The head of Germany's domestic security agency says anti-Semitism levels are rising in Germany. Experts say the levels are the highest since the Second World War.
- Israel, greatly affected by the coronavirus, has soaring unemployment rates.

Calling Christians to Action

During the Holocaust, many Christians acted to save Jewish lives. I will never forget the testimony of Berthe from France. A Christian widow hid her from the Nazis. Berthe (pronounced Bert) was a young child in grave danger and this Christian family saved her, risking their own lives. The widow only saved one child, so she is not well known like Oskar Schindler, Raoul Wallenberg, Sempo Sukihara or even Corrie Ten Boom. However, the *Mishnah* (first postbiblical written recording of Jewish oral tradition) teaches that "whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world." Today, the widow's action has resulted in saving the lives of 17 people, as Berthe came to Israel, married, and had children, grandchildren and now even great grandchildren. I share this because it may seem impossible to do great things, but we can all do something, and together, God can use it to save multitudes. When the 5,000 gathered around Jesus (Yeshua) had nothing to eat, a small lad offered what he had—five loaves and two fishes. From this modest offering, Jesus fed the multitude.

As darkness swirls around the world, it is time for the true believers in God to rise up and let God's light shine through them.

Bridges for Peace

We have decided to stand with the God of Israel and the people of Israel regardless of how difficult or risky it becomes. We will stand against anti-Semitism as it once again rears its ugly head. We will reach out with love to those in need in Israel, feeding, encouraging, repairing decrepit homes, assisting lonely Holocaust survivors,



helping children, widows, orphans, immigrants and those who mourn. We will continue to feed the forgotten, elderly Jewish people in the former Soviet Union who will never come to Israel. We will continue to help Jewish people come home as God is rescuing them from their pursuers. We will continue to help those victimized by terror and war. We will continue to let our light shine.

We will continue to speak out on behalf of Israel around the world. The Lord has given us a voice, and we will use it for His glory and purposes.

Together

In the midst of difficult times, God is raising up Christians who will not run away, who will reach out with love and who will give to further God's projects. Thank you for being one of these heroes of the faith. Your prayers and contributions have enabled us to reach out to the people of Israel. Every gift counts, small or large. Your action today may seem small or insignificant, but God is able to multiply our gifts to nurture the multitudes. Please choose your favorite project or give to our Greatest Israel Need fund. It is an investment in the Kingdom of God, and we will be faithful to use it wisely. We thank God every day for your faithfulness to Him, Israel, the Jewish people and Bridges for Peace. We call on Him to protect you and shield you from harm. We ask Him to bless you as you bless Israel (Gen. 12:3).

Blessings from Israel
Rebecca J. Brimmer
International President and CEO





WHO Meeting Deviates from Coronavirus to Lambaste Israel

Deviating from its focus on the global response to the coronavirus pandemic, the annual assembly of the UN's [United Nations'] World Health Organization [WHO] held a four-hour session focused on Israel, which saw itself condemned in speeches by some 30 delegations, including Iran, Syria, North Korea, Cuba, Malaysia, Lebanon and Venezuela, for allegedly violating the health rights of Palestinians and Syrians in the Golan Heights.

Hillel Neuer, executive director of the Geneva-based United Nations Watch, condemned the "cynical politicization of the world's top health agency at the expense of focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic and other vital global health priorities and emergencies."

"Today's four-hour assault on Israel at the WHO promoted the lie that Israel is harming Palestinian health rights," Neuer said. "The opposite is true."

"Despite the conflict, Israel grants entry to tens of thousands of Palestinians who receive top-level medical care at Israeli hospitals. Even the UN's own Middle East peace envoy hailed Israel's 'excellent' coordination and cooperation with Palestinians amid the coronavirus pandemic," Neuer said.

Excerpt from an article by *United Nations Watch*

Hamas Recruits Minors to Murder, Kidnap Israelis

Hamas has never been coy about its intentions toward Israel. The founding charter of the Iran-backed terror group that rules the 1.9 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip does, after all, clearly stipulate the destruction of Israel through *jihad* ["struggle," war with unbelievers (in Islam)] as its reason for existence. And according to the Shin Bet (Israel's internal security agency), Hamas now enlists Palestinian minors in Judea and Samaria to achieve that objective.

The Shin Bet announced the arrest of two Palestinian youths, including a 16-year-old, whom the terror group recruited to carry out terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens and soldiers.

The two would-be terrorists, both from a village near Hebron, were reportedly hooked by a Gaza-based member of the Hamas military wing cyber unit during a dedicated online recruitment effort spanning a number of social platforms across several months.

"During the minors' interrogation...it emerged that they were meant to receive weapons, ammunition, uniforms and money in order to advance terrorist activities..." the Shin Bet said.

The two future terrorists also shared their prospective terror itinerary with interrogators, including gathering intelligence on Israel Defense Forces (IDF) activities in the area, kidnapping an Israeli citizen from a Jewish community in Judea and Samaria and the grand finale of a number of shooting attacks on Israeli targets.

According to the Shin Bet, "The investigation shows the level of unrestrained efforts by Hamas to advance terror attacks and to build terrorist infrastructure in the West Bank [Judea and Samaria] while taking advantage of minors and harming their families."

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*



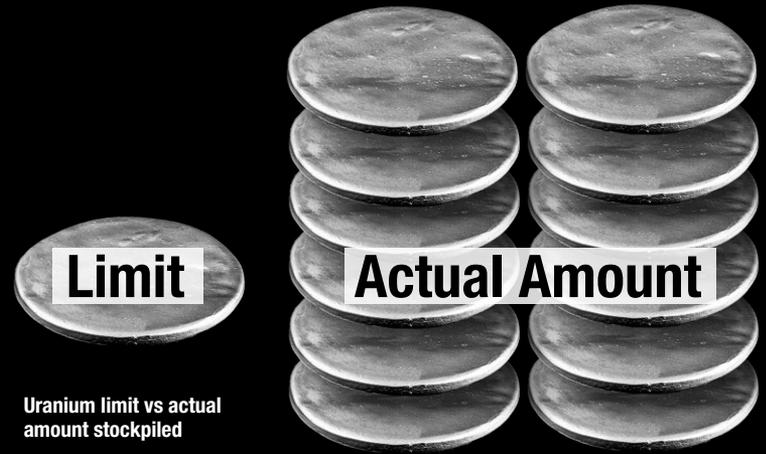
Iranian Stockpile of Enriched Uranium 12 Times over the Nuke Deal Limit

Iran continues to overstep the restrictions set out for the regime under the 2015 Iran deal, a United Nations atomic watchdog announced, increasing its stockpile of enriched uranium to 12 times the amount allowed under the nuclear accord.

The Islamic regime as of November 2 possessed 2,442.9 kilograms (5,285.7 lbs.) of enriched uranium, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) revealed in a confidential report to the member nations of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The report was shown to the *AP*, who published the details.

The JCPOA, which was signed in 2015 in order to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions, limits the regime to stockpiling 202.8 kilograms (447 lbs.) of enriched uranium—a limitation that Iran has left behind in the dust, according to the IAEA.

The regime has also continued enriching its uranium, reaching a reported purity of 4.5%. The nuclear accord set the limit at 3.67% purity. While Tehran insists the enriched uranium is for civilian purposes, experts have suggested



over the past few months that the regime's progress in enriching the uranium puts them much closer toward achieving weapons-grade purity.

In addition, the IAEA reported that it had questioned Iran over the presence of nuclear material "at a location in Iran not declared to the agency" and received an answer that was "not technically credible." The report, according to the *AP*, said "a full and prompt explanation from Iran... is needed."

Iran, though it says otherwise, has also denied the IAEA access to nuclear sites—again in violation of the JCPOA.

Kate Norman, *Bridges for Peace*

Israel's Unemployment Soars beyond 20%

Israel's unemployment figures have soared, with [the] joblessness rate climbing above 20%.

According to data published by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, 1,079,500 Israelis registered as unemployed during the first half of October, of whom 832,600 are believed to have been directly affected by the coronavirus crisis and were either fired or furloughed.

The bureau reported the unemployment for the first half of October—before the government began easing the lockdown restrictions—ranged somewhere between 20.7% and 22.7%.

This is compared to 672,400 unemployed (17.1%) registered in the second half of September, when the second lockdown was first implemented—an increase of over 160,000 jobless. If those who have been unemployed since the first lockdown in March are added to this list, the number for the second half of September rises to 767,400 (19.1%).

Former director general of the Finance Ministry and current economic advisor to the National Security Council in the fight against the pandemic, Yarom Ariav, told *Ynetnews* that Israel is on the verge of an economic catastrophe, adding that the government must act as soon as possible to reduce the growing unemployment numbers.

In the meantime, despite the danger the economic crisis presents to Israel's credit rating, the international credit rating company Moody's decided not to lower the country's rating and left it at A1, which is considered to be relatively high.

Excerpt from an article by Gad Lior, *Ynetnews*



Ancient Gold Coins Unearthed



“WE EVIDENTLY DISCOVERED an ancient savings box,” remarked Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) archaeologist David Gellman about a juglet (small pottery jar) containing four pure gold coins dating from more than a thousand years ago (the Early Islamic period). The find was unearthed during archaeological excavations conducted by the IAA as part of the Jewish Quarter Development Corporation’s plan to build an elevator and make the Western Wall Plaza accessible to visitors coming from the [Jewish] Quarter.

The juglet was found by IAA inspector Yevgenia Kapil during preliminary digging at the site in October 2020. Some weeks later, as excavation director David Gellman was examining the finds, he emptied the contents of the juglet. “To my great surprise,” says Gellman, “along with the soil, four shiny gold coins fell into my hand. This is the first time in my career as an archaeologist that I have discovered gold, and it is tremendously exciting.”

According to IAA’s coin expert, Dr. Robert Kool: “The coins were in excellent preservation and were immediately identifiable even without cleaning. The coins date from a relatively brief period, from the late 940s to the 970s AD. This was a time of radical political change, when control over Eretz Israel passed from the Sunni Abbasid caliphate, whose capital was Baghdad, Iraq, into the hands of its Shiite rivals, the Fatimid dynasty of North Africa, who

conquered Egypt, Syria and Eretz Israel. The profile of the coins found in the juglet are a near perfect reflection of those historical events.”

Two gold dinars were minted during the rule of the Abbasid caliphate. The other two gold coins were minted in Cairo by the Shia Fatimid rulers after they wrested control over Israel, Egypt and Syria from the Abbasids.

Dr. Kool added, “This is the first time in fifty years that a gold cache from the Fatimid period has been discovered in Jerusalem’s Old City. In the large-scale excavations directed by Prof. Benjamin Mazar after the Six Day War, not far from the current discovery, five coin and jewelry hoards from this period were uncovered south of the Temple Mount. Four dinars was a considerable sum of money for most of the population, who lived under difficult conditions at the time. It was equal to the monthly salary of a minor official, or four months’ salary for a common laborer. Compared with those people, the small handful of wealthy officials and merchants in the city earned huge salaries and amassed vast wealth. A senior treasury official could earn 7,000 gold dinars a month, and also receive additional incomes from his rural estates amounting to hundreds of thousands of gold dinars a year.”

Excerpt from a press release by the IAA

Two-Shekel Weight Discovered Adjacent to the Western Wall

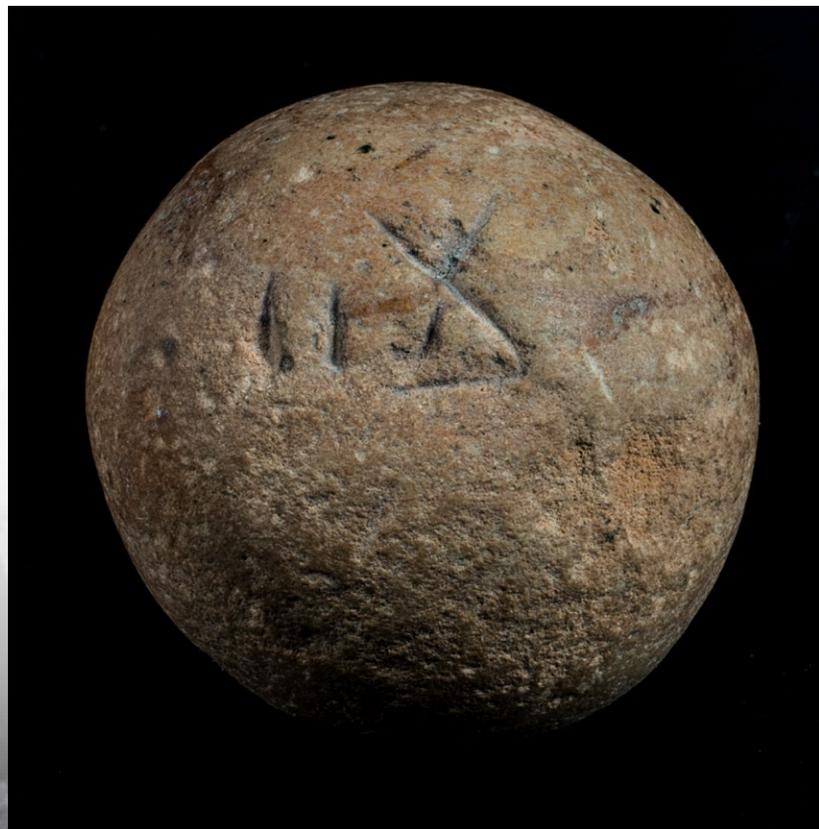
AN ANCIENT LIMESTONE-MADE WEIGHT, dating to the Iron Age—the First Temple period—was discovered in an archaeological excavation conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) in conjunction with the Western Wall Heritage Foundation. The excavation site is beneath Wilson’s Arch, adjacent to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The weight, corresponding to the known measurement unit of two shekalim [plural for shekel, a unit of weight in ancient Israel], was retrieved during sifting of earthen fills in the City of David sifting project. The excavation is nearing its completion, unearthing fascinating discoveries soon to be included in the tour of the Western Wall Tunnels.

According to Dr. Barak Monnickendam-Givon and Tehillah Lieberman, directors of the excavation on behalf of the IAA: “The weight is dome-shaped with a flat base. On the top of the weight is an incised Egyptian symbol resembling a Greek gamma (γ), representing the abbreviated unit ‘shekel.’ Two incised lines indicate the double mass: two shekalim. One of the uses of the shekel weight system during the First Temple period was to collect an annual tax of half a shekel dedicated to the sacrifices and upkeep of the Temple. According to previous finds, the known weight of a single shekel is 11.5 grams [0.4 oz], thus a double shekel should weigh 23 grams [0.8 oz]—exactly as this weight does. The accuracy of the weight attests to advanced technological skills as well as to the importance given to precise trade and commerce in ancient Jerusalem. Coins were not yet in use during this period, therefore accuracy of the weights played a significant role in business.

“The area at the foot of the Temple Mount was busy year-round, but especially during the times of pilgrimage. Locals and pilgrims would have traded for sacrifices and offerings as well as for food, souvenirs and other commodities. A weight such as the one discovered would have been used to measure accurate amounts of products at the market.”

Mordechai (Suli) Eliav, director of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, commented, “Actually now, when coming to the Western Wall is so restricted due to the coronavirus pandemic, this finding strengthens the eternal connection between the Jewish nation, Jerusalem and the Western Wall while offering us all encouragement.”

Excerpt from a press release by the IAA





Resurrection OF THE IRAN DEAL?

"THERE MUST BE NO RETURN to the 2015 nuclear deal," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a December 2020 speech. "We must maintain an uncompromising policy to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons." In light of Iran's intransigence and the international community's indecisiveness, his words rang with desperation. Israel, perhaps more than any other country, is conscious of the hazard a nuclear Iran poses to global security, as the Jewish state deals on a daily basis with Iranian aggression in its own backyard. Netanyahu has repeatedly warned of the danger of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of a nation bent on world domination.

Once classified as a "rogue" state along with Cuba and North Korea, today Iran carries the label "state of concern." Since 2003, worldwide alarm over Iranian nuclear ambition has increased even as that nation constantly engages in a game of cat and mouse with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). And all the while, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei repeatedly denies that his country is creating a nuclear arsenal, claiming that weapons of mass destruction are forbidden under Islam. So wherein lies the truth? What is actually in that Iranian arsenal, and where did it come from?

ATOMS FOR PEACE

US President Dwight D. Eisenhower addressed the United Nations General Assembly in December of 1953, stating, "If a danger exists in the world, it is danger shared by all; and equally, if hope exists in the mind of one nation, that hope should be shared by all." Thus he introduced Atoms for Peace, his well-intentioned brain child, a program that would call upon governments of the world

to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable material to an international atomic energy agency. The United States would provide research reactors, fuel and scientific training to developing countries wanting civilian nuclear programs. In exchange, recipient states would commit to use the technology and education solely for peaceful, civilian purposes. Today, the program is widely criticized for facilitating nuclear proliferation,

spreading dual use nuclear technology and materials, such as highly enriched uranium, and setting nations like Iran on the path to the development of nuclear weapons.

The Atoms for Peace program secured the foundations for Iran's nuclear development by providing key nuclear technology and education. The nation's nuclear program began under Mohamed Reza Shah's rule in 1957, when the US and Iran agreed to a civilian nuclear cooperation arrangement. Two years later, the Shah (Iranian term for "king") established the Tehran Nuclear Research Center (TNRC) and negotiated with the US to provide nuclear technology and materials. In 1967, the US supplied Iran with a 5-megawatt nuclear research reactor, along with highly enriched uranium to fuel it, capable of producing 600 grams of plutonium per year in spent fuel, all housed at the TRNC. It has been revealed, however, that as early as 1990, the reactor was used for the production of a radioactive substance used to start a chain reaction inside a nuclear weapon. In 1975, the Shah struck a deal with MIT to create a specialized master's program providing scientific and technological training on nuclear energy specifically for Iranians. The program provided Iran with its first set of professional nuclear engineers.

TODAY'S ALLY...

When the 1979 Iranian revolution deposed the Shah, the world faced the harsh reality that today's ally can quickly become tomorrow's enemy. The US abruptly ended its civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with Iran and ceased its supply of highly enriched uranium. Unfortunately, Iran was able to find other partners willing to help expand its nuclear program, particularly in areas applicable to the military use of nuclear energy.

Pakistan has been a partner in Iran's nuclear development since 1985. Initially, Islamabad provided technical drawings of a P-1 centrifuge, technology used to enrich uranium. But between 1994 and 1996, it gave Iran components for 500 centrifuges and designs for the more efficient and advanced P-2 centrifuge that Pakistan uses in its own nuclear weapons program. Both the P-1 and P-2 centrifuges are in use at Iran's large enrichment facility.

China has also contributed to Iran's nuclear capabilities, providing a large quantity of "yellowcake," a converted form of uranium that has both civilian and military applications, as well as large amounts of uranium tetrafluoride and uranium dioxide. Further, Beijing supplied the Esfahan nuclear technology center with one 27-watt thermal reactor and one heavy water zero power reactor, all without declaration to the IAEA. Finally, Russia has also contributed significantly



to Iran's nuclear development, providing technology, fuel rods and design assistance for reactors.

In 2015, an international agreement was signed with Iran designed to limit its nuclear development. Netanyahu referred to it as "a very bad deal," and the US eventually withdrew, reinstating sanctions on Iran. Subsequently, Iranian leadership has announced several times that they are exceeding the development limits set by the agreement. And inspections by a global watchdog have been less than productive in determining exactly what Iran is up to. At its height in 2015, Iran possessed over 20,000 gas centrifuges at three major facilities. No one is certain where we stand today, but a March 2020 report from the IAEA suggests that Iran has tripled its stockpile of low enriched uranium since November 2019 and has developed and tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile.

TOMORROW'S ENEMY

Experts say that means Iran has yet to develop a nuclear weapon. However, those same experts say the country is "months" away from having that weapon up and ready. In the meantime, Iranian leaderships' claims of innocence are falling on deaf ears, and as discussions of reinstating the 2015 agreement are increasing, major international leaders are suggesting a more prudent approach. Whatever happens, we can only hope that Netanyahu's cry for an "uncompromising policy" that ensures Iran will not move forward in

the development of nuclear weapons is heard, heeded and enforced by the nations of the world.



Cheryl Hauer,
*International Vice
President*





THROUGH THE STREETS OF HISTORY

JOURNEYING ALONG the streets of Jerusalem is like paging through an encyclopedia filled with a rich and vibrant history. Jerusalem does not have regular street names like Maple, Magnolia or Main. Rather, at every turn, the events and people who were influential in the history of the Jewish people or in the creation of the modern State of Israel are now immortalized in the names of the thoroughfares that crisscross the City of Gold.

Famous Foreigners

It is a rarity to find streets named for former US presidents or British prime ministers in the capital cities of the Middle East. Jerusalem, however, honors those foreign leaders who have in one way or another left an impact on the Jewish people. Washington Street recognizes George Washington, the first US president, as a friend of the Jewish people and a champion for religious tolerance. Writing in 1730 to the president of a Jewish congregation in Rhode Island, Washington said: "May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree."

Lincoln Street distinguishes Abraham Lincoln as a man who supported the Jews in America by promoting legislation that would allow rabbis to serve as chaplains in the military, and furthermore standing against anti-Semitic decrees by General Ulysses S. Grant that sought to expel Jewish people from areas under his control.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, although a more divisive figure, manages to have a Jerusalem boulevard named in his honor. Churchill was criticized for not abolishing the White Paper of 1939, which kept the borders of then British Mandate Palestine closed to the remnants



of European Jewry escaping the Holocaust. Despite this, Churchill is considered a supporter of the Zionist cause, as he entreated Great Britain to abandon the mandate over Palestine and recognize the State of Israel when it was established in 1948.

Jewish Heroes

Benjamin Mitudela Street winds along the outskirts of the neighborhood of Rechavia and overlooks the Valley of the Cross, where the Israel Museum and the Knesset (Parliament) sit perched on the opposite hill—a fitting location for the street named after a famous Jewish explorer. Mitudela spent 13 years of the 12th century traveling the known world, crisscrossing Europe, Asia and North Africa, and even visiting Jerusalem circa 1175. Mitudela recounted his journeys using vibrant Hebrew language with detailed explanations of Jewish life and customs in each location he visited. To this day, copies of his thorough travel diary, *The Travels of Benjamin*, can be found translated into most European languages.

Palmach Street has nothing to do with palm trees, but is in fact an acronym for *plugot machatz* (assault companies), which was a specialized unit of the *Haganah* (a pre-state Zionist paramilitary organization in Mandate Palestine). Famously, their naval unit, *Palyam*, escorted 66 ships of “illegal” Jewish immigrants to British Mandate Palestine, despite the restriction of the British government, liberating them from Nazi Europe. The Palmach was instrumental in protecting the Jewish communities and highways as the British prepared to leave in 1948, and subsequently suffered great loss of lives during the War of Independence as they fought against Arab insurgents. Many of Israel’s greatest leaders, like Yigal Allon, Moshe Dayan and Yitzak Rabin, were commanders in the Palmach.

Just off Malkei Israel Street—recalling the kings of Israel—you will find Louis Brandeis Street, named for a man who in his own way was also a giant among his people. Brandeis was born in the deep south of the US in Louisville, Kentucky. In Boston, where he pursued his legal profession for 40 years, he was known as “the people’s attorney.” Brandeis was the first Jewish person in

history to be selected to serve on the US Supreme Court by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, a position he held for 23 years. Brandeis was a dedicated Zionist at heart and fought to get American approval for the Balfour Declaration.

And Christians Too

George Eliot Street is named after Mary Ann Evans. Indeed, that does not make sense, until you realize that George Eliot was the pseudonym for this late 19th century English female novelist. As Eliot, Evans penned what we would consider today a “Zionist” novel, which birthed in Jewish Zionists of the time a deeper longing to return to their ancient homeland. Although a Christian, in her novel, *Daniel Deronda*, Evans wrote about a hero who uncovers his Jewish roots and returns to his ancient homeland to reinstate and restore the Jewish heritage of his ancestors.

A contemporary of Eliot was Laurence Oliphant, who has a street named in his honor in Jerusalem’s Talbiya neighborhood. Oliphant was born in the Cape of Good Hope (Cape Town, South Africa). As a diplomat, intelligence agent, Christian Zionist and mystic, Oliphant used his political sway to put forward the “Plan of Gilead” in 1880. This plan included rescuing Jewish people suffering under the pogroms in Eastern Europe and planting them in a Jewish agricultural community in the northern part of Ottoman-occupied Palestine. While winning British support, Oliphant’s plan unfortunately failed to get approval from the Ottoman Empire. Regardless, the Jews of Eastern Europe hailed him as a type of Cyrus who would be a catalyst to enable them to return to their homeland.

There are hundreds more stories and wonderful feats captured in the street names of Jerusalem. Next time you are walking along these tree-lined lanes, remember to look up at the street names and discover the rich heritage, history and glorious past of this ancient city and her people.



Nathan Williams, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Life

Above All Else

ON OCTOBER 18, a new patient arrived at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center coronavirus ward in critical condition. Saeb Erekat—chief Palestinian negotiator, right hand to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the man hailed as the public face of the Palestinian people—had tested positive for COVID-19 days earlier. The disease quickly ravaged Erekat, who suffered from preexisting health conditions and underwent a lung transplant in 2017. By the time he arrived at the Jerusalem hospital, he required immediate ventilation and resuscitation. Israeli doctors battled for nearly a month to save his life—but to no avail. Erekat passed away on November 10.

His death caused quite the stir in the international media as news outlets unpacked the legacy of one of the most prominent Palestinian politicians, discussing his contribution, expertise and charisma. Like with so many other stories where Israel is concerned, the international media once again missed the forest for the trees.

The headlines failed to mention that Erekat was a malevolent anti-Israel propagandist, spearheading diplomatic campaigns to rip the Jewish state's reputation to shreds. They omitted his leading role in feeding the media false information charging Israel with massacring Palestinians civilians and dumping their bodies in mass graves. There was no peep of Erekat's crusades to sue Israel for war crimes at the International Criminal Court, boycott Israeli products internationally and brand the Jewish state as a

“colonial-apartheid state.” More importantly, they remained mum about the irony that when the man who rose to fame demonizing Israel was in need, he turned to the object of his hatred for help.

And Israel? The so-called perpetrator of war crimes and alleged colonial-apartheid state swung wide its hospital doors and invested countless hours and scarce medical resources in the battle for Erekat's life—a life he might have spent further treading Israel's name into the mud.

Erekat's death caused a stir in the international media, and rightly so. But instead of unpacking the questionable legacy of the chief Palestinian negotiator, perhaps news outlets should have marveled at the magnificent display of Israel's commitment to preserving life—regardless of whom the life belongs to and how that life is spent.

Israel's battle for Erekat's life is but one example of the Jewish state's dedication to life above all else. Hard-line Palestinian terrorist Yahya Sinwar was incarcerated in an Israeli prison for murdering two soldiers when he was rushed to hospital with severe headaches. Israeli doctors diagnosed a brain tumor and performed emergency surgery, saving his life. Sinwar was eventually released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange, only to be elected the Gaza leader of Hamas, the terror group dedicated to the destruction of Israel. Sinwar now spends his life attempting to annihilate the very people who saved his life.



IDF soldiers treating wounded Syrian civilians

To Save a Life

These accounts—and numerous others—raise an obvious question: why does Israel invest life in those who seek her demise? The answer is simple. In the Jewish state, life trumps politics, hatred, threats and even fear. While Israel's enemies cherish death, Israel cherishes life.

Perhaps centuries of persecution instilled in Israel the realization that no life can be taken for granted. Perhaps the awareness of the sanctity of life was born from a history of Jewish lives often considered expendable. Or perhaps it stems from something deeper, something ingrained in the DNA of a people.

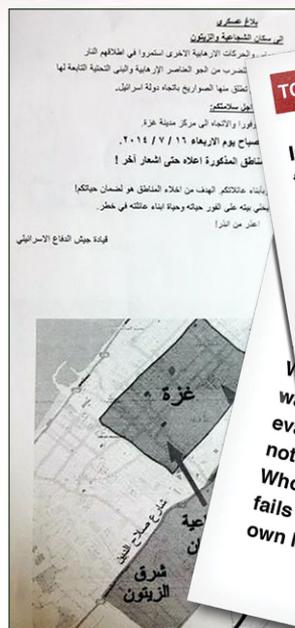
The *Mishnah* (first postbiblical written recording of Jewish oral tradition) teaches that “whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.” In Israel, this isn't merely a suggestion or a pretty platitude. It's a core value, woven into the fabric of society, a moral compass instilled in the ancient Israelites millennia ago that continues to guide their posterity today. It's evident in Israel's medical interventions, humanitarian aid missions, the governance of its citizens and particularly in the way it treats its enemies.

Life for All

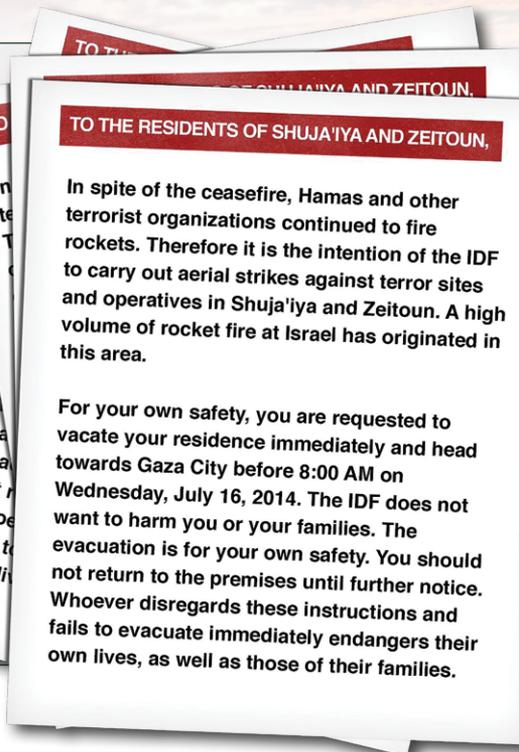
Israel treated nearly 11,000 wounded Syrian civilians during the Syrian Civil War—often in Israeli hospitals and at no cost. Helping a neighbor in need is in itself a commendable feat, but Syria is technically at war with Israel, with Israel off-limits to Syrians. Desperation drove the wounded civilians to the border fence to seek help from the source they believed to be their mortal enemy. And Israel opened its heart, investing countless hours and resources in the battle for Syrian lives.

Wounded Syrian civilians are but one example. Whether the need is in its own backyard or thousands of miles away, Israel has a proud history of devoting its medical expertise to sustaining and protecting life. When a natural disaster strikes, the Jewish state is often first on the frontlines, bringing doctors, nurses, rescue workers, medical supplies and more to help a people not their own survive the rubble of their shattered lives. And as part of Operation Save a Child's Heart, Israel has performed life-saving surgeries—free of charge—on 5,400 children from 62 developing countries where crucial cardiac care is inaccessible. Many of these tiny patients hail from Muslim-majority nations like Kurdistan, Sudan and Afghanistan, countries who don't recognize Israel's existence. Yet Israel continues to open its borders, investing love, care and expertise into the lives of those who shun her.

Israel's life-above-all-else mentality extends to all spheres of society, including the battlefield. Even during the chaos of war, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is driven by the value of cherishing civilian life. Before striking a known enemy stronghold or weapons cache, the IDF ensures that the structures are cleared of innocent civilians, making phone calls and dropping leaflets to warn noncombatants and giving them time to evacuate the area. The enemy is well aware of Israel's commitment to life for all and often



IDF leaflets in Arabic and English warning citizens to evacuate the area



exploits this value by using civilians as human shields, choosing hospitals, schools and apartment buildings as weapons caches or herding civilians into known IDF targets. The IDF has aborted numerous strikes—even seconds before they were carried out—if civilians were spotted at the target, thus choosing life over the destruction of the enemy.

To Save the World

Let's assume that the *Mishnah* is right about this—as Israel does. Let's assume that saving a life equates to saving a world, a whole universe of hopes, inventions, future generations, differences made and destinies altered. Can you imagine? Can we even begin to comprehend the world of difference this tiny nation has made, simply by choosing to cherish life above all else?



Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief

Israel and the UAE Join Forces to Save Endangered Birds

With the ink on a normalization agreement barely dry, Israel and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] are already working together to improve life in the region for more than just humans. A UAE conservation fund and Israeli naturalists are cooperating to preserve the houbara, a desert fowl facing the threat of extinction.

The International Fund for Houbara Conservation from Abu Dhabi signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel's Nature and Parks Authority and the Nature and Heritage Foundation to conduct joint research projects to save the endangered birds.

The center is responsible for breeding approximately 64,000 chicks in the UAE, Morocco and Kazakhstan. Most chicks are set free, and some have made their way through Jordan to Israel and have settled in the Arava Desert after having been extinct in that region. But bird hunting is an age-old tradition in the UAE, and the houbara is a favored trophy for hunters.

The memorandum—signed by the foundation's representative, Majid Ali al-Mansuri, and Matan Vilnai, president

of the Israel Nature and Heritage Foundation—outlines a five-year cooperation plan for the preservation of the houbara and other endangered species.

Ohad Hazofeh, a zoologist with the Nature and Parks Authority, says the population of houbaras found in Israel is small but genetically unique.

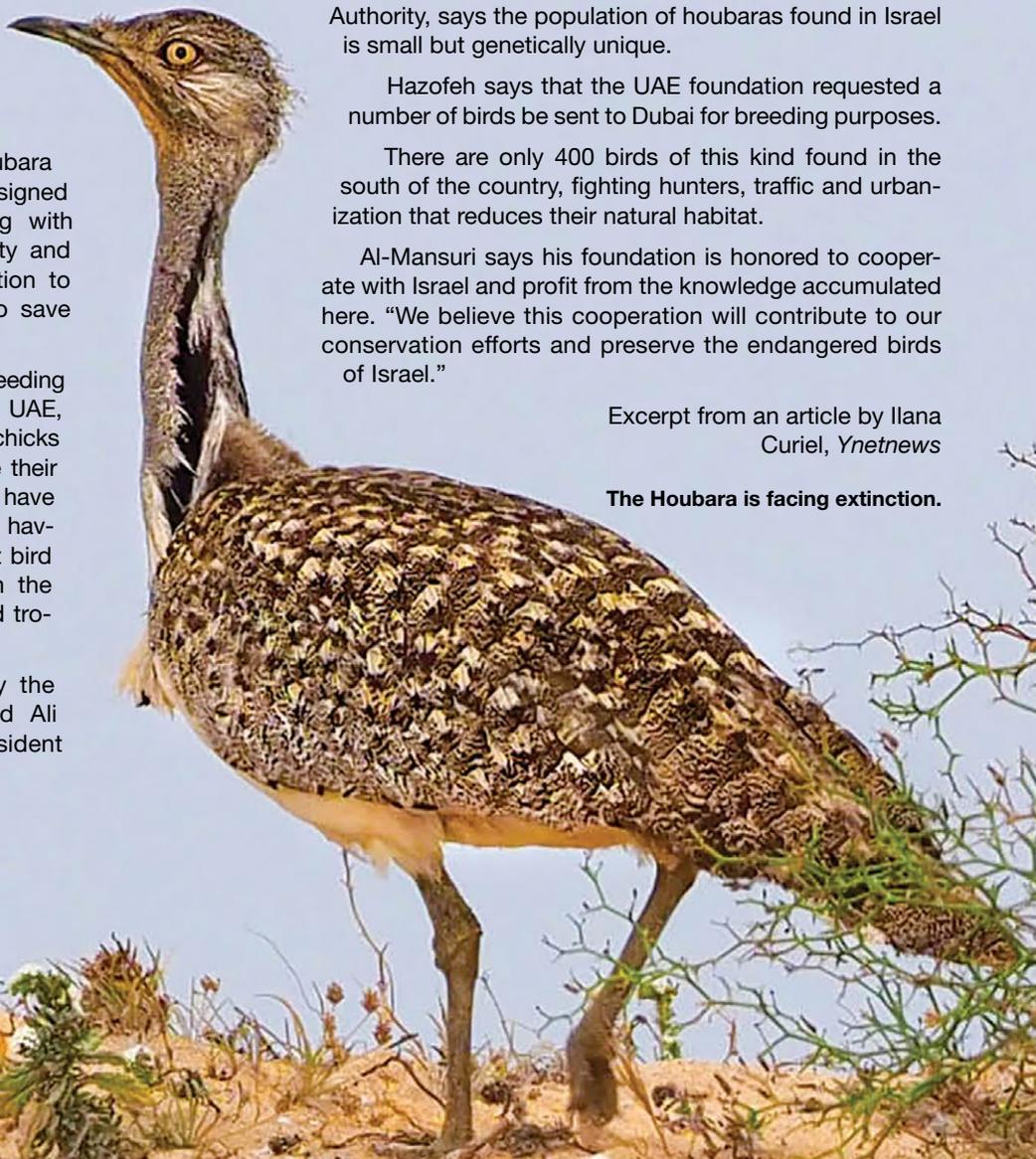
Hazofeh says that the UAE foundation requested a number of birds be sent to Dubai for breeding purposes.

There are only 400 birds of this kind found in the south of the country, fighting hunters, traffic and urbanization that reduces their natural habitat.

Al-Mansuri says his foundation is honored to cooperate with Israel and profit from the knowledge accumulated here. "We believe this cooperation will contribute to our conservation efforts and preserve the endangered birds of Israel."

Excerpt from an article by Ilana Curiel, *Ynetnews*

The Houbara is facing extinction.



Technology

Israel's Anti-Drone Technology Protecting Sites Worldwide

The advancement of modern technology often presents humanity with a catch-22 situation. On the one hand, new inventions provide solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. On the other, these novel discoveries also introduce a new set of problems that require innovative solutions.

Take drones, for example. These nifty unmanned aerial devices open up a new world of possibilities by slashing costs, eliminating the human risk factor, advancing reach and mobility and enhancing intelligence gathering abilities. On the flip side, drones are the perfect vehicle to carry dangerous payloads, such as surveillance cameras, weapons, explosives or chemical and biological agents to unsuspecting targets like large crowds, individual marks, sensitive infrastructure such as airports and chemical plants, or army personnel, bunkers and tanks on the battlefield.

Israel's Drone Guard offers a comprehensive solution to all aspects of this multilevel threat. The brainchild of ELTA Systems, a division of IAI [Israel Aerospace Industries], the system's ability to locate, track, verify, identify, classify and ultimately neutralize a drone, the Drone Guard is fast becoming the first choice of many international sensitive sites, particularly airports.



The Drone Guard was unveiled in 2015 and has sold hundreds of units in 100 countries during the first year. However, ELTA Systems continued its research, with updated versions seeing the light.

"The drone business is like smart-phones—there are always new models and new threats, and we must adapt," Sarig Lev, business development manager for drones and anti-drone solutions at ELTA Systems, told *Israel21c*.

According to Lev, the 3D X-band radar featured in the latest generation Drone Guard is what sets the system apart. "It sees all movement in the sky and distinguishes drones from birds, for example," *Israel21c* quoted him as saying.

The Drone Guard currently protects international airports in Europe, Latin America and Southeast Asia. The system also guarded Argentina's G-20 summit and the Youth Olympic Games in 2018.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*

Medical

Israeli Company Swaps Injectable for Oral Insulin



After 14 years of painstaking research, an Israeli company is ready to cross the finish line with a product that promises to revolutionize the treatment of diabetes.

Oramed Pharmaceuticals recently started final-stage tests of its oral insulin under the US Food and Drug Administration, a product that may well see millions of type 2 diabetics—and ultimately also those who suffer from type 1—swap injectable insulin for the pill format, transforming injectable treatments into oral therapies in as little as three years.

The advantages of a tablet over a needle are manifold. In fact, according to Oramed CEO Nadav Kidron, "This has the potential to improve lives of hundreds of millions of diabetics worldwide."

Oramed's oral solution will introduce ease and convenience of use, eliminate the dread of needles, target weight gain, reduce complications and slash the cost of diabetic treatments—all giant steps of progress. However, the main advantage of the groundbreaking treatment is arguably its ability to deliver insulin directly to the liver, where the body can best utilize it, as opposed to the current method of pumping it into the bloodstream.

"By taking it to the liver, we are stopping the excessive production of glucose in the place where the production actually happens," Kidron explained to the *Times of Israel*. "Usually, injections go into the bloodstream and deal with glucose there instead of stopping production in the liver, its source."

The quest for an oral answer to the insulin issue is not new, and numerous companies and studies have tried—and failed—to perfect a pill that will replace the needle. To date, the stumbling block has been the inability to circumvent the gut, automatically harming the insulin taken by mouth before it can reach the liver. However, Oramed's specially coated tablet protects the insulin from the gut and releases it only once it reaches the liver.

"The fact we're able to get the pill to the liver, which is exactly where the insulin is needed, is a major achievement," Kidron said. "For nearly 100 years, the world has looked for ways to be able to give insulin orally. This technology could be a real game-changer in how we treat diabetes."

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*



A Sanctuary

for Birds and Birders in Jerusalem



In the heart of the bustling city of Jerusalem, nestled between Israel's Knesset (Parliament) and the Supreme Court, lies a serene nature sanctuary. The Nili and David Jerusalem Bird Observatory (JBO) rests on an acre-and-a-half (0.6 hectares) of lush land that provides a safe haven for some 200 species of birds and other wildlife within the Israeli capital. It's an unlikely setting, but as the sign says, the observatory is a "community urban wildlife site."

The tiny nation of Israel holds the unique geographical position of connecting the Western world with the Far East. Coveted by ancient empires throughout the centuries as a hub of many intersecting trading routes, the Jewish state also serves as an important pit stop for numerous migrating birds from Asia, Africa and Europe.

The JBO's patch of green tucked in the center of the cityscape attracts the passing birds, as the green signals to them a safe haven to rest and refresh before continuing their journey. Throughout the year, 200 different species—both local and migrating birds—visit the observatory to feast from the bird feeders, bathe in the man-made pond and rest in the leafy shrubbery and trees.

The JBO's patch of green tucked in the center of the cityscape attracts the passing birds, as the green signals to them a safe haven to rest and refresh before continuing their journey. Throughout the year, 200 different species—both local and migrating birds—visit the observatory to feast from the bird feeders, bathe in the man-made pond and rest in the leafy shrubbery and trees.

The JBO is also a haven for other animals, including butterflies, porcupines, hedgehogs, jackals and turtles. Moreover, it serves as a sanctuary for another group: birders, both beginners and seasoned veterans. It is the first urban wildlife center in Israel, JBO director Alen Kacal said, noting how important the sanctuary is not only for the wildlife but for people as well. "People should be able to go to local places and enjoy wildlife," Kacal explained. Founded in 1994, the bird observatory provides the perfect place for that, as they host events, presentations, tours, hikes and workshops for bird-watching, sketching and photography.



The center houses a bird-watching hide where 24 hours a day, people can come to sit, watch the birds and enjoy the serenity.

Though the pandemic shuttered most of the country during 2020, the JBO never shut down completely, even though they limited the number of people allowed at a time, Kacal noted. While the nation was locked down to prevent the spread of the virus, people developed a thirst for the outdoors and nature, Kacal explained, and the pandemic increased interest in their observatory as a way to connect with other people and enjoy nature and wildlife. "Adaptations for corona have not been good for us. We need to get back outside," Kacal said, noting that bird-watching is a great way to enjoy nature while social distancing.





The JBO not only provides a sanctuary for numerous varieties of birds; it also offers a sanctuary for Anglo birders who have made their center of life in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. Though they live in the city, JBO provides them with a peaceful environment to continue doing what they love without having to travel far off the beaten path.

Amid the pandemic, many of the center's older volunteers found themselves cut off from the sanctuary during lockdown. "They were desperate for the contact and wanted to know what's going on," Kacal noted. As a result, she started hosting Zoom meetings to discuss what birds they were seeing as well as to chat and connect. As Kacal and many of the older volunteers were native English speakers, the Anglo virtual bird-watching club was born.

When they started, Kacal said, there were only 10 people on the WhatsApp group. Months later, there are now more than 70 people involved, and they even started a Facebook page for overflow discussions. The group hosts a mixture of people who are brand new to the world of birds as well as veteran birders. Many people developed an interest in birds during lockdown by taking notice of their feathered neighbors living on their balconies and in their gardens, Kacal noted.

The JBO also hosts multiple activities for native Israelis and Hebrew-speakers, but Kacal said the English-speaking virtual club offers a haven for those who are new to Israel or even veterans who still want to comfortably communicate with fellow bird-lovers in their native language.

The bird-watching community in Jerusalem grows each year, Kacal pointed out, which has a myriad of positive side effects. It increases conservation awareness. "The more connected people are," Kacal said, "the more they want to take care of what they have." It also creates connections between people as they join a community based around a common interest.

The Nili and David Jerusalem Bird Observatory is named for the late nature-loving couple whose sons donated US \$2 million in their honor that saw the observatory through a hard funding season this year. For the past 26 years and into the foreseeable future, the unlikely location tucked within the heart of the city makes the observatory a safe haven within a concrete jungle for birds and bird lovers from all backgrounds. A visit to the JBO provides respite from the sounds of honking and city noise, while the sounds of chirping birds and trickling water take the forefront.



Kate Norman, BFP Staff Writer

What's the difference between birding and bird-watching? Birding is active, while bird-watching is more passive. As an avid birder wrote in the *Bangor Daily News*: "Bird-watching is a pastime. Birding is a sport, sort of..If you notice birds while traveling, you're a bird-watcher. If you travel to see birds, you're a birder."





Top Left: The Knesset (Parliament)
Below: Monastery of the Cross

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

ONE OF MY FAVORITE things about living in Jerusalem is the seemingly never-ending layers of history that coexist with the style and energy of the modern capital of Israel. This city is a treasure trove of ancient history ever present amidst the contemporary everyday hustle and bustle of life. Let's take a look at a few lesser known examples.

MONASTERY OF THE CROSS

Nestled in a valley between the Knesset (Parliament), the Israel Museum and the upscale neighborhood of Rehavia lies a magnificent monastery called the Monastery of the Cross. This medieval structure, which stands in stark contrast to the modern architecture around it, derives its name from a legend that the wood used for Jesus' (Yeshua's) cross came from an olive tree in the valley where the monastery resides. With an appearance more akin to a fortress than a spiritual haven, the monastery is strikingly formidable despite its small size. The reinforced walls and high windows tell of a need for security, seeing that it lies outside the ancient city walls of Jerusalem.

The monastery was originally built during the fifth century, although sources disagree about whom to credit with its creation. The Persian invasion of AD 614 destroyed much of the original structure, and the site remained vacant until a Georgian monk rebuilt it in the 11th century. Over the next few centuries, the monastery flourished as a haven for monks, scholars and poets. It was also during this period that many skilled Georgian artists painted intricate frescos in the grand halls of the chapel.

When the Crusaders left Jerusalem in AD 1267, the monastery fell under the control of the Mamelukes, who added a mosque inside the complex. The Georgian monastery was

eventually sold to the Greek Orthodox church, who restored much of the compound and remains in control of it today. The monastery is still active, with a few monks in residence. Visitors are free to roam the fortified Crusader walls, be enthralled by the frescoes in the chapel and catch a glimpse of the fragments of the mosaic floor still intact from the original fifth century structure.

JASON'S TOMB

The Rehavia neighborhood is one of the most upscale residential neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Since its conception in the 1920s, this lush neighborhood has been home to respected noblemen, doctors, professors and politicians—including the official residence of the prime minister. But something quite unexpected resides in the midst of these high-end homes: a tomb from the second century BC.

As is common with ancient treasures unearthed in Jerusalem, this tomb was accidentally discovered in 1956 when detonating a charge to make way for new apartment buildings. Excavations of the structure began right away, and soon the tomb was unveiled, along with coins from the Hasmonean and Roman periods. This rock-cut tomb is dated to the time of the Maccabees, and carved inscriptions on the walls indicate that the tomb belongs to a man named Jason.

Jason was a Hellenistic high priest who served in Jerusalem from 175–172 BC under the Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes—the same king against whom the Maccabean revolt took place. Jason's service was corrupt and short lived, while his successor, Menelaus, was even greedier. The book of the Maccabees details accounts of how Jason and his successors were fueled

by a lust for power rather than a genuine devotion to God. In fact, it was their corrupt policies that ultimately inspired the Maccabean revolt that liberated Jerusalem and purified the Temple.

FIRST STATION

One of the trendiest hubs of activity in Jerusalem today is the First Station. Located near city center and less than a kilometer from the Old City walls, this vibrant outdoor mall is built on the legacy of the first Ottoman-era train station. The story begins in the 19th century, when Jerusalem was rapidly growing beyond its Old City limits, propelled by an increase in visitors and the first wave of *aliyah* (immigration to Israel). Jerusalem was on the cusp of modern development, yet hindered by a lack of advanced transportation. Camels, donkeys and caravans were still the primary means of travel, and the journey from the port of Jaffa to Jerusalem would take well over ten hours. All this changed when a Jewish entrepreneur named Joseph Navon initiated a project to construct the first railroad line in British Mandate Palestine.

On September 26, 1892, the first train from Jaffa made its way to Jerusalem and came to a thundering halt at First Station. The train was gleefully received by a tremendous crowd that included Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, known affectionately as the “father” of modern Hebrew. When recalling that historic day, Ben-Yehuda later wrote that the sound of the train’s whistle was like that of a loud *shofar* (ram’s horn). The welcome stage at First Station was lined with Turkish ambassadors and dignitaries from the city of Jerusalem as both Jews and Arabs celebrated the monumental occasion together.

The Jaffa–Jerusalem railway line radicalized travel. The line remained active until 1998, when the First Station closed. It remained abandoned until the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority teamed up to revive the station. The original buildings underwent extensive renovations, and in the spring of 2013, the station reopened as a center for shopping, leisure and culinary delight. The effort was a booming success, and today the First Station is a popular hang-out spot among local Jerusalemites and tourists alike. With its plethora of diverse food options, family friendly activities and variety of entertainment specials, the First Station is nearly always abuzz with activity.

MODERN CITY, ANCIENT HISTORY

These are a few examples that remind us of the way this modern city was built upon layers and layers of history. How unique it is that here in Jerusalem, you can simply walk down the street on the way to work and pass by a structure from centuries ago. This city has worked tirelessly to preserve, celebrate and repurpose these sites, and it is something I am grateful for every day that I get to traverse these beautiful streets.



Sarah Yoder, *BFP Staff Writer*



Jason’s tomb in Rehavia



Above: First Station in 1956
Below: First Station today





Shanghai

THE NOAH'S ARK OF THE ORIENT

A CRUISE LINER gently bumped against the wharf at the mouth of the Yangtze River in the late spring of 1939. The ship had voyaged 8,000 miles [12,800 km] from Italy, and the people on board—Jews from Germany—stood at the rail, gazing on the scene before them with trepidation and excitement. Shanghai had been their last hope. Here they were, safe in a country that had opened its arms to them when almost every other nation in the world would not.

GERMANY 1938

Just six months before, a violent demonstration of anti-Semitism called Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass) had raged across Germany and Austria. It was a wake-up call to German Jewry of the menace of Hitler's regime. Some 30,000 Jewish men were arrested after Kristallnacht and sent to concentration camps. However, they could obtain release if their families had tickets for passage out of the country. Some chose to flee their German homeland immediately; others waited too long or could not get visas and found themselves trapped.

Shanghai and the Dominican Republic were the only nations that did not require entry visas for those seeking asylum. The United States, Canada and all other western nations refused to accept more refugees beyond their set immigration quotas, closing their ears to Jewish pleas for help. Over 20,000 Jewish refugees had no choice but to flee halfway across the globe to Shanghai. The refugees boarded ships bound for a city synonymous with freedom.

SHANGHAI 1939

When they docked at Shanghai, a wave of oppressive heat and humidity almost knocked them over. Dressed for a European climate in their woolen suits, fedoras and coats, their



initial excitement turned to utter misery. The port was filled with a cacophony of Chinese voices and choking traffic, a bustling opium trade and the unspeakable smell of stagnant sewage. Smallpox and cholera raged through the city.

More shocks were yet to come. The refugees were loaded onto flatbed trucks and taken to a Jewish refugee center called a *heim* (German for home) provided by the Jewish population already living in Shanghai. Large rooms crowded with bunk beds were prepared to house 400 people—with no privacy and inadequate washing and toilet facilities. The refugees would be housed and fed breakfast and lunch until they could rent their own lodgings. They had been allowed to leave Germany with only 10 marks (US \$2.50). To get money for rent, they were forced to sell everything they had—pots, utensils, fabric, hats, coats. Harsh reality set in and many regretted their decision to leave Germany.

LEARNING HOW TO SURVIVE

However, Jewish resilience soon took over and both men and women started small businesses, learned the language or pidgin English to communicate with the Chinese vendors and established homes in the buildings lining the narrow alleyways of Hongkew, a desperately poor section of Shanghai where housing was cheap. Ten people often had to cram into one room. But as they got settled and found jobs, despair turned to hope, and they were grateful they had escaped Europe in time. News was trickling back from the continent and they learned about the horrors their families were facing.

JEWISH LIFE IN SHANGHAI

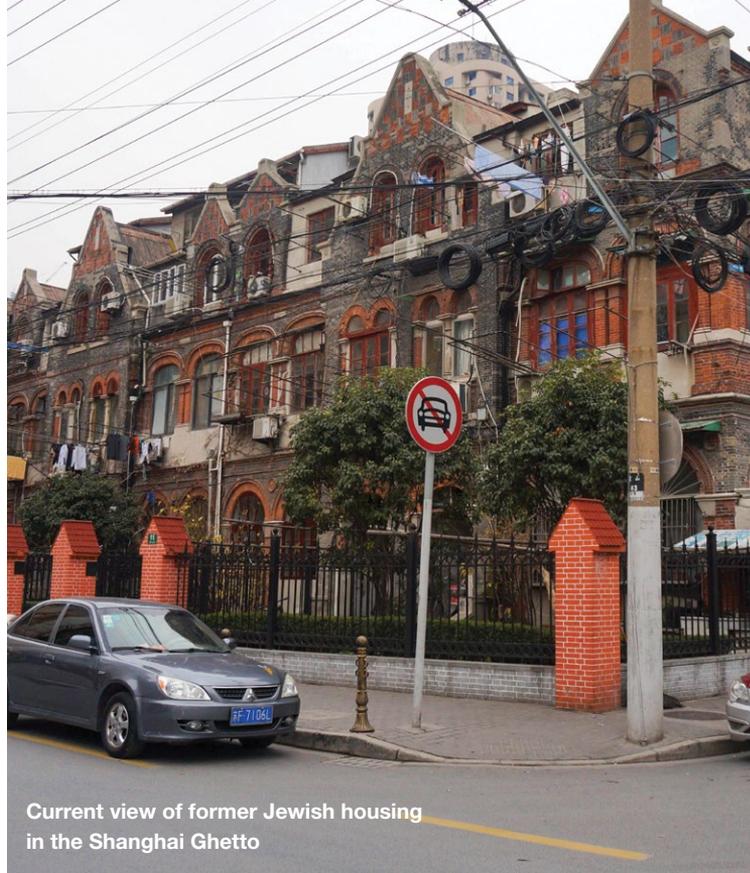
As the refugee families settled in, they found their Chinese neighbors to be exceptionally kind without a hint of anti-Semitism. Chinese and Jewish children played together in the alleyways lined with bicycles and wooden crates. For the children, life was a fascinating parade of sights and sounds.

The area where most of the Jewish population was concentrated eventually became a cultural center called Little Vienna. The streets were lined with Viennese-style cafés, shops, bakeries and nightclubs. Jewish cultural life flourished with operas, theater and concerts. The refugees established Jewish schools, sports fields, synagogues and Jewish newspapers.

THE NAZIS COME TO SHANGHAI

However, the geopolitical situation in Shanghai was tense. Parts of the city were under Japanese occupation and the Japanese Imperial Army was itching for another fight. Pearl Harbor was their next target, and the war in the Pacific began, paving the way for the long arm of Hitler to reach the city.

Fears spread that the Final Solution was coming to Shanghai when Nazi officers arrived in the city. Rumors were that they had brought a canister of Zyklon-B with them to train the Japanese in the mass extermination of the Jews.



Current view of former Jewish housing in the Shanghai Ghetto

Some heard that a leaky ship was to be loaded with Jews, taken out to sea and scuttled. Dread rippled through the Jewish community.

Eventually, all Jews who had arrived after 1937 were ordered into an unwalled ghetto, comprising a 1 square mile (2.5 square km) part of Hongkew, the only indication that Japan had listened to the Germans' demand to deal with the Jewish population. They had to obtain passes to go outside the ghetto from an arrogant Japanese official named Ghoya, who referred to himself as "The King of the Jews."

Though ghetto life under the Japanese was irksome with some incidents of brutality, it was a far cry from the walled ghettos in Europe. Compared to the British, Dutch and Americans in Shanghai who found themselves under Japanese detention, the Jews lived in relative freedom and found opportunities to secretly lend aid to their friends.

GRATEFUL TO SHANGHAI

When the war in the Pacific ended, blue and white banners emblazoned with the Star of David flew over the ecstatic ghetto. Most of the Jewish refugees—Shanghaianders, as they came to be known—emigrated to the United States, Israel and Australia. Many eventually returned to Shanghai to thank their Chinese hosts.



For 20,000 desperate Jewish people trapped by a world flooded with madness, Shanghai was a city of refuge—an Oriental "Noah's Ark." Neither Israel nor the families who found sanctuary from the storm will ever forget.

Kathy DeGagne, *BFP Staff Writer*

Trouble Brewing for Hezbollah



— Destruction in the aftermath of the blast at the port in Beirut

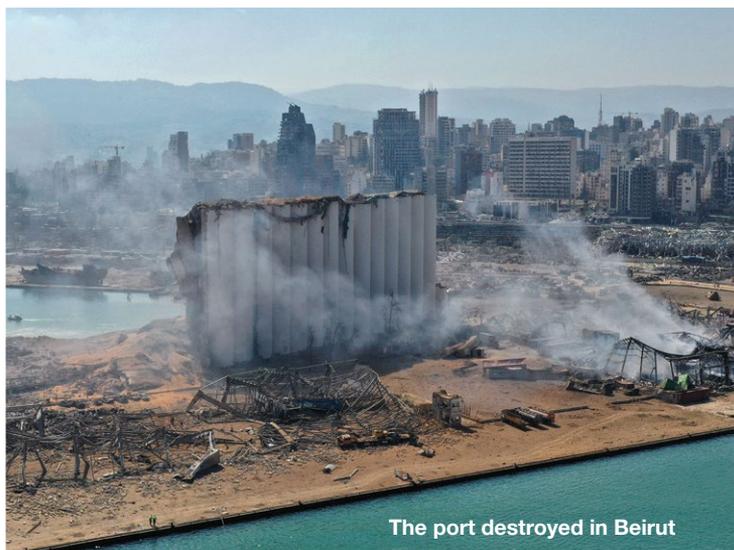
HEZBOLLAH TERRORISTS have been the primary power in Lebanon for years, and that force has been for anything but good. The terror group has used the Lebanese towns and countryside as their own human shield-laden missile array for a future war against Israel. Hezbollah has also wielded disruptive, if not controlling, political power in Lebanon's parliament. And the terror group has turned this once West-friendly country into an Iranian puppet. But 2020 was not kind to Hezbollah or Lebanon, as both the terror group and the country faced crisis after crisis. What does that mean for Hezbollah's domination of Lebanon and threat to Israel?

Political Trouble

Last August, a massive explosion ripped through the port in Lebanon's capital, Beirut. There were allegations that the explosion was due to Hezbollah storing explosives at the port. Even if those claims are unfounded, the blast gave the Lebanese public an excuse to vent their anger against Hezbollah. In a dramatic display, protestors hung a noose around a cardboard cutout image of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. That image of anti-Hezbollah criticism was something that former Israeli Deputy National Security Adviser for Foreign Policy Orna Mizrahi said she hadn't seen in decades,

or perhaps ever. According to retired Lt. Col. Mizrahi—now a senior research fellow with the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies—more of the Lebanese people have “come to understand the devastating factor of Hezbollah being a state inside a state.”

The aftermath of the blast and subsequent protests certainly hurt Hezbollah. The government of Lebanon at the time—which was reportedly backed by Hezbollah—resigned in response to the public outrage. For a movement that has been a major political force for well over a decade, the government resignation represented an unusual setback. However, the damage the Beirut explosion did to Lebanon, and indirectly to Hezbollah, was more than just political.



The port destroyed in Beirut

Financial Trouble

According to a *Christian Science Monitor* report, the Beirut port explosion caused damages amounting to billions of dollars, a devastating blow to an already struggling economy. While the West offered to help, Mizrahi pointed out that the offers came with conditions for reform. “I think that now after the blast and the pressure that the United States and the West are putting on the Lebanese system, they understand they have to change something, and there is more pressure on Hezbollah to agree to some of the reforms,” she said.

Part of that process was trading out the Hezbollah-backed government for a government led by someone considered more West-friendly, like former Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF’s) DataMapper shows that Lebanon’s gross domestic product (GDP)—a common measurement for national economic performance—was down 25% in 2020. While the global economic disruption caused by COVID-19 has been dramatic in a number of countries this year, the IMF already showed a 6.9% decline in Lebanon’s

GDP in 2019. Furthermore, inflation in the country has spiked over 85% in 2020.

In other words, the economy is much worse, and expenses are much higher—and Hezbollah is definitely feeling the effect. The *Christian Science Monitor* interviewed a fighter for the terror group who saw his salary sliced in half. Besides national economics, sanctions on Iran have also dealt another blow to Hezbollah’s finances.

Sponsor Trouble

While the Lebanese economic struggles have cast a shadow over the financial benefits Hezbollah might reap at home, the terror group’s best foreign fundraiser also took a dramatic fall in recent years. Iran has taken repeated blows from US sanctions and coronavirus-related economic troubles. As a result, its ability to back terror proxies like Hezbollah has been significantly harmed.

The Office of the Spokesperson for the US State Department reported in a mid-November edition of “This Week in Iran Policy” that as of November 18, sanctions had resulted in Iran reducing its military budget by “nearly 25% in 2019.”

2020 hasn’t been better for Iran economically. According to the State Department report, Iran’s hamstrung financial state has resulted in “the regime’s terrorist proxies and partners beg[ging] for cash, and have been forced to take austerity measures, even furloughing some terrorist fighters.”

Mizrahi noted that the US has also started sanctioning Hezbollah’s political allies in Lebanon, further hurting the group.

At the time of going to print, the impact of all this on Hezbollah has been limited, but there is potential for bigger change. In 2020, the Lebanese government—including Hezbollah—agreed to negotiate a maritime border with Israel, with US mediation, which could help unlock the economic potential of gas reserves found in the Mediterranean Sea. According to Mizrahi, “It’s evidence of the fact that [Hezbollah] was under pressure and they thought that they have to do something...that will help Lebanon, even though it was against their ideology.”

Mizrahi notes that Hezbollah still holds powerful sway in Lebanon and wields its own army. She believes their short-term pragmatism doesn’t betray long-term extremist goals. “They are not going to neglect their aspirations now in Lebanon or against Israel or the West,” she said, noting Hezbollah was already spoiling the maritime talks.



For now, however, a bad year for Hezbollah can only mean one thing: good news for Israel, the West and those hoping for real change in Lebanon.

Joshua Spurlock,
The Mideast Update



Palestinian children attend class in Gaza City.

Indoctrinated for Hate and Death

The Palestinian powers-that-be are masters of doublespeak, adapting their message to stir the emotions of the audience they happen to address. When the audience is the United Nations, international funding agencies, the world media or English-speaking college students, the message is one of harmony, painting the Palestinian people as a victimized, misunderstood group yearning for the opportunity to live in peaceful coexistence alongside their Jewish neighbors.

When the audience is their fellow Palestinians, the message of peace morphs into a malicious clarion call to shun compromise, normalization and coexistence in favor of continued hatred, terror and bloodshed.

Tragically, the message is particularly pronounced when addressing the Palestinian youth. Using popular Palestinian television programs and the Palestinian school curriculum as mouthpieces, children are raised on a steady diet of distortions, half-truths and outright lies to ingrain the demonization of Israelis and Jews, the glorification of terrorism and martyrdom, the outright rejection of Israel's right to exist and a culture of victimhood so deeply into their psyche that they have no choice but to carry the baton of violence, strife and death for yet another generation.

Israel's fourth prime minister, Golda Meir, famously said: "Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us." Along the same line, it is equally true that peace will not come as long as Palestinian children are brainwashed to hate.

The Message of Hate

"The education of the younger Palestinian generation prepares it consciously for a continuous and long-range confrontation against the State of Israel in order to achieve the final goal, which is the establishment of the State of Palestine that will stretch on the entire territory of the Land of Israel. There is no trace in the schoolbooks of the argumentation disseminated by the PA in the international arena that the PA is committed to 'a just peace' based on the two-state solution."

—Dr. Annon Groiss in "Israel, Jews and Peace in Palestinian Authority Schoolbooks and Teacher's Guides," a review of Palestinian school textbooks conducted for the Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center

"[The occupier] has built for himself an artificial entity that derives its identity and the legitimacy of its existence from tales, legends and false visions, and has tried through various methods and ways to create live material evidence for these legends, or archaeological and architectural proofs that would confirm their truth and substantiality, but in vain."

—A Grade 10 Arabic language textbook used to educate the Palestinian youth denies all Jewish ties to the Land of Israel.

"Jerusalem is an Arab city built by our Arab ancestors thousands of years ago. Jerusalem is a holy city to Muslims and Christians."

—A Grade 3 textbook used in Palestinian schools denies any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

“Jerusalem was very important and the goal of our leader...The children declare...their insistence on their presence in Jerusalem, the restoration of all Jerusalem, and Allah willing, the liberation of Jerusalem from the occupation. Allah willing, one day, my children friends, our entire land will return to us...Allah willing we are continuing on the same path [of Arafat], my friends, until we restore our land.”

—Popular Palestinian Authority (PA) children’s television host Walaa Al-Battat assures her young viewers that it is only a matter of time before Israel in its entirety is replaced by a Palestinian state.

“Unfortunately—and this is a very painful thing that I want to tell you about—a number of friends have lost their right to live because the occupation is deliberately killing the Palestinian children.”

—Popular PA children’s television host Walaa Al-Battat instills fear into the hearts of Palestinian children on a special International Children’s Day edition of *The Best Home*.

“The Palestinian children are being subjected to random summary executions, and there is no security for their lives that are threatened by danger at every moment. Every one of them—on the road or at home—is a candidate to be the next martyr.”

—An official PA TV news reporter spreading lies

“The question of incitement to the murder of Jews in the school curriculum in the PA and Gaza is not just a matter of changing a couple of textbook paragraphs here or a few sentences there. The curriculum reflects an ingrained culture of militant jihadism and extreme nationalism in which there is no room for the Jewish state to exist.”

—Judith Bergman, a fellow with Haym Salomon Center, summarizes the tragic reality



A school in Gaza run by UNRWA.

The Bitter Fruit of Indoctrination

“This is my country, its borders are [set by] the blood of the Palestinian martyr. History bears witness to us... Palestine, my land, will remain decorated. My land—from Aqaba [a Jordanian city next to Israel southernmost city, Eilat] to Rosh HaNikra [Israel’s northernmost point].”

—The lyrics of a popular music video on official PA TV using children to promote the ideal of dying as martyrs for “Palestine” and Israel disappearing altogether

“His mother promised him a gift...The boy wondered in excitement: ‘Is it a toy?’ His mother approached him with a glowing look while carrying the gift. He looked, and it was a rifle! He shouted loudly: ‘O Mommy! Mommy! What is this? Is this the gift?’ She picked him up, hugged him, and said: ‘My son, we were not created for happiness. In my eyes you are meant for martyrdom!’ Jerusalem is ours, our weapon is our Islam, and our ammunition is our children. And you, O my son, are meant for martyrdom.”

—A chilling poem read by a young Palestinian girl on the radio

“My purpose is not to be wounded but something more sublime—martyrdom.”

—Ramahan Sahadi Abed Rabbah, 13, tells *Al-Hayat* why he chooses to participate in clashes with soldiers

“We are all potential martyrs for Jerusalem and the homeland.”

—An 11-year-old Palestinian boy wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers quoted in *Al-Hayat*

“Our blood is a sign of our fighting for our precious Palestine.”

—A Palestinian teacher proudly spewing an ideology of death as he stands next to pupils



A kindergarten graduation in Gaza

VOLUNTEER WITH US

The COVID-19 pandemic has let us short-staffed, and we are in need of both long- and short-term volunteers to fill the gap. Please note that ever-changing travel and visa procedures require flexibility.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
(Long-term)



HOME REPAIR
(Long-term)



WEB DEVELOPER
(Long-term)



FOOD BANK FLOOR WORKERS
(Short-term)



For more information, visit
www.bridgesforpeace.com/get-involved/volunteer

TOURS

Australia

ENCOUNTER ISRAEL TOUR

October 27–November 13, 2021

Hosted by: Matthew Chivers

Join us for a life-changing experience as we take you on a journey through the land of the Bible and stand with Israel for “*such a time as this*” (Esther 4:14). The tour includes many biblical sites, like Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, the Galilee, Nazareth and the Dead Sea. We will also participate in the anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba and the heroic charge of the Australian Light Horse Brigade, a special *Shabbat* of a Lifetime dinner and a Bridges for Peace community project.

Canada

PROMISE—PROPHECY—POSSESSION

March 14–25, 2021

Hosted by: Rick & Grace Knelsen and Réal Bois

Many say visiting Israel is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We believe it is much more than that. If you have visited Israel to see the biblical and historical sites and now long to go deeper, this is your opportunity to experience Judea and Samaria, the heartland of Israel. Marvel at the magnificent mountains of Israel, visit Jewish communities, meet the people who live there and feel their passion to be good stewards of the land God entrusted to them. See where God spoke His promises to Abraham, where the prophets lived, and where prophecy is being fulfilled today as the Jewish people once again work the land. Experience the heart of God, the heart of the land and the heart of the people.

EXPERIENCE ISRAEL DISCIPLESHIP TOUR

January 30–February 10, 2022

Hosted by: Rev. Don & Victoria James

Join us as we travel through Israel and experience firsthand the wonder and beauty of the land of the Bible.

**Special rates for pastors and their spouses.*

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: EUROPE & ISRAEL TOUR

Fall 2022 (exact dates to be determined)

Hosted by: BFP Leadership Team

A tour to Europe and Israel. Come face-to-face with the Holocaust, visiting the Anne Frank House, Corrie ten Boom Museum, Auschwitz concentration camp and more. Then fly to Israel, where we will learn about the struggle for the Jewish state against all odds and see how our covenant-keeping God has restored His land and people of Israel. Tour includes the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Israel.

**Option to extend Israel component.*

UK

UK ISRAEL TOUR

October 12–19, 2021

Hosted by: Michael Treharne

Join us as we travel through Israel, exploring the Sea of Galilee, Golan Heights, Jerusalem, Judea, the Dead Sea, Masada, Megiddo, Caesarea and much more.

United States

BIBLICAL HOLY LAND TOUR

June 25–July 6, 2021

Hosted by: Jill Czelusta

You are invited to join this 12-day tour for the journey of a lifetime. Explore the land of the Bible and experience Scripture coming to life.

ISRAEL STUDY TOUR 2021

October 16–28, 2021

Hosted by: Bobby Peck

Come experience the miracle of ancient and modern Israel by visiting the land, experiencing the culture and meeting the people.

THE LIFE AND LAND OF JESUS CHRIST ISRAEL STUDY TOUR 2022

February 23–March 5, 2022

Hosted by: Dr. Dennis D. Frey & Dr. Noel P. Sanderson

Be immersed in the land and lessons of the Bible as you are led on an 11-day journey through Scripture while your local guide and driver bring the past and present culture of Israel to life for all your senses.

THE “FOLLOWING JESUS” ISRAEL TOUR 2021

March 7–18, 2022

Hosted by: Bill & Liz Adams

Join veteran hosts Bill and Liz Adams and an Israeli guide in the land of the Bible, following in the footsteps of Jesus. This learning, worshiping and serving adventure goes off the beaten path without missing the essential biblical and historic sites. Partake in the privilege of blessing the Israeli people and re-greening the Promised Land.

For more details on tours, see contact information on page 2.





Georgina "Snook" Young

COMBINING the zesty flavor of orange with the comforting warmth of a cinnamon roll, this recipe comes straight from the kitchen of Georgina Young—the wife of Dr. G. Douglas Young, founder of Bridges for Peace. Georgina, or “Snook” as she was affectionately called, was well known throughout Jerusalem for her culinary skills and nurturing hospitality. Calvin Hanson said it best in his biography of the Youngs: “No wonder Jerusalem loved this grand lady!...No wonder that when shopping with her, there was no need to haggle as is done everywhere in the Old City, since the first price quoted to her was the best price anybody would get from the merchant.” (Excerpt from *A Gentile With the Heart of a Jew*, available for purchase on page 33).

Orange Rolls

Ingredients

Dough:

- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ tsp instant yeast
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup warm water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream
- 7 Tbsp butter, melted
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour

Filling:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp fresh orange zest
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp each of cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamom (all optional)
- 1 Tbsp butter, melted

Glaze:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream
- 3 Tbsp fresh orange juice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter

Directions

Dough:

1. In a large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water.
2. Use an electric mixer to beat in sugar, salt, eggs, sour cream and melted butter.

3. Gradually add in 2 cups of flour and beat until smooth. Knead remaining flour into the dough.
4. Let the dough rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about 2 hours.

Filling:

1. Combine sugar, orange zest and spices together and set aside.
2. Knead dough on a well-floured surface for about 3 minutes.
3. Roll the dough into a rectangle of about 12 x 18 inches (30 x 45 cm.). Brush with melted butter and sprinkle evenly with the filling.
4. Starting with the wide end, roll the dough into a log and cut into 12 pieces.
5. Place each piece on a greased 9 x 13-inch (23 x 33 cm.) tray. Cover and let the rolls rise in a warm place, about 1 hour.
6. Bake at 350°F (180°C) for 20 minutes or until golden brown.

Glaze:

1. Combine all ingredients and boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly.
2. Pour over the rolls when removed from the oven and allow them to cool before serving.

Serves 12.



Ras Al Khor fresh market in Dubai

Israeli Produce on Sale in the UAE

In what Israeli media hailed as the “fruit of peace,” the first display of Israeli produce—mounds of farm-fresh fruit and vegetables harvested from the Promised Land and arranged proudly under the blue and white flag of Israel—appeared on the shelves of a leading United Arab Emirates (UAE) supermarket in November.

The Fresh Market in Dubai’s Ras Al Khor marked the historic introduction of Israeli products into the UAE market with an official opening ceremony at the wholesale and retail market. The event was attended by high-ranking UAE dignitaries as well as Shlomi Fogel, chairman of Carmel Agrexco, Israel’s largest exporters of agricultural produce and the contact point on the Israeli side that enables local farmers to distribute their produce to the Gulf state.

“We are excited to be part of the growing ties between Israel and the UAE,” Fogel said. “Together with our colleagues in Dubai, we are beginning to see the ‘fruits of peace’ today.”

The UAE is one of the world’s foremost importers of fresh produce. In 2015 alone, Dubai imported a record 21,000 tons of fruit and vegetables per day. The Fresh Market is at the heart of this thriving fresh produce trade, with countless customers streaming through its doors to

purchase thousands of tons of local and imported agricultural produce.

To date, the bulk of the UAE’s fresh fruit and vegetables came from South Asia and Australia. Israel does, however, present a much more attractive option, given the proximity of the Jewish state and the speed with which the products can be transported from farm to shelf.

“Within a few hours of picking, the fresh produce can reach points of sale,” Fogel pointed out. “It’s a fact that Israeli agriculture is highly advanced and we are confident that everyone will enjoy our produce.”

The Israeli products proudly arranged under an Israeli flag in one of the UAE’s top supermarkets—particularly while world bodies and Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) bend over backward to convince humanity to shun Israeli products—is but one of the “fruits” of the normalization of relations between former foes Israel and the UAE.

Dubai’s decision to embrace Israel’s outstretched hand of peace following decades of animosity made the UAE the third Arab country after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 to recognize Israel.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*

Malawi Vows to be First African State with an Embassy in Jerusalem

Malawi's top diplomat, Foreign Minister Eisenhower Mkaka, visited Israel in November, carrying a message from his president to Israel and her people.

"Malawi will be the first African country to establish its embassy in Jerusalem," Mkaka told his Israeli counterpart, Gabi Ashkenazi.

The southeastern African nation is one of the sole states on the often troubled continent that has enjoyed continuous diplomatic relations with Israel. Despite the warm ties, Malawi has never had an embassy in the Jewish state—a situation Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera now intends to rectify, Mkaka vowed.

And instead of toeing the politically correct line and opting for a spot in Tel Aviv, Malawi will take the "bold and significant step" to establish its mission in Jerusalem by next summer, making it the third embassy in the City of Gold after the US and Guatemala.



"This important statement testifies to the depth of relations between Israel and Malawi, and will lead to their continued strengthening of the cordial relations between the two nations," Ashkenazi said in a joint statement between Jerusalem and Lilongwe.

"The city of Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, will be a bridge of peace to the entire world and I call on other countries to follow Malawi's example and transfer their embassies to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," Ashkenazi continued.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*

Arab Partners Label Anti-Zionism as Anti-Semitism

Arab nations once were committed to driving Israel into the sea, but in a "groundbreaking" shift, an Arab organization backed by the king of Bahrain has joined the coalition labeling anti-Zionism as anti-Semitism. The step represents progress in battling anti-Semitism, as anti-Zionism—which attacks the right of Jews to a homeland—has long been wielded as a covert form of Jew hatred.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the United States and Bahrain's King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence "is groundbreaking in that it is the first time in history we are seeing Arab partners formally join the United States in combatting anti-Semitism and the delegitimization of the State of Israel," said Elan Carr of the Office of the US Department of State Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS).

The MOU, signed on October 22, declares that the King Hamad Centre and SEAS "intend to work together to share and promote best practices for combatting all forms of anti-Semitism, including anti-Zionism and the delegitimization of the State of Israel."

The MOU also adopts the working definition of anti-Semitism as adopted by the International Holocaust

Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), including the examples of anti-Semitism. Among those examples listed on the IHRA website is "denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor." Holocaust denial is also included in the list of examples.

Carr said of the MOU signed with the King Hamad Centre: "This partnership will build a future of tolerance, harmony and peace for generations to come."

The steps forward in battling anti-Semitism come as three Arab nations have signed the Abraham Accords peace agreement with Israel. One of those three nations is Bahrain, the home of the King Hamad Centre. The United Arab Emirates and Sudan have also joined the peace accords.

Joshua Spurlock, *The Mideast Update*

Anti-Semitism



A STUDENT ENROLLED IN OUR FEED A CHILD PROGRAM

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS: Bring joy into the lives of people who have suffered so much. Partner with us to deliver food and supplies to Holocaust survivors to ensure their basic needs are met. More than providing food, we bring joy and companionship to these precious people, even including special birthday baskets as an extra treat for their special day.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS: God is described as a champion of the *“fatherless and the widow”* in Deuteronomy 10:18, and He invites us in Isaiah 1:17 to partner with Him to *“defend the fatherless”* and *“plead for the widow.”* We help care for these people who are often unable to care for themselves. Help us provide food parcels to help make ends meet and put food on empty tables.

FOOD: You can help feed over 22,000 needy Israelis in 40 communities every month by supporting our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel.

ADOPTION: Sponsor an Israeli individual or family for one year and become personally connected by exchanging letters. Your gift will provide food, bus tickets, financial assistance for special needs and badly needed encouragement.

FEED A CHILD: Change the future for an impoverished Israeli child by providing hot lunches at school, birthday and holiday gifts, school books, a backpack filled with supplies and funds for special needs (sponsorship program). One-time gifts allow us to enhance the schools with computer labs, modern playgrounds, improved facilities and more.

ADOPT AN ISRAELI TOWN: Show compassion to needy families by supporting one of 18 Israeli towns that are experiencing severe economic hardship. We work with community officials across Israel to ensure that those in need are fed.

PROJECT RESCUE: We help the Jewish people of the Diaspora return to Israel. Your financial assistance helps pay for passports, visas, ground transportation, lodging and more. Thus far we have helped rescue over 76,000 people.

PROJECT TIKVAH (HOPE): Support the elderly and sick who cannot immigrate to Israel. Your gifts fund soup kitchens that provide hot, nutritious meals; heaters for the winter season for those living in unheated quarters; emergency medical assistance and more.

IMMIGRANT WELCOME GIFTS: Welcome new immigrants to Israel with a large gift package that includes a kitchen set of pans and utensils, blankets, school kits for children and a 1-volume Hebrew–Russian or 2-volume Hebrew–Spanish edition of the Hebrew Scriptures.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE FUND: Your gifts enable us to respond quickly to crisis situations. These may include critical needs, such as bomb shelters, ambulances or help for emergency situations, such as terror-motivated arson attacks and more.

HOME REPAIR: Teams of skilled construction workers renovate homes of the poor and elderly in dire conditions, fixing leaky plumbing, replacing broken windows, painting, plastering, rewiring and installing cabinets.

VICTIMS OF TERROR: We deliver special cheer baskets to anyone touched by terrorism. Special needs, such as wheelchairs, food vouchers and financial assistance for medical bills are provided for those in long-term rehabilitation.

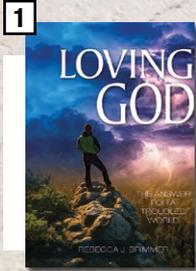
DENTAL/MEDICAL AID: Bring back smiles to the faces of the poor. Israeli health insurance does not cover dental care or special medical needs. This fund helps the needy cover those expenses.



DONATE >>>

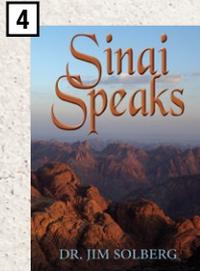
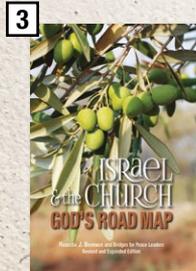
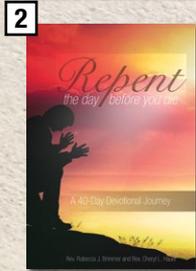
Recommended Reading

New!



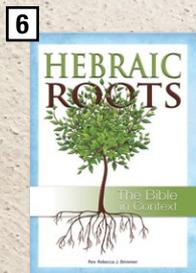
1 LOVING GOD: THE ANSWER FOR A TROUBLED WORLD
 Rebecca J. Brimmer
 Jesus taught that the greatest commandment was to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Knowing and loving God enables us to love others, the second greatest commandment. This book explores how Jesus' truth provides the answers our troubled world needs.

2 REPENT THE DAY BEFORE YOU DIE
 A 40-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNEY
 Rebecca J. Brimmer & Cheryl Hauer
 • Suggested homework activities to enhance the journey
 • Daily Scripture readings and accompanying prayer points
 • Spiral bound journal



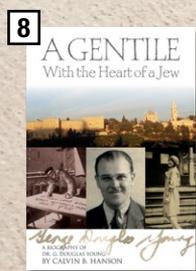
3 ISRAEL & THE CHURCH: GOD'S ROAD MAP
 Rebecca J. Brimmer & BFP Leaders
 The revised edition introduces the Hebraic roots of Christianity and tells the story of God's covenant relationship with Israel. Includes study questions. Excellent for small group or personal study. **Also on Kindle.**

4 SINAI SPEAKS
 Dr. Jim Solberg
 Rediscover the *Torah* (Gen.–Deut.) and its relevant messages for today through this amazing devotional. Enter a new realm of Bible study as ancient stories with modern applications bring you closer to the God of Israel. **Also on Kindle.**



5 ISRAEL TOUR JOURNAL
 BFP & MIUD Leadership
 Each beautifully designed page describes an important biblical site; offers spiritual application, modern life lessons and Scripture verses; and provides a place to chronicle thoughts and reactions, creating memories that will last forever.

6 HEBRAIC ROOTS: THE BIBLE IN CONTEXT
 Rebecca J. Brimmer
 Our understanding of the Scriptures is shaped by our thinking and culture, which is quite different from the Hebraic background. Concepts that are sometimes complex and foreign to our Western worldview are explained from a Hebraic perspective. **Also on Kindle.**



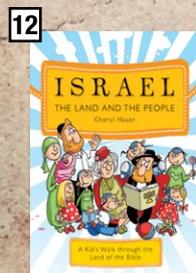
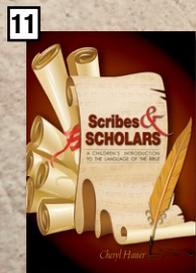
7 JOSEPH & MARY: A MODEL FOR TODAY'S FAMILY
 Cheryl Hauer
 A fresh look at the lives of Mary and Joseph, gleaned from what history tells us of first-century family life—a desperately needed model for families today. **Also on Kindle.**

8 A GENTILE WITH THE HEART OF A JEW
 Calvin B. Hanson
 The life of Dr. G. Douglas Young, founder of Bridges for Peace, will inspire you to stand with Israel. His messages are timeless, his passion contagious. **Also on Kindle.**

9 HEBREW TREASURES
 R. Brimmer, C. Hauer, T. Riddering & C. Sprinkle
 The 20 word studies found in this hardcover gift book are a good beginning to understanding the richness of the Hebrew language. Well-known scriptural texts will come to life in a refreshing new light. **Also on Kindle.**

10 FORGOTTEN PATRIOT
 THE STORY OF HAYM SALOMON
 David Allen Lewis
 Perhaps no one did as much to help establish the United States as Haym Salomon—a forgotten hero who gave everything for the cause of freedom.

Children's Books

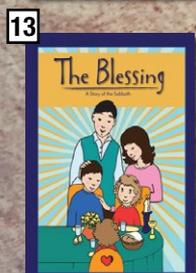


11 SCRIBES & SCHOLARS
 A CHILDREN'S INTRODUCTION TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE
 Cheryl Hauer
 Learn about the Hebrew language: write it, speak it, mix your own ink and make a biblical scroll. Includes fun activities and 40 Hebrew flash cards. (Ages 11–14)

ORDER ONLINE
 visit bridgesforpeace.com

12 ISRAEL: THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE
 Cheryl Hauer
 Through puzzles, games, crafts and other activities, children will learn about Israel's land, people, food and language...and have fun doing it! (Ages 7–12) 32 pages

13 THE BLESSING
 Carolin Sadler
 Join a Jewish family as they joyfully share their *Shabbat* (Sabbath) traditions. The fourth commandment will become personal as your family learns to experience God's rest. (Ages 7–12)



14 CELEBRATE WITH ISRAEL HOLIDAY COLORING BOOK
 Children will experience the joy and excitement of Israel's festival cycle through our holiday coloring book, a great introduction to life in Israel.

15 TRIBES OF ISRAEL
 Cheryl Hauer
 Well-known Bible stories come alive as your children read about the tribal lifestyle of the patriarchs. The book includes activities that will enrich their understanding. (Ages 11–14)

LOVING GOD



THE ANSWER
FOR A
TROUBLED
WORLD

REBECCA J. BRIMMER

From the Author's Heart

For a number of years, I have been drawn over and over again to the words of Jesus (Yeshua) concerning the greatest commandments. I have written repeatedly on the subject. This year, I felt an urgency from the Lord to compile these writings into a book. At the time, we had no idea that the world would be plunged into a time of crisis and trouble sparked by a worldwide pandemic—but God was not surprised. I truly believe that the truths contained in this book are what our world needs to overcome in the midst of trouble. Even if you have read the original teaching letters, I encourage you to get a copy of the book for your library and a second copy for a friend. Now, more than ever, we need to love God and love our neighbor.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME?

THE ZEALOUS ISRAEL PROJECT is eleven months of servant-based discipleship in Israel for Christian young adults. Discover the land and culture in a way that no tour allows. Build lifelong friendships with people from all over the world. Travel the length and breadth of this amazing nation. Be disciplined in the footsteps of Jesus (Yeshua). Impact lives in need as a full-time volunteer. Discover your calling, use your giftings and grow in character.

June 27, 2021 – June 12, 2022

zealous82.com/apply



We invite you to answer the

CALL TO ZION



July 4–16, 2021

zealous82.com/register

Compassion • Adventure • Revelation

You can experience Israel as a young adult for twelve extraordinary days of compassion, adventure and revelation. Come explore the ancient land. Make friends with people from around the world. Sail the Sea of Galilee. Sleep under the desert stars. Trek across mountains and valleys. Give life to those in need by serving in the Jewish community. Return home with a deeper faith and understanding of just how real the Bible is.

The adventure is waiting for you. Will you answer the call?

ZEALOUS8:2