

dispatch From
Jerusalem

A Publication of Bridges for Peace

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Israel's Obsession with
Pomegranates

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.

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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.

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10

The Containment Controversy

While Israel prioritizes matters of national security, Jerusalem demonstrates significant restraint, preferring foreign policy tools and diplomacy over military intervention. Such policies have coalesced into what many call “containment.” But is Israel’s strategy of containment working?

By Cheryl Hauer

12

Russia: Masters of the Skies on Israel’s Northern Border

To continue acting in Syrian airspace against archenemy Iran, Israel had to remain impartial when Russia invaded Ukraine. The decision whether Israel retains or forfeits that freedom does, after all, rest with Russia. But why does Russia hold sway in the Syrian skies?

By Ilse Strauss

14

Druze: Loyal Friends

Within the mosaic that makes up Israel’s demographics is a tiny piece that represents a unique group known as the Druze. Although the 147,000 Israeli Druze comprise just 1.5% of Israel’s population, they make a significant contribution to the nation.

By Janet Aslin



18

Israel’s Obsession with Pomegranates

Pomegranates are beloved in Israel for their sweet, tangy taste; rich, red color and dazzling crown shape. Aside from enjoying the fruit as a snack, pomegranates are painted, woven and crafted into Jewish households. What makes pomegranates the star of the show in Israel?

By Kate Norman

20

Hearts, Likes and Thumbs Up for the Kill

Israel recently suffered its deadliest terror wave in decades. As the attacks mounted, social media posts venerated the “martyrs,” calling on Palestinians to sustain and perpetuate the bloodshed. In an era where social media fame is one of the main motivators to spur on the youth, the call can be irresistible.

By Ilse Strauss

22

Studying the Weekly Torah Portion in Israel

My spiritual life has been greatly enriched by studying the weekly Torah (Gen.–Deut) portion. Long before moving to Israel, my wife and I started the practice of looking deeply into the weekly portion. But studying alongside the Jewish community in the Land has added an entirely new dimension.

By Terry Mason



24

The Quirks of Israel

From the pen of Peter Fast, national director of Canada and the future CEO of Bridges for Peace International, comes the third installment of this exciting new series. Join Peter on a journey through the wonderfully peculiar culture, traditions, heritage and daily life of this singular nation.

By Peter Fast

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

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Caring for Jews from War-torn Ukraine

The horrific war stories continue to come across our screens. We have the luxury of scrolling on to the next story, but those living in Ukraine have no such option. Since war broke out in Ukraine, we have been helping in every way possible. Over 20,000 Ukrainian refugees had arrived in Israel by May, and they continue to come. An average of 251 arrive daily. Over 36,000 more are desirous to come. This is in addition to the ongoing *aliyah* (immigration) from all other countries, including twice weekly flights from Ethiopia. In a normal year, 25,000 to 30,000 immigrants arrive. By June this year, we had already reached that level.

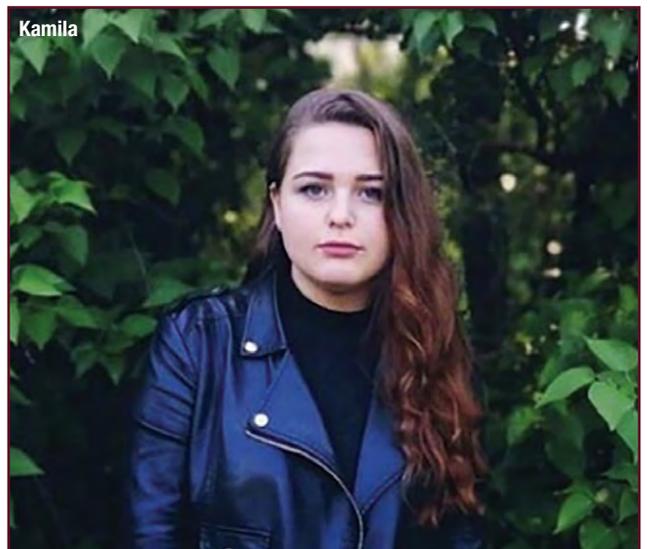
Government agencies, NGOs and charities are all working overtime to help the Jews from Ukraine escape, fly to Israel and then start the difficult process of establishing themselves here in the land. Most have no knowledge of Hebrew. They must get bank accounts, national ID cards, learn the bus and train schedules, understand the currency and after two weeks in a government sponsored hotel, find living quarters. Most of them are elderly or mothers with children, as most men were not allowed to leave Ukraine. Although they get some government assistance for a year, it is not enough to live on, so they must quickly find a job or additional help from organizations like Bridges for Peace.

In Jerusalem, there are currently 800 refugees in hotels who will move out soon, and another 1,500 are expected to

arrive in the city over the next few weeks. We are in conversation with social workers who are very concerned for their well-being after their hotel stay. We expect to be inundated with requests to join our Adoption Program, which sponsors new immigrants for one year. We provide food, a *rav kav* (a card used for transportation on buses and trains), gifts on Jewish holidays, birthday gifts, help with urgent needs and lots of advice and encouragement. Depending on the needs of the person or family, several sponsors are needed.

Kamila is a new immigrant from Kyiv, Ukraine. She was in the process of preparing to come to Israel when the war started. She told her story in her own words.

Kamila



“The war began on February 24. I didn’t have time to get a passport. Shelling began in Kyiv and sirens howled. I sat in the subway with other people, trying to escape, and didn’t know what to do next. To my great joy the internet and mobile communications were still working. I was able to get in touch with the Ezra staff [Project Rescue is a cooperative effort with the Ezra Foundation] and get the advice I needed. I was told that the Israeli Embassy was now in Poland and that you could get there by an evacuation train from Kyiv. I was also told that I could get to Israel even with a Ukrainian (not an international) passport, provided I had all the documents confirming my Jewish roots.

It was a very difficult path to collect the minimum amount of things, stand in a huge queue for the evacuation train to Lviv, sit in a crowded carriage for a long time and then to stand for a day at the border with Poland, also in line to cross the border, find the embassy and make an appointment with the consul. All this time I had the moral support of Ezra staff. Now I am in Israel, and I am happy that all these difficulties are behind me! I want the war in Ukraine to end as soon as possible and for people not to suffer anymore!”

We thank God that Kamila arrived safely in Israel, but now the process of becoming established begins. She is fortunate, as she has a sister living in Israel. Not everyone is so fortunate.



Refugees crossing into Poland

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We need Adoption Program sponsors to help the many destitute immigrants from Ukraine and other nations survive while they study Hebrew, search for jobs and grieve all they have lost. Your financial commitment for one year (US \$65 per month) will make a vital difference in their lives. After you sign up to be a sponsor, you will receive information about those you are helping, with a picture and a biography. Please pray for them daily as they are overwhelmed with the demands of their new life.

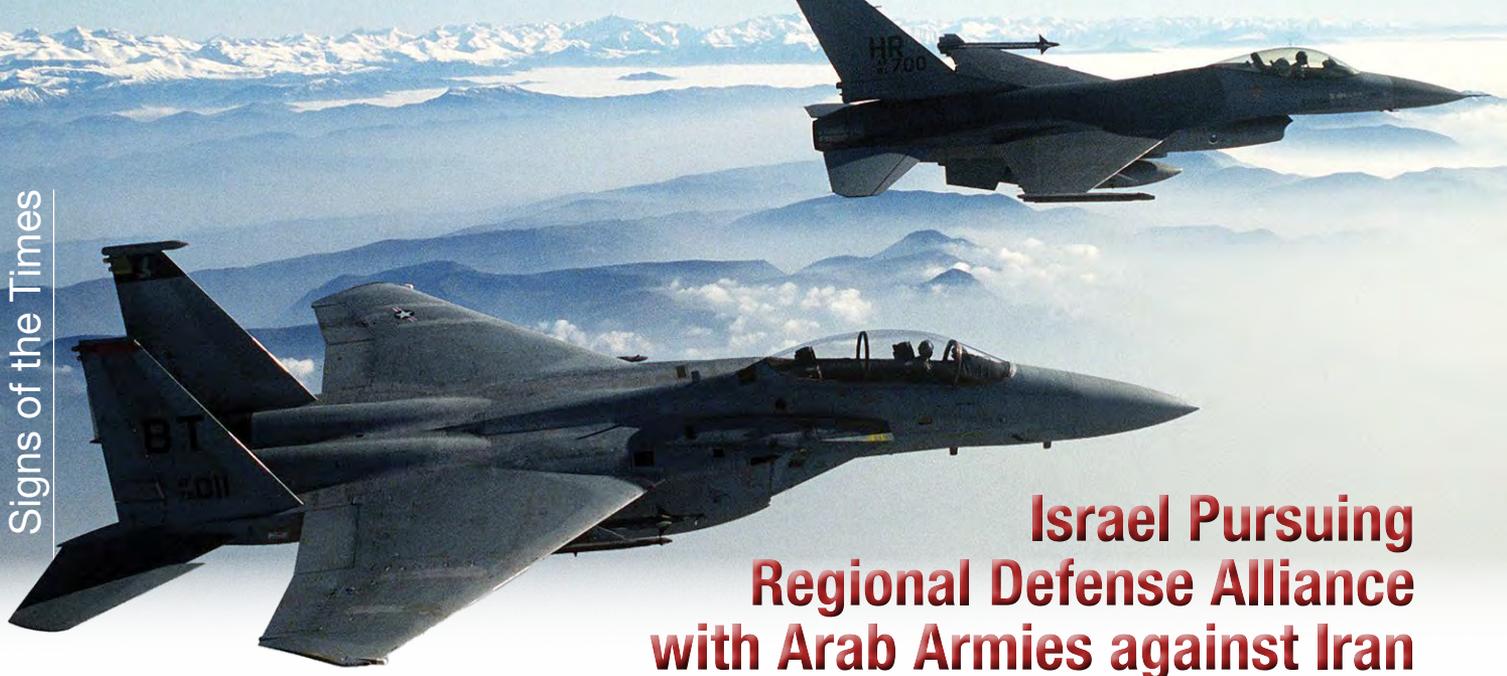
Onetime gifts to our New Immigrant Fund allow us to help as needed in a variety of individualized ways.

“And the LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble” (Ps. 9:9).

Blessings from Israel,
Rebecca Brimmer
International President and CEO

Help suffering refugees
find a safe haven.





Israel Pursuing Regional Defense Alliance with Arab Armies against Iran

With the specter of the Iranian threats looming over the Middle East, the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] and armies of neighboring Arab countries are working to weave an aerial defense alliance in a bid to tackle the aggression of Tehran and its proxies across the region.

In late March, the Negev Summit in southern Israel saw the top diplomats of Israel, the United States [US], Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] convene in order to discuss burning regional issues, chief among them Iran.

The countries have been brainstorming a regional defense alliance, which is set out to include collaborative drills and preparation for collective missions targeting various common threats—either directly from Iran, or Iranian proxies from Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

The alliance, sponsored by the Israeli Air Force (IAF), will serve as an inflection point in the relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

For the first time, the Israeli military is open to the idea of providing neighboring armies that hold peaceful ties with Jerusalem with advanced US-made aircraft in lieu of the out-moded Russian ones they currently employ.

The defense alliance would allow the IAF to intercept attacks beyond its borders, like the recent strikes on Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are locked in a years-long war against the Houthis.

Yoav Zitun, *Ynetnews*

IDF Simulates Destruction in Tel Aviv as Part of Drill



In May, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] completed a two-week large-scale exercise to prepare its forces for the event of a large-scale war that could involve damage to civilian areas and widespread rioting.

The purpose of the military [drill] was to train for extreme scenarios, where multiple populated concentrations would be damaged while riots would break out in mixed cities and on major roads.

“In the next military conflict, we could experience more frequent and intense rocket fire, especially from Hezbollah, and the potential of more racially motivated riots across the entire country, after the May riots last year,” a senior Home Front Command officer said. “Therefore, we must practice evacuating civilians from danger zones under fire, and be prepared for any scenario.”

The IDF said the military trained in 42 cities and towns, and in industrial areas across the country, activating sirens in as many as 61 communities as part of the drill.

Elisha Ben Kimon, *Ynetnews*

Hamas Official Encourages ‘Uprooting Zionists’ with ‘Cleavers, Axes, Guns’

Hamas Parliament member Mushir Al-Masri praised the perpetrators of recent deadly terrorist attacks in Israeli cities.

According to a report by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), at a rally in support of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar aired on *Al-Aqsa TV* (Hamas-Gaza), Masri said the Palestinians’ sword will not be sheathed until Israel’s leaders are beheaded.

“We salute the *mujahideen* [jihadis, Muslim fighters] rebels of our Palestinian people, who taught the Zionist enemy harsh and painful lessons, and sent a clear message

of blood and fire: Jerusalem is a red line. [We salute] those who struck down the Zionists in Tel Aviv, Hadera and Elad. [We salute] those who picked up the cleavers, the axes and guns.”

He added that “the heroes shattered their heads with axes as if they were thorns that have to be uprooted.”

Jewish News Syndicate

‘Little Israel Becomes Major Player in Global Energy Market’

Israel, Egypt and the European Union (EU) inked a landmark export deal in Cairo that will see natural gas flow from the Jewish state via Egypt and on to the block states for the first time.

The historic agreement comes as the EU turned to Israel as an alternative gas source to fill the position previously occupied by the Russians.

In the past, the EU looked to Moscow as its main gas supplier, importing up to 40% of its gas from Russia. But the Ukrainian invasion signaled an end to the free flow. In the aftermath of the Russian tanks rolling into its sovereign neighbor, the EU imposed sweeping sanctions on Moscow, and has been facing energy difficulties ever since.

“It is known that the Russian war against Ukraine has exposed our European dependency on Russian fossil fuels, and we want to get rid of this dependency,” European Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen said during a joint news conference with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

The terms of the agreement stipulate that Israel will send its gas to Egypt, which has the facilities to liquefy it before shipping the energy source on to the EU.

According to Israeli Energy Minister Karine Elharrar, the memorandum of understanding cements Israel’s role on the global energy stage.

“This is a tremendous moment in which little Israel is becoming a significant player in the global energy market,” Elharrar said.

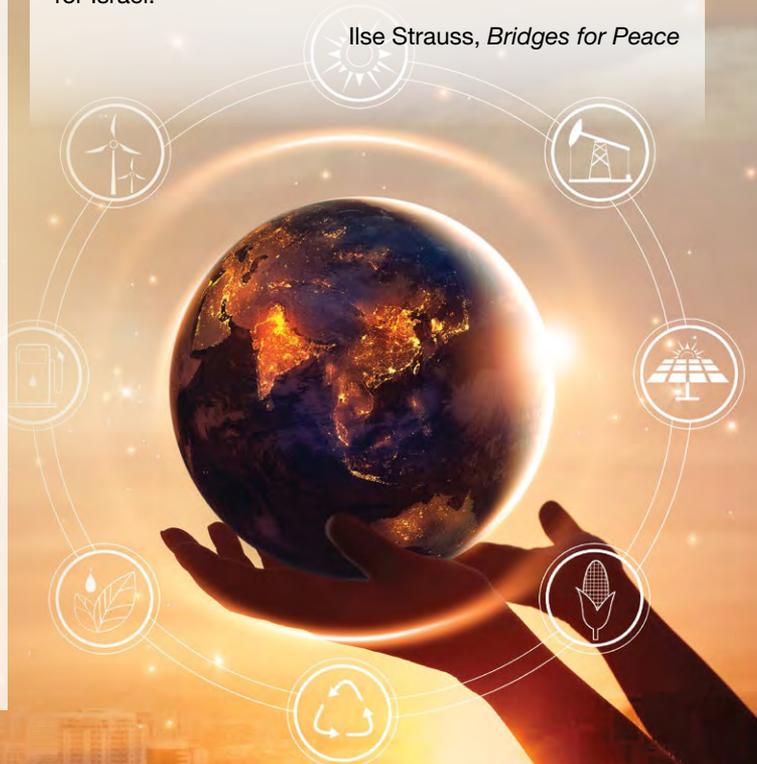
“The memorandum of understanding will allow Israel to export Israeli natural gas to Europe for the first time, and it is even more impressive when one looks at the string of significant agreements we have signed in the past year, positioning Israel and the Israeli energy and water economy as a key player in the world.”

The “historic” nature of the deal goes beyond Israel’s giant leap forward in the international energy arena. According to Elharrar, the close cooperation between one-time arch enemies Israel and Egypt add to the prominence of the agreement.

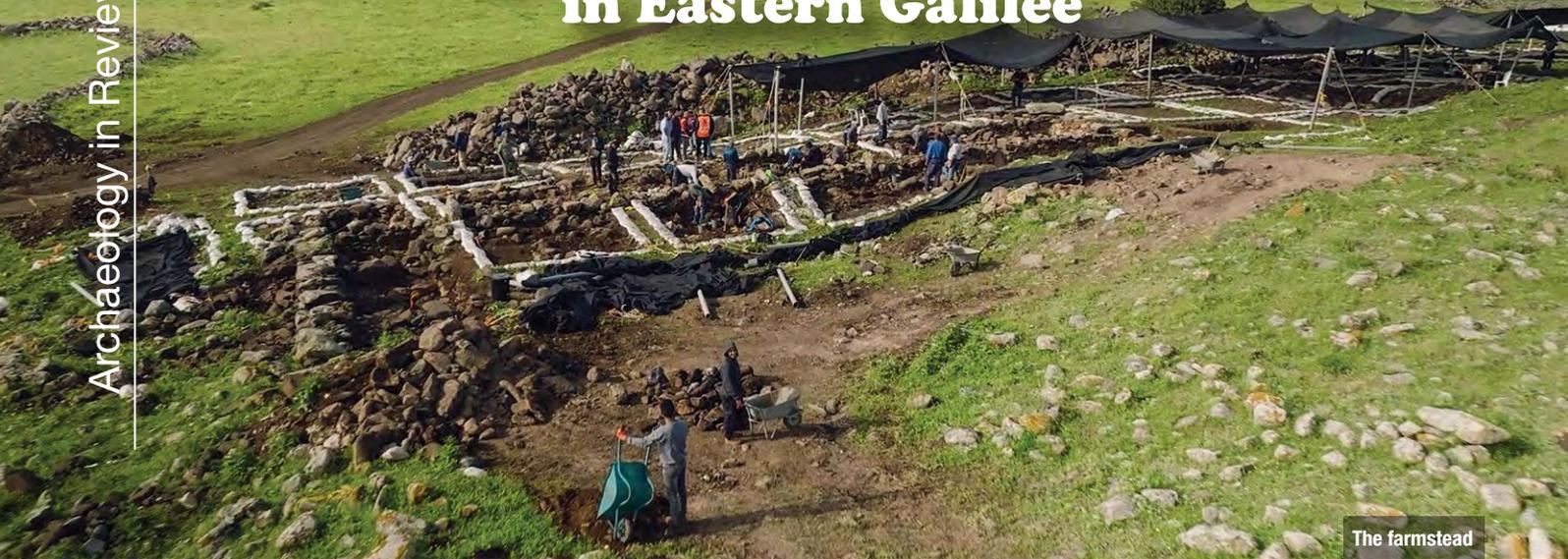
“This is a statement to those who see in our region only negative forces such as division and conflict. This [memorandum of understanding] shows us that we are paving a new path of partnership, solidarity and sustainability.”

Channel 12 news reported that the agreement means an initial annual income of US \$290 million or NIS 1 billion for Israel.

Ilse Strauss, Bridges for Peace



Ancient Agricultural Farmstead Uncovered in Eastern Galilee



The farmstead

A well preserved 2,100-year-old Hellenistic Hasmonean-period agricultural farmstead, containing finds that may have been abandoned in haste, was uncovered in the eastern Galilee. Excavations carried out by the Israel Antiquities Authority [IAA] prior to the Mekorot Company project to transfer desalinated water to the Kinneret [Sea of Galilee], uncovered tens of loom weights used for weaving garments, large ceramic storage vessels and iron agricultural implements, including various picks and scythes. The coins retrieved date the farmstead to the second half of the second century BC.

According to Dr. Amani Abu-Hamid, director of the excavation on behalf of the IAA: “We were very lucky to discover a time capsule, frozen in time, in which the finds remained where they were left by the occupants of the site, and it seems that they left in haste in [the] face of impending danger, possibly the threat of a military attack. The weaving loom

weights were still on the shelf. The storage jars were intact. We know from the historical sources that in this period, the Judean Hasmonean kingdom expanded into the Galilee, and it is possible that the farmstead was abandoned in the wake of these events. More research is required to determine the identity of the inhabitants of the site.”

In addition, the foundations of buildings, pottery vessels and other finds dating to the Iron Age, the 10th to ninth centuries BC, were uncovered.

Eli Eskosido, General-Director of the IAA, said, “This interesting and significant find came to light in the course of the excavation carried out prior to the implementation of the Mekorot water project. The IAA and Mekorot are cooperating to preserve the farmstead, at the site itself or in the immediate vicinity.”

Israel Antiquities Authority



The excavation site

A New Segment of the Low-level Aqueduct to Jerusalem Exposed

A segment of the Low-level Aqueduct to Jerusalem has been exposed in the neighborhood of Armon Hanatsiv. This was a joint project of the Israel Antiquities Authority [IAA] with the Jerusalem Municipality and the Moriah Jerusalem Development Corporation in

order to make this extraordinary 2,000-year-old engineering feat visible and accessible to the public.

The Low-level Aqueduct winds along a route of 21 kilometers [13 mi.] from Solomon's Pools, located south of Bethlehem, to the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, with a very slight gradient descending just over 1 meter [3.2 ft.] along every kilometer [0.6 mi.] on the average. This amazing water system, initiated by the Hasmonean kings in order to increase the water supply to Jerusalem and in particular to the Temple Mount, astounds us until this very day, and due to the aqueducts' ingenuity and quality, continued to be used until the British Mandate 100 years ago, when the invention of electric pumps replaced it.

According to Ya'akov Billig of the IAA, who has researched the ancient aqueducts to Jerusalem: "Two aqueducts brought water from Solomon's Pools, located between Bethlehem and Efrat to Jerusalem—the Low-level Aqueduct and the High-level Aqueduct. It amazes us to think how they managed in antiquity to make the accurate measurements of elevation along such a long distance, choosing the route along the mountainous terrain and calculating the necessary gradient, all this without the modern sophisticated instruments we have today."

At present, segments of the Low-level Aqueduct are being revealed under Alkachi Street in the Armon Hanatsiv neighborhood in an excavation directed by the IAA's Alexander Wiegmann. Following the excavation, conservation experts will do preservation work among the remains in order to prepare these for exhibition in a park for the pleasure of visitors and the public.

Israel Antiquities Authority



The excavation site

The excavation site



Part of the aqueduct



Part of the aqueduct

The

Containment Controversy



Remains of a public bus
after a suicide bomber



The aftermath of a
suicide explosion
at Disengoff Center

Security threats are a certainty in Israel. Every area of society is impacted by the ongoing existence of very real enemies—both inside and outside the nation's borders—who make no secret of their intention to use whatever means necessary to de-Judaize the Jewish state and rid the neighborhood of Jews. Some say this has, by necessity, created an aggressive, imperialistic society whose political, defense and social branches are overtly militaristic in their worldview.

In practice, however, it seems the opposite is true. Although in matters of national security, military considerations are sometimes prioritized over political, economic or ideological concerns, Israel has actually demonstrated significant and ongoing restraint over the last several decades. Even right-wing leaders such as former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was famous for his hardline rhetoric, preferred the use of foreign policy tools such as economic carrots and sticks, diplomacy and international pressure, with military intervention only as a very last resort and most often as a deterrent.

Such policies have coalesced into what many call "containment," an approach much like that of the United States in dealing with the post-World War II Soviet Union. It was believed that communism contained within itself the seeds of its own decay and would eventually crumble on its own

if it could be contained, kept from expansion and held under the steady pressure of these “measures short of all-out war.”

The Israeli Context

Opponents of Israel’s strategy of containment are quick to point out that the issues Israel faces in 2022 are essentially different than those faced by the United States in the 1950s. Although the long-term threats posed by the Soviet Union included expansionism and the upending of the international balance of power, it was recognized that the post-World War II Soviet Union had neither the will nor the ability to launch any kind of military attack on America. Israel, on the other hand, deals with armed insurgency, violence against civilians and the threat of terrorism on literally a daily basis.

Intifada is an Arabic word which literally means “to shudder” or “to shake off” as a dog shakes off water or as desert dwellers shake the dust from their sandals. It was first used in its current context in what is known as the Iraqi Intifada of 1952. Today, it is a key concept in Arabic usage referring to a rebellion or a resistance movement. The Soviet Union posed no such threat to America, but Israel has faced two such uprisings in its comparatively short life.

The First Intifada began in 1987. According to the Jewish Virtual Library: “This uprising or *intifada* was violent from the start. During the first four years of the uprising, more than 3,600 Molotov cocktail attacks, 100 hand grenade attacks and 600 assaults with guns or explosives were reported by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. The violence was directed at soldiers and civilians alike. During this period, 16 Israeli civilians and 11 soldiers were killed by Palestinians in the territories; more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and 1,700 Israeli soldiers were injured. Approximately 1,100 Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israeli troops. Jews were not the only victims of the violence. In fact, as the *intifada* waned around the time of the Gulf War in 1991, the number of Arabs killed for political and other reasons by Palestinian death squads in what amounted to an “intrafada” exceeded the number killed in clashes with Israeli troops.”

The violence ended in 1993 with thousands of dead and injured on both sides.

The Second Intifada—sometimes called the Al-Aqsa Intifada—began in 2002 and “ended” in 2005. It was much more violent than the first, with hundreds of suicide bombings and thousands of victims. The Jewish Virtual Library explains: “According to the rules of engagement for Israeli troops in the territories, the use of weapons is authorized solely in life-threatening situations or in the exercise of the arrest of an individual suspected of having committed a grave security offense. In all cases, IDF activities have been governed by an overriding policy of restraint, the requirement of proportionality and the necessity to take all possible measures to prevent harm to innocent civilians. Meanwhile, the Palestinians escalated their violent attacks against Israelis by using mortars and anti-tank missiles illegally smuggled into the Gaza Strip. Palestinians fired mortar shells into Jewish communities in Gaza and Israel proper and IDF reports indicate that anti-tank missiles were fired at Israeli forces.”

It has been suggested that the monikers “first” and “second” are not presenting an accurate picture of the Palestinians’ strategy in terms of this conflict. Some say Israel has been in a constant state of *intifada* since the beginning of the uprising in 1987 or perhaps as far back as the Israeli victory in the 1967 Six Day War. Scarcely a month has passed in the ensuing years without a terrorist attack of some sort somewhere in Israel or aimed at Israelis in other parts of the world. Thousands have been killed or maimed in an ongoing conflict that continues to this day. Samaria experiences attacks daily, most of which do not attract media attention because no one is killed or injured. Weapons of choice have evolved from rocks and Molotov cocktails to knives, guns, rockets, axes, scissors, incendiary balloons or even bulldozers. But the violence never really ceases. At the writing of this article, Israeli leaders are expecting a very difficult summer with a dramatic uptick in numbers and intensity of attacks.

Reaping the Fruit

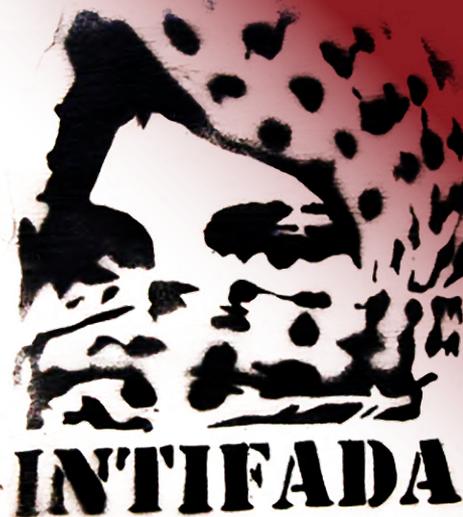
For the US, containment brought about decades of Cold War. But in December of 1991, the Soviet Union breathed its last—without a shot being fired. Some say containment did, in fact, have the desired effect.

For Israel, however, there is no cold war, only a very long and deadly daily conflict with no end in sight. But proponents of containment say it is working. The face of the Middle East is changing. Israel is building a network of strong relationships in Africa, Eastern Europe and even with its Arab neighbors. As Israel and those neighbors unite against their common enemy Iran, the plight of the Palestinians seems to be less important than military and political alliances. The Jewish state is in the best position it has been in since its inception, proponents say. Israel has recently concluded the largest and most comprehensive war games in the nation’s history and has seen the economy recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in a matter of months. So, is Israel’s strategy of containment working? All the above factors point to a resounding yes. But then again, this is the Middle East, one of the most unpredictable and volatile neighborhoods

on earth. Here, even one tiny seemingly insignificant spark is enough to set everything ablaze and turn decades of containment to ashes. Perhaps the most accurate answer is that only time will tell.



Cheryl Hauer, *International Vice President*



RUSSIA

Masters of the Skies on Israel's Northern Border



The Russian invasion of Ukraine occurred to a soundtrack of international condemnation. Yet Israel did not join the chorus of outrage. Instead, Jerusalem avoided taking sides, toeing a diplomatic tightrope between the two warring nations.

The impartiality didn't come easily. Every now and then, a slip of the tongue from a minister or high-ranking official revealed the Jewish state's true feelings. The ties between Jerusalem and Kyiv run particularly deep. There's also a thriving trade relationship, with Ukraine the primary supplier of Israel's wheat, amounting to almost half of the Jewish state's consumption.

Given the close bonds—and Israel's sympathies—why Jerusalem's impartiality? The simple answer is that Israel wants to maintain the freedom to act in Syrian airspace against archenemy Iran and its terror proxies. And the decision whether Israel retains or forfeits that freedom lies with Russia.

The answer does, however, raise more questions that beg clarification: What is Russia—a country located thousands of miles away—doing on Israel's doorstep? And perhaps more importantly, why does Russia hold sway in the Syrian skies?

The Ties that Bind

The ties of friendship between Russia and Syria date back to the decades before the formation of either modern nation. In fact, Moscow had its eye on Damascus years before Syria was recognized as an independent state and worked to establish diplomatic links before the din of World War II died down.

But why the keen Soviet interest? Geopolitically, Syria offered the Soviets a foothold in the Middle East and a stronghold in the heart of the Arab world. Geographically, Damascus gave Moscow a coveted port on the Mediterranean, shaving days off traditional routes and millions in shipping expenses. Economically, Syria beckoned as an unexplored market with vast economic promise.

In the following decades, the friendship flourished, with the two nations working side-by-side on various projects and a steady stream of Soviet civil and military

products flowing towards Damascus, with up to 90% of Syrian arms imports coming from the USSR.

There was one sticking point in the otherwise blossoming friendship: Israel. Damascus looked to Moscow to supply the arms that would put it on equal military footing with Jerusalem. However, Russia had its sights set on improving ties with Israel, and Syria was left stewing as its biggest ally cozied up to its biggest enemy.

The friendship between the Soviets and the Syrians survived the ties between Moscow and Jerusalem. The bond remained intact as the USSR fell and the Kremlin had to tighten its belt and focus on pressing issues at home. And the alliance was still going strong in 2010 during the Arab Spring when the first shots of the Syrian Civil War—pitting the Assad regime against its own people—rang out.

Bothers in Arms

For the first five years of fighting, Russia largely watched from the sidelines, offering political support and funneling arms to the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad without putting boots on the ground. As the war dragged on, it became increasingly clear that despite significant financial, logistical and combat support from his Middle Eastern ally Iran, the Butcher of Damascus would topple—unless someone intervened.

Russia was not about to give up its foothold in the Middle East, stronghold in the heart of the Arab world, ports on the Mediterranean and an extremely lucrative stream of revenue. So Russia became that someone.

In September 2015, Russia launched its “Mission in Syria”—supposedly against “terrorist” groups—and Russian troops officially entered the conflict.

The combination of Russia's superior military power providing air power and Iran's ground efforts bore fruit. A year later, the tables had turned and the axis between Moscow, Tehran and Damascus secured a retreat of opposition forces, winning back one opposition-held area after the other. Seven years after Red troops rushed to Syria's aid, Russia and Iran not only propped up the failing Assad regime, Moscow also emerged as the custodian of the Syrian skies, while Tehran gained a foothold for its ground forces.



All about Iran

Russia's presence in Syria doesn't concern Jerusalem directly, but the Iranians on Israel's doorstep is a different story.

Moscow and Tehran have different Syrian agendas. Russia seeks a strong, stable Syria indebted to Moscow. Iran aims to exploit the chaos of civil war for regional hegemony, entrenching on Israel's doorstep and establishing a land corridor to smuggle weapons and fighters from Tehran to Beirut via Baghdad and Damascus.

Israel cannot allow the *mullahs* to fulfill their Syrian aspirations and has conducted numerous military actions—mostly by air—against Iranian fighters and weapons convoys in Syria. However, such air strikes hinge on close cooperation and even the green light from those who hold sway over the Syrian skies.

In 2015, when Russia entered the Syrian war, then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveled to Russia to iron out the details of Israeli planes operating undisturbed in Syrian airspace. The meeting bore fruit. Over the past seven years, Israel has waged an intensive campaign to dislodge Iran from Syria, all without interference from Russian air defense systems or a head-on collision with the Russians.

presence in Syria, staging joint patrols with Syrian jets along the border with Israel.

Then, also in May, Russia for the first time reportedly fired its advanced S-300 surface-to-air missile battery at Israeli jets during an alleged Israeli strike on Iranian-linked targets in Syria.

According to several reports, the radar didn't lock onto the Israeli planes and thus didn't constitute a threat. Yet the misfire wasn't an operational failure on Moscow's part. Bringing down the warplanes was probably never Russia's objective.

Moscow locking horns with Jerusalem in Syrian skies was meant to communicate a message from the Kremlin that Russia is irked with Israel over not having its back in the fight with Ukraine.

At the time of this writing, the question is whether this could mean a dramatic new precedent, signaling a new era where Moscow will no longer allow Jerusalem to act against Iran in Syria, thus giving the *mullahs* free reign in Israel's backyard.

Perhaps we'll have to wait until the next time Israeli warplanes head to Syria to find out.

Changing Tide?

Russian tanks rolling into Ukraine strained the ties between the Knesset (Parliament) and the Kremlin—and put a question mark over the Syrian status quo.

In March, Israel joined 140 other UN General Assembly member states to adopt a resolution slamming the Russian invasion. In April, Jerusalem agreed to supply the Ukrainian civil emergency services with helmets and flak jackets. And high-ranking cabinet ministers have spoken out against Russian action in Ukraine on a number of occasions, notably accusing Moscow of war crimes.

Perhaps the straw that broke the camel's back came in May when Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov aimed to justify Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, a country led by a democratically elected Jewish president, as a valiant attempt to denazify its sovereign neighbor by claiming "that Hitler...had Jewish blood. Some of the worst anti-Semites are Jews."

Lavrov's statement was met by a firestorm of condemnation from Israel, alongside whispers that Russia crossed the line, inflicting irreparable damage to its relations with Israel.

Shortly afterward, Russia reportedly turned a blind eye to Syrian and Iranian transfers of Russian-made weapons into Lebanese terror group Hezbollah's eager hands. The Kremlin has also beefed up its



Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief





Druze

Loyal Friends

Unlike the melting pot of America, the State of Israel can be compared to a mosaic. Even its Jewish majority contains a dazzling number of expressions of Judaism that can often be identified by the clothing worn or the type of *kippah* (yarmulke) on a man's head. Hidden among the many mosaic pieces, we can find a very tiny piece that represents a unique group of Israeli Arabs known as the Druze. Although the 147,000 Israeli Druze make up just 1.5% of Israel's population, since the nation's rebirth in 1948, the Druze have made significant contributions to the modern State of Israel.

From Egypt to the Levant

Numbering less than one million worldwide, the Druze religion has its roots in Egypt, emerging from Isma'ilism (a sub-sect of Shia Muslims) in AD 1017. Named by outsiders after Muhammad al-Darazi, one of its founders, the Druze suffered severe persecution in Egypt. Soon members of the new faith could only be found in isolated areas of the Levant. Today, the majority of the Druze population is located in Syria, while Lebanon, Israel and Jordan contain smaller groups.

The Druze follow a blend of Isma'ilism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Hinduism and several other "isms." The Druze canon includes the Bible, the Quran and philosophical works of Plato. However, these are given far less importance than their own "Book of Wisdom." Only a very small minority of their sages or "knowledgeable ones" are able to read and understand the "Book of Wisdom," while the rest of the community are considered uninitiated or laypeople.

The Druze religion remains a secretive one about which not much is known. A mere 26 years after its founding, the Druze stopped allowing conversions to the faith, and that prohibition continues until today. Marriage outside the faith is prohibited, and more than 90% of Israel's Druze population lives in a few tight-knit communities in northern Israel.

On Israel's Side

Since the Crusader Period (AD 1099–1291), when they were given the task of guarding the area's inland regions from the Crusader forces, the Druze have consistently distinguished themselves as powerful warriors. When the modern State of Israel was declared in 1948, the Druze voluntarily sided with the Jews to fight against the Arab armies threatening the annihilation of the fledgling state. They have stood with Israel in every war since then.

In 1956, primarily at the urging of Druze leaders, Israel passed a law requiring mandatory military service for all Druze men who are Israeli citizens. In the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the tight bond between Jewish and Druze soldiers is known as the "Covenant of Blood." In contrast, Israeli Arabs are exempt from military conscription, although they can volunteer to serve.

Areas of Excellence

One characteristic of the Druze is their loyalty to the countries in which they find themselves living. It would not be possible in the space of this article to tell the stories of all Druze citizens who have made a difference by their acts of service to the nation of Israel. We'll look at just a few of them.

Medical

During the past year, COVID-related news reports in Israel usually cited the name of Professor Salman Zarka, the chief COVID-19 officer. Zarka is a proud Israeli Druze citizen. Before receiving his appointment as Israel's chief COVID-19 officer, Zarka spent 25 years in the IDF Medical Corps, achieving the rank of Colonel Brigadier. Upon his retirement in 2014, he became the head of the Ziv Medical Center, a 350-bed hospital in Safed, the first Druze to hold such a position.

Zarka was born in the Druze community of Peki'in to parents who could neither read nor write but encouraged all their children to strive for excellence in whatever they chose to do. Zarka, who has multiple degrees from Israeli universities, specializes in the areas of public health and public administration. He is an inspiration to the next generation of Druze men and women.

Security

There are many examples of Druze heroism in the line of fire. One of the most horrific terror attacks occurred in Jerusalem in November 2014. Armed with axes, knives and a gun, two Palestinian terrorists entered a synagogue in the Har Nof neighborhood and brutally murdered four of the early morning worshipers. One of the first responders was an Israeli Druze police officer. Thirty-year-old Master Sergeant Zidan Sayif was shot in the head and killed as he shielded other worshipers with his own body. He left behind a wife and four-month old daughter as well as his parents and four siblings. Many members of the ultra-Orthodox community attended his funeral in recognition of his bravery and sacrificial act.

Politicians

Members of the Druze community have served in the Knesset (Parliament) since the late 1950s until today. It was hard to choose just one to highlight in this article. Majalli Wahabi was a MK (Member of Knesset) between 2003 and 2013 and has the honor of being the first Druze and only non-Jew to be named acting head of state for a brief time in 2007. Wahabi's political career began in 1996, when he met Ariel Sharon, then deputy defense minister, and became Sharon's personal ambassador to Egypt and Jordan.

A Lasting Friendship

We have only skimmed the surface of the rich history of the Druze people. They are mysterious in matters of faith, yet open and friendly should you happen to visit the colorful outdoor bazaar in Daliat al-Carmel, one of the largest Druze communities, located about 20 kilometers (12.4 mi.) southeast of Haifa. In a region where Israel has few solid Arab friendships, the Druze shine as one examines the past 74 years since the modern State of Israel was born.



Janet Aslin,
BFP Staff Writer

Druze soldiers in the IDF carrying the Israeli and Druze flags.



Israel Unveils New Air-to-surface Missile

Israeli defense company Rafael unveiled a new, advanced air-to-surface missile for fixed-wing aircraft.

The missile has already been sold to one or more clients, whose identity is unknown, and it is in operational use.

According to Rafael, it's designed to meet the complex needs of modern warfare. The company touted the missile's lightweight design, lengthy range of 30 kilometers (18.5 mi.), high precision and ability to operate in a GPS-denied environment.

The missile employs electro-optical (camera and image-processing) guidance systems combined with infrared and ultraviolet-visible sensors. All of these sensors are "passive," meaning they do not emit waves on the electromagnetic spectrum, making them very difficult for enemies to detect in time.

It also incorporates technology from Rafael's well-known Spike Long-Range 2 precision-guidance missiles, including a technology known as "scene matching," in which a processor onboard the missile compares the features of the terrain below with pre-programmed terrain features in order to understand its location and route.

In addition, the missile comes with a data link, allowing operators to stay in the loop. Its warhead includes anti-tank and blast-induced fragmentation features.

In a statement, Rafael said Aerospike's precision, immunity and lethality provide a decisive and powerful solution for Close Air Support (CAS) missions—air action by fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft against hostile targets

in close proximity to friendly forces—counterterrorism missions and operating in full-intensity conflicts in which adversaries are equipped with advanced systems designed to deny air movements.

The range possessed by the missile means that it is well-suited to target air-defense systems, mobile surface-to-air missile launch sites, armored vehicles and enemy targets in urban areas.

Rafael vice president Alon Shlomi, who heads the company's Air-to-Surface Directorate, said the missile is well-designed for light attack aircraft, known as "Armed Overwatch" squadrons.

"Today's battle arena is saturated with portable air-defense threats, like MANPADs [man portable air-defense systems—or shoulder-fired missiles], that require Combat Air Support elements to operate with greater precision and longer ranges; that is precisely what Aerospike brings to the modern battlefield."

The missile also forms an alternative to laser-directed precision-guided missiles.

Rafael is also working with Israel's Ministry of Defense and Elbit Systems to develop a high-powered, ground-based laser to intercept threats in the air.

During trials announced in April this year, the laser shot down unmanned aerial vehicles, mortars, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

Excerpt from an article by Yaakov Lappin, *Jewish News Syndicate*



Israeli Surgeons Print an Ear to Correct Boy's Deformity

Israeli doctors 3D-printed an ear and attached it to a 6-year-old boy born with microtia, a deformity that stops the development of a baby's ear in the womb, usually during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Using a 3D printer, staff from the plastic surgery department at Galilee Medical Center in Nahariyya created a synthetic prosthesis resembling cartilage and then covered it with skin.

Reconstructing an ear using cartilage and prosthetics is not unusual, but 3D printing that cartilage was a breakthrough.

The entire procedure took three hours, and the boy was released from the hospital several days later. His grateful parents were moved to tears.

Unfortunately, the ear is not functional, because microtia causes blockage of the ear canal, a complication that is not fixable through surgery.

Still, the synthetic prosthesis "reduces pain and complications that could be caused in the area from which the cartilage is extracted," Dr. Amin Abu-Jabal, who led the surgical team, told *Ynet*. It offers "maximal accuracy and aesthetic in the highest level."

While microtia affects babies before they're born, corrective surgery cannot be performed until a child is 6 years old, at which point the ear reaches about 85% of its full size.

Microtia is usually not hereditary and, in most cases, affects only one ear. Approximately one in 6,000 to 8,000 babies are born with the condition, and

the cause is not known. People with microtia may have only a small ear or no ear at all.

Excerpt from an article by Brian Blum, *Jewish News Syndicate* via *Israel21c*



Environment

ISRAEL TURNS TO FOOD TECH TO WIN HEARTS, MINDS AND STOMACHS

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan hosted dozens of ambassadors from around the world for a celebration featuring some of Israel's contributions to the world of food technology.

The event was attended by about 250 people, including the Good Food Institute and several Israeli food-tech companies. Guests sampled products such as poached eggs, schnitzel nuggets, pastrami sandwiches, cheeses and ice-cream—all produced with Israeli technology, and done so in a sustainable manner without using animal products.

Among the companies was ReMilk, founded by Aviv Wolff and Ori Cohavi. It uses microbial fermentation to produce milk proteins and craft a product that has the same flavor, texture and nutritional value as dairy from animals while eliminating cholesterol and lactose. They offered samples of their cream cheese at the celebration.

"It is a real cream cheese made without cows. What I mean by that is we produce real milk proteins through a fermentation process; we use yeast and feed them a simple sugar source, and they convert that sugar source into milk protein," Jason Rosenberg, head of Business Development at ReMilk, told *JNS*.

"We then take that protein and combine it with plant-based fat and plant-based sugar, and produce real dairy products, like this cream cheese, that are lactose-free, cholesterol-free, animal-free and everything else that you would want in a sustainable clean product."

Rosenberg said ReMilk is in the process of building its own production facility in Denmark. Set to break ground by the end of the year, it would be the largest precision fermentation facility in the world.

Excerpt from an article by Mike Wagenheim, *Jewish News Syndicate*





Israel's Obsession with Pomegranates

As the early varieties of Israeli pomegranates begin blooming in August, it's easy to see that these sweet, beautiful treats are a staple in the Jewish state. Pomegranates are everywhere: stocked in market shelves, freshly squeezed at juice stands and served on dinner tables both as a beautiful decoration and a sweet addition to the meal.

Even more than a crowd-pleasing treat, this fruit is a popular motif in Israeli art and Judaica. Visitors to Israel love to peruse the many shops and stores selling Judaica and other souvenirs—everything from pottery to jewelry, candlesticks, magnets, scarves, all splashed across the shop in a hodgepodge of textures and colors. Take a closer look and you'll notice a few motifs and repeated symbols on most of the items: among them the Star of David, the hand-shaped *hamsa*, cityscapes of Jerusalem, the Western Wall, lions—and pomegranates.

Pomegranates are beloved in Israel for their sweet, tangy taste; rich, red color and dazzling crown shape. The peak season to find pomegranates in Israeli markets is from October to March, though earlier varieties begin

to ripen as early as August. The fruit hits the stand just in time for the start of the biblical high holidays, beginning with *Rosh HaShanah*—the Jewish New Year—which usually falls in September or October. It is traditional for the Jewish people to eat sweet foods during *Rosh HaShanah* to symbolize their desire for a sweet new year. Pomegranates, because of their sweet, rich flavor and beautiful color are therefore a popular staple in *Rosh HaShanah* dishes.

SUPERFOOD STATUS

Listed as a superfood, pomegranates are packed with nutrients, including antioxidants, Vitamin C, Vitamin K, fiber, potassium, the list goes on. Research shows that the juicy seeds can help boost your immune system, reduce inflammation and can even slow the growth of cancer cells and tumors, according to *Healthline*. Pomegranates also boost heart health, help lower blood pressure and promote good bacteria while fighting harmful bacteria in your system. With all this goodness packed inside, it's certainly worth sprinkling a handful of the tangy arils over your salad



or drinking a glass of pomegranate juice. In fact, the co-founder of POM Wonderful juice told *Forbes* that he drinks eight ounces of the juice every day and hasn't suffered from a cold in a decade.

But aside from enjoying the flavorful fruit as a snack, pomegranates are painted, woven and crafted prominently into Jewish households. This fruit features on *Shabbat* (Sabbath) candlesticks, pottery, jewelry, *tallitot* (prayer shawls) and much more. But what makes pomegranates the star of the show in Israel?

BIBLICAL MOTIF

For one thing, pomegranates are one of the seven species of the Land of Israel, as mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8. In this passage, the Lord describes to Moses the Promised Land into which He will bring the Israelites, "a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey." Still, though it is one of the famed seven species, how did pomegranates, listed fifth out of the items, become the firm favorite in Israel?

The rest of the seven species are certainly featured in Judaica and Israeli decor, but pomegranates are the shining star in Judaica and on holiday and *Shabbat* tables across Israel.

The pomegranate prominence actually dates back thousands of years, beginning with God's instructions to Moses to decorate the robes of the priests serving in the Tabernacle with pomegranates (Exod. 28:33–35). According to the instructions given to Moses, pomegranates woven out of blue, purple and scarlet material were to decorate the hem of the priestly robes, along with golden bells.

In fact, pomegranates were one of the first fruits that the Children of Israel tasted from the Promised Land before entering into it after 400 years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. When the Israelites approached the Promised Land, they sent the infamous 12 spies to scope out the land and bring back a report. And what they returned with was fear and fruit. Except for Caleb and Joshua, the spies brought back a fearsome report of fortified cities and unbeatable giants. But the fruit they carried with them was rich: a cluster of grapes, figs—and pomegranates (Num. 13:23).

Hundreds of years later, King Solomon picked up the baton from his father, King David, and set about constructing the Temple his father had sought to build for the Lord. And just as pomegranates decorated the robes of the priests serving in the Tabernacle, so the crown fruit—now fashioned out of bronze—adorned the columns of Solomon's resplendent Temple (1 Kings 7:15–20).

The fruit features elsewhere in Scriptures, but these are the main examples.

SYMBOLISM

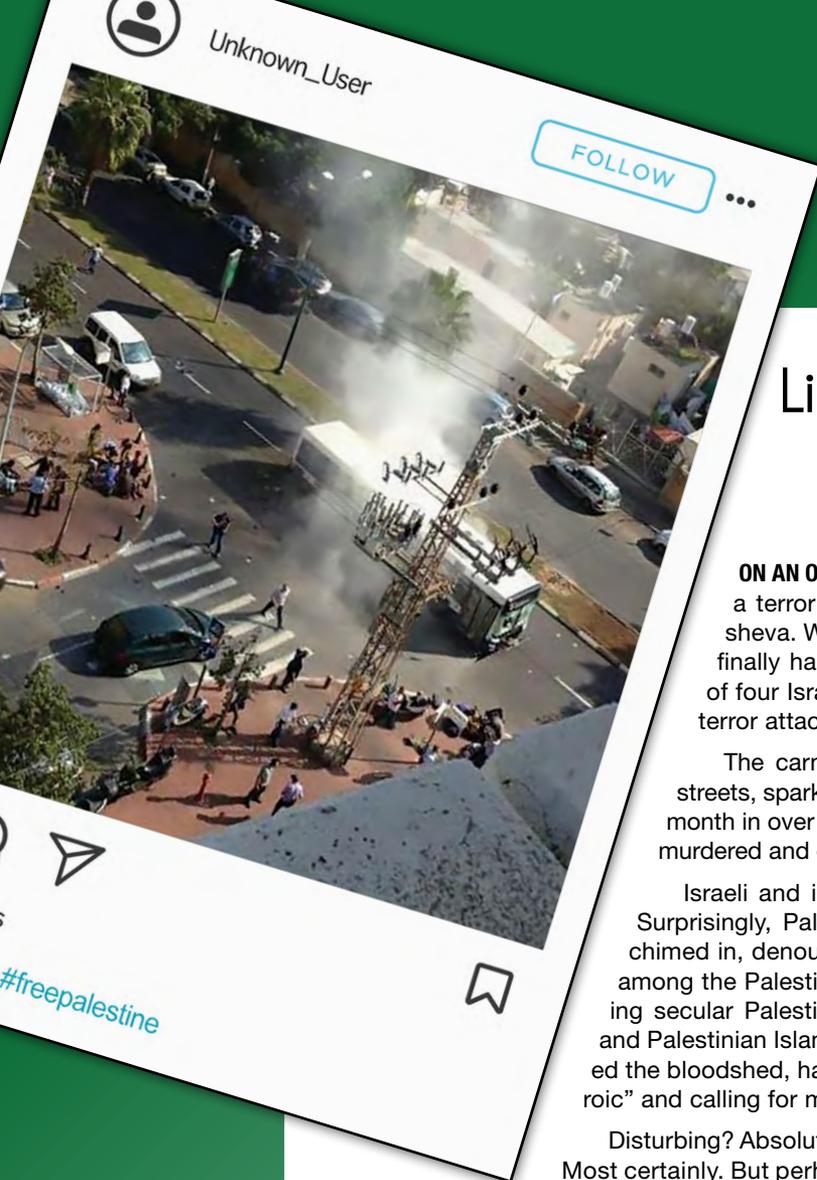
The pomegranate also has rich symbolism in Jewish tradition. The Jewish sages said in the *Talmud* (rabbinic commentary on Jewish tradition and the Hebrew Scriptures) that there are 613 *mitzvot*, or commandments, in the *Torah* (Gen.–Deut.). Jewish tradition said the 613 *mitzvot* in the *Torah* are mirrored by 613 seeds in the pomegranate. This isn't quite accurate, as every pomegranate has a different amount of seeds, but it still led to a beautiful blessing traditionally said on *Rosh HaShanah*: "May it be your will, Adonai our God, that we be as full of good deeds as the pomegranate is full of seeds."

In addition to blessing, the pomegranate also represents royalty, thanks to its crown shape. In fact, many *Torah* scrolls are decorated with silver pomegranates (*rimonim* in Hebrew) on top. Bursting with seeds, the fruit also represents fertility, life and love.



Whether it's the remarkable health benefits, the Biblical significance, the rich symbolism or simply the vibrant beauty and delicious taste of the fruit itself, take a look around Israel: this crown-shaped fruit is crowned king of the markets, shops and tables across the Holy Land.

By Kate Norman, *BFP Staff Writer*



Community • 2.4 mi • 6.1K like this
Free Palestine: Palestine is the only country under occupation... Show your solidarity with Palestine

Like

Likes, Hearts and Thumbs Up *FOR THE KILL*

ON AN OTHERWISE RUN-OF-THE-MILL late winter afternoon in March, a terrorist went on a stabbing spree in the desert city of Beer-sheva. When Mohammad Ghaleb Abu al-Qi'an's bloody work was finally halted by an armed bus driver's bullet, he left a grisly trail of four Israelis dead and two wounded, making it Israel's deadliest terror attack in decades.

The carnage inspired other prospective terrorists to take to the streets, sparking Israel's deadliest terror wave in years and its bloodiest month in over a decade. At the time of this writing, 19 people have been murdered and dozens injured.

Israeli and international leaders alike have condemned the killings. Surprisingly, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas also chimed in, denouncing two of the attacks. He was, however, a lone voice among the Palestinian powers-that-be. In fact, the majority of Fatah (leading secular Palestinian political party), Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad leaders applauded the bloodshed, hailing the murders as "heroic" and calling for more of the same.

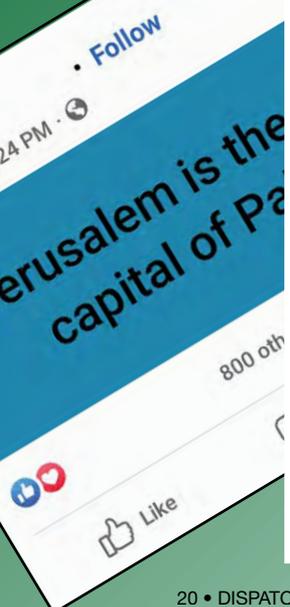
Disturbing? Absolutely. Sickening? Most certainly. But perhaps the opinion of those who sit in office presiding over the everyday man on the street is the lesser of two evils.

Online Veneration

What was even more alarming—and infinitely more dangerous—than the opinion of lawmakers whom the majority of Palestinians regard as corrupt and undesirable anyway, was the flood of praise and incitement on social media. As the terror attacks mounted, flurries of posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok venerated the so-called martyrs and called on Palestinians to sustain, even perpetuate the bloodshed.

And in a society where social media fame and online renown serve as one of the main motivators to spur on and influence the youth, the call can be irresistible.

The *Times of Israel* sifted through the online hatred to compile a sample of the incitement that bombard the Palestinian youth. It is a sickening laundry list of graphic footage of the terror attacks set to rousing music, stirring songs revering the terrorists, graphics, images and grim cartoons celebrating their alleged blood sacrifices for the supposed freedom of Palestine and its people, appalling official statements, commentaries praising the attacks and so forth.





These Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts—some originating from official Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad officials and channels—received multiple likes, hearts and thumbs up, and were shared widely.

One particularly disturbing post set actual footage of a terror attack in Bnei Brak in which five people were brutally butchered and images of the terrorist’s victims—bloodied and slumped over in death—as the background graphics for a jaunty song telling Israelis, “You will see hell and its gates will open on the Day of Resurrection.”

Another post that proved popular among Palestinian social media users is a song originally produced and shared by the Islamic Jihad’s *Filastin al-Yawm* channel, boasting, “Allah blessed the champions of Jenin [the hometown of the Palestinian terrorist who killed five people, including an Israeli Arab, in the Bnei Brak attack] with a Molotov cocktail and a knife.”

According to the *Times of Israel*, the Hamas mouthpiece *Falastin* also uploaded a number of videos featuring children expressing their joy, delight and admiration for the terrorists—all receiving hundreds of likes.

Then there are, of course, the countless posts featuring pictures, posters and placards of the terrorists—their faces embossed against the coat of arms of the Palestinian organization that claimed them as members—singing the praises of their bloody exploits and venerating them to the point of national heroes worthy of emulation.

And therein lies the rub.

Social Media Glorification

The vast majority of the terrorists responsible for Israel’s deadliest terror wave in years and the bloodiest month in over a decade were mostly teenagers, youngsters and lone-wolf operators. The implication? These young terrorists were not dispatched to kill by the head of a Palestinian terror organization. Instead, they were motivated, urged on by something else.

As I scrolled through the sickening social media glorification of terror, mayhem and murder, I recalled a conversation I had with an 18-year-old boy a few months ago. As we discussed role models and the people he looked up to, he whipped out his phone, opened his Instagram account and proudly pointed out his heroes: other teenagers or young men or women who had somehow climbed the oh-so-desirable pedestal of online notoriety, people just like him who somehow managed to rake in the hearts, likes and thumbs up.

“If I could just be like them,” he breathed, his eyes shining with admiration.

Yes, therein lies the rub.

Scrolling through the sickening social media glorification of Palestinian teenagers, youngsters and lone-wolf operators who had climbed the oh-so-desirable pedestal of online notoriety, who raked in the hearts, likes and thumbs up by shedding innocent blood, I couldn’t help but wonder how many other Palestinian teenagers and youngsters are scrolling through their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok feeds, their eyes shining with admiration, breathing, “If I could just be like them.”

Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief



Studying the Weekly Torah Portion in Israel



Do you have any habits or spiritual disciplines that you have maintained over many years in your life? My spiritual life has been greatly deepened and enriched by studying the weekly *Torah* (Gen.–Deut) portion (*Parashat HaShavua*). Each year, the worldwide Jewish community reads through the first five books of the Bible—the Pentateuch—together. Every week, they read on average three to five chapters. To learn more about the weekly *Torah* portion and its history, see an article entitled “Unpacking the *Parashah*” I wrote in the April 2020 issue of the *Dispatch from Jerusalem*.

Studying in Community

Long before moving to Israel nine and a half years ago, my wife Robbie and I started the practice of looking deeply into the weekly portion. But studying alongside the Jewish community here in the Land has added an entirely new dimension.

Observant Jewish people are deeply steeped in the *Torah* and study the portion for each week closely. The *Torah* is said to be like a diamond: turn it slowly in the light and ever new insights will be found. In fact, it is common here in Israel to hear ordinary people discussing the weekly *Torah* portion wherever you go. For instance, I was recently at a baby naming ceremony talking with several young Orthodox Jewish men. One of them brought up a question he had been

trying to solve from that week’s portion. A lively, 10-minute discussion ensued in which we all joined in with our own understanding and ideas.

Drinking from the Well

In Israel—and especially here in Jerusalem—a plethora of resources are available to help one study the weekly *Torah* portion. Many rabbis—both ancient and modern—have written insights that they have gleaned over the years from their study of the weekly portion in the original Hebrew.

Each year, Robbie and I try to purchase a different volume or set of volumes by different *Torah* scholars to read their commentary along with the weekly chapters. Some choose to write about a universal subject within the portions, such as leadership principles or how the portion relates to the Land of Israel, for instance. Some bring out the lesser known—but often profound—insights of Jewish sages from past centuries. And it is common to close with a life



application for today, which helps us to better live out our faith as God intends.

There are also many opportunities to hear gifted Jewish teachers expound in person on the weekly *Torah* portion. I often tell people that one of the challenges of living in Jerusalem is how to structure our time. We could literally be out every night of the week learning with gifted teachers, but there is only so much one can absorb and put into practice.

The Same, but Different

Another blessing of living in Israel and studying the *Torah* portion here is what I call unity within diversity. As God predicted in His word, the Jewish people have returned home from all over the world after being in exile for almost 2,000 years. There is a degree of unity in living among a Jewish majority who study the same *Torah* portion and honor the biblical festivals together. And yet, there is immense diversity in how they pray and practice their faith. Here in Israel, we are able to experience a wide range of Jewish life when it comes to prayer in the synagogue, practice in the homes and so forth. While the commentaries of some Jewish sages are accepted and followed by nearly all Jewish communities, each stream of Judaism also has voices and writers that are unique. Jewish people from North Africa, for instance, can have very different views than Jewish communities that developed in Eastern Europe. Yet despite these diversities, all of them focus their lives around the same *Torah*, annual festival cycle and core values.

Digging Deeper

One of those core values is learning and asking insightful questions. You can be sure that within the Jewish community, whether in Cape Town, Melbourne or any other place in the world, everyone is studying the weekly *Torah* portion. And, if prompted by someone with a true learner's heart, they will probably be happy to share what they are currently learning or how they have seen a principle from the weekly portion lived out in the past. Proverbs 27:17 comes to mind, teaching "*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another*" (NASB). Discussing opinions about the biblical text helps everyone to further clarify their own understanding. In fact, it is the most Jewish or Hebraic thing in the world to ask questions. Next time you read through the Gospel narratives, notice how often Jesus (Yeshua) answers questions with questions. Already at 12 years old, he stayed behind in Jerusalem, much to the consternation of his parents. And where did they eventually find him? Luke 2:46 says, "*Then, after*

three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (NASB).

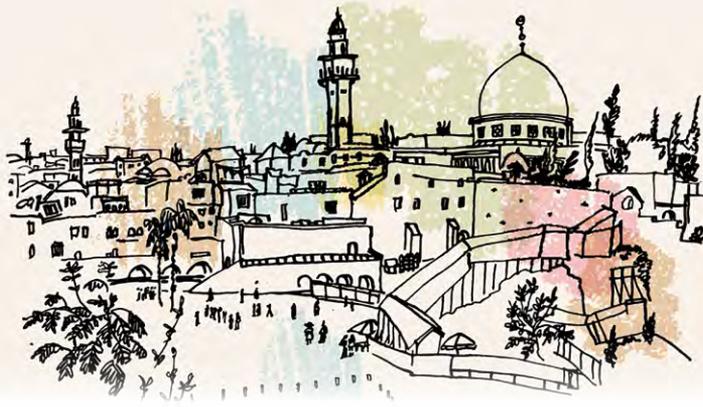
Make it Your Own

I encourage you to make reading and studying the Bible a regular discipline in your own life. It will enrich your walk with the Lord. You may even want to try studying with someone else who can ask you questions and share additional insights. Then come to visit Jerusalem and study the Bible in its original setting for yourself. There truly is nothing like it!



Terry Mason, *Director of International Development*





The Quirks of Israel

Tours to the Promised Land

From the pen of Peter Fast, national director of Bridges for Peace Canada and the future CEO of Bridges for Peace International, comes the third installment of the *Quirks of Israel*. Join Peter on a journey through the wonderfully peculiar culture, traditions, heritage and daily life of this singular nation as he unpacks, introduces and celebrates the quirky aspects that make Israel so wonderfully unique.

Many Christians I've met have desired to see the Holy Land, the Land of the Bible, the Promised Land or simply Israel. Some have had that desire since childhood. It makes complete sense. If anyone has a love for the Bible, it should be natural to want to visit and walk the land of the Bible.

Some people go to Israel alone or with friends. Others go with a spouse or as a family. They go for a variety of reasons; whether they're Christian, Jewish or just anybody who is keen to see what Israel is all about. Some people go to backpack the Israel Trail or the Jesus Trail. Others go to photograph Israel, celebrate one of the biblical feasts, study at a university or *yeshivah* (religious school), lay on a beach, serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), volunteer at an amazing organization like Bridges for Peace, attend a conference or participate in a program. Another reason—probably the main reason—people of all backgrounds and stripes go to Israel is to tour. In 2019, the year before COVID-19 hit, over 4 million people visited Israel. The majority were Christian tourists.

I've been at Ben Gurion Airport many times, waiting on arrivals, when suddenly the doors will open with a whoosh and streaming out will be hundreds of Nigerian Christians. The men are typically dressed in elegant suits, while the women wear the most colorful clothing. The Israelis waiting on arrivals will gawk at them in wonder. It's like watching a magical parade. Everything, from the suits, ties, dresses and head wraps make for an incredible sight that ushers in a hush over the hall, as if it has suddenly turned into a sacred space. These African tourists will stream in, their faces lighting up with smiles as if they can see the sunshine of Israel through the exit doors beckoning them. Then, like a stampede, jubilant and animated Israeli tour guides will direct them out of the airport to their bus with typical phrases like, "Welcome to Israel, my friend! Welcome, welcome, welcome! I have a brother, Asaph, who lives in Abuja. Do you know him? Where? You have a sister in Toronto? Ah! Best place in Canada. My brother, Eli, lives there. Have you ever heard of Winn-e-peg?"

To enjoy a tour to Israel, there are a few vital necessities. The first is the tour guide. Anybody who's been on tour to Israel will know that the tour guide will either make a tour memorable or turn it into a disaster. My experience in Israel is full of great and amazing tour guides, but there are special gems. A good tour guide





will be a people magnet, a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker with a silly side to relate to the tour participants and give them an incredible time. A wonderful relationship is often formed between the tour guide and tour participants, which might last well beyond the tour.

I had a tour guide who looked like an Israeli Elvis Presley, and although I never worked up the courage to ask him to sing “Return to Sender” or “Jail House Rock,” he was brilliant. He even talked like Elvis. Perhaps Elvis really is alive and making a living in Israel as a tour guide.

Connecting to your Israeli tour guide is amazing and important. They are professional, since Israel has high standards and all the guides have to go through rigorous schooling. They don’t just grab some guy at a falafel stand and give him a tour guide badge. These are gifted people.

The second vital necessity is the beloved bus driver. Israeli tour busses are typically luxurious, with air conditioning and Wi-Fi, and usually come with their own driver at the helm. These drivers are simply phenomenal. Nothing phases them. They are highly professional, and nearly always have a brilliant smile.

These bus drivers really go above and beyond. They’ll even pull over so you can buy a box of cherries on the side of some dirt road from a Druze family. Be warned, though. If you don’t share the cherries with your driver, he’s bound to abandon you.

I also have to mention that all the bus drivers have a mysterious side to them. They seem to be incredibly popular and part of an inner circle of Israeli society. The bus driver possesses the ability to make anyone in Israel laugh, whether police, IDF soldiers or a monk or even a nun at the Mount of Beatitudes. People just can’t seem

to resist the bus driver. Even your own tour guide will roar with laughter as he’s shouting and pointing out the window, engaged in a dramatic conversation about where to eat while explaining the entire history of Masada and how many cisterns they found on the mountain.

The bus driver is a little like a superhero who’s a part of his own Avengers network. They have scores of chums, mates, pals and friends everywhere you stop all over Israel. You’ll be popping out after lunch to go to the bathroom, peruse the gift shop or simply gaze at the beauty of Israel when you’ll hear it...It usually starts as a quiet group chuckle, maybe some Hebrew or Arabic words that you don’t understand. As you go investigate the chuckle, you’ll find your bus driver hanging out with his friends, always drinking coffee. There will be hearty laughter, followed by talking in low tones—almost a whisper—followed by a cackle of shouting, more laughter and a leg slap.

What you have just witnessed is the inner circle of a bus driver’s life. These inner circles exist all over the country, at every archaeological site, hotel, restaurant and coffee shop. If you get close enough, one or two of your bus driver’s friends may gaze up at you, and your driver may acknowledge you with a nod and a slight curl of the lip that barely resembles a smile. In that moment, there’s an invisible line you do not cross. It’s safe to walk by, maybe tip your hat in a greeting, but never approach your driver’s inner circle and say, “Hey guys! What are you talking about?” Simply tip your hat, smile, nod and walk on by.

Do that, and you’ll have the most incredible bus driver, the most amazing Israeli tour guide and the most memorable tour experience in Israel.

Peter Fast, *National Director of Bridges for Peace Canada*



BARK or BITE



Nearly 90 years ago, a raving madman dedicated to the demise of European Jewry came to power in Germany. Adolf Hitler made no secret of his intense dislike for the Jewish people. In fact, he used nearly every platform at his disposal to broadcast his belief that the Jews were to blame for the ills plaguing society around him.

Despite his extreme rhetoric, many argued that Hitler's verbal crusade against the Jews would remain just that: talk. Yet 6 million murdered Jews testify to the truth that Hitler meant every word.

Today, a regime of hardline extremists dedicated to the demise of Israel are in power in Iran. The *mullahs* have made no secret of their intense hatred for the Jewish state and its people. In fact, everyone from the supreme leader to clerics to political powers-that-be to military leaders use nearly every platform at their disposal to broadcast their beliefs that Israel is to blame for the ills plaguing society.

And once again—even as the centrifuges spin and the Islamic Republic races to the nuclear finish line—many argue that Iran's verbal crusade against Israel is merely a matter of Tehran blowing off a little steam. The *mullahs*, they argue, are all bark but no bite.

Yet history has taught Israel that those with a vision for genocide are usually willing to act on their words. Jerusalem takes Iran's threats seriously. "We urge others to do the same. The Iranians use unequivocal language, and their words speak for themselves," an anonymous Israeli government official stated recently in response to yet another Iranian vow to wipe the Jewish state from the map. In fact, the Israeli official argued, if Iran wants the international community to reduce pressure, surely the *mullahs* should tone down the annihilation talk a notch. The fact that they don't, he concluded, shows how seriously they take that commitment.

Tehran's rhetoric and the world's indifference leaves Jerusalem confounded. If Iranian political, military and religious leaders across the nation continue to lead crowds in chants of "Death to Israel," why is nobody but Israel taking them at their word?



WHAT IS IRAN SAYING?

"Our stance against Israel is the same stance we have always taken. Israel is a malignant cancerous tumor in the West Asian region that has to be removed and eradicated: it is possible and it will happen."

—Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iranian supreme leader

"We will not back off from the annihilation of Israel, even one millimeter. We want to destroy Zionism in the world."

—Brig.-Gen. Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces

"If we abide by real legal laws, we should mobilize the whole Islamic world for a sharp confrontation with the Zionist regime... If we abide by the Koran, all of us should mobilize to kill."

— Mohammad Khatami, former Iranian president

"The global arrogance led by America with complicity of Israel seeks to delay the realization of an important issue, which is the destruction of the Zionist regime."

—Lotfollah Dezhkam, the representative for Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

"The destruction of this regime [Israel] is gaining ground."

—Esmail Qaani, head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp's (IRGC) Quds Force

"We shouldn't allow one day to be added to the ominous and illegitimate life of this regime [Israel]. The Army will move hand in hand with the IRGC so that the...Zionist regime will be annihilated."

—Maj.-Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander of Iran's army

"Israel must be destroyed and wiped out. There is no doubt that the Zionists must be annihilated and destroyed. This will definitely happen... I myself will hoist the flag of the Islamic Revolution in Jerusalem, Allah willing."

—Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Reza Naqdi, the IRGC deputy commander for Cultural and Social Affairs

"No other way exists apart from resolve and strength to completely eliminate the aggressive nature and to destroy Israel."

— Brig.-Gen. Gholam Reza Jalali, head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization



TOURS

Canada

EXPERIENCE ISRAEL DISCIPLESHIP TOUR

January 29–February 9, 2023

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.*

United Kingdom

SMALL, PRIVATE GROUP TOUR

Date: October, 2022. Exact dates to be announced

Hosted by: Sian Treharne

Join this small, private tour tailored to visit exclusive sites across Israel. The itinerary includes Abraham's Well, Caiaphas's House, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and Yad Lakashish, to name but a few.

United States

PASTORS STUDY TOUR

Date: January 23, 2023–February 2, 2023

Hosted by: Randy Alonso

Calling all pastors! We are happy to announce a wonderful and educational opportunity for you. This unique study tour will bring you up close and personal to the Land of the Bible. You will be enriched with knowledge and experience that will broaden the scope of your understanding and ministry. This opportunity is available to pastors and one companion, including a family member or a colleague.

BIBLICAL HOLY LAND TOUR 2023

Date: June 26, 2023–July 5, 2023

Hosted by: Jill Czelusta

You are invited to join a 12-day, biblical Holy Land tour with Bridges for Peace representative host Jill Czelusta. Journey through the Land of the Bible to experience the Scriptures coming alive for the journey of a lifetime.

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

VOLUNTEER *With Us*

Administrative Assistant

The position requires someone skilled in administration and organization. Experience with Microsoft Office Suite will be helpful. (Long-term)

Chinese Language Translator

Fluency in both English and Mandarin is essential to translate teaching resources into Chinese. Communication and administration skills are required. This volunteer position will be based in Israel. (Long-term)

Graphic Designer

Creative skills in graphic design and desktop publishing with Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and WordPress experience preferred. Ability to maintain fast-paced deadline schedule to produce quality material. Position also includes administrative and logistical component. (Long-term)

Home Repair Team

Position requires the ability to do general repairs and maintenance in BFP facilities as well as home repairs in the Jewish community. We are looking for people with general handyman skills. (Long-term)

Journalist

Works in our news department, writing both hard and soft news stories for publication on our website as well as feature stories for the *Dispatch from Jerusalem*. English proficiency required. (Long-term)

Proofreader

Position requires excellent command of English grammar and an eye for detail as you correct typographical errors and edit documents. Solid knowledge of Microsoft Word, including track changes, is crucial. (Long-term)

Web Developer

Experienced WordPress web developer to provide front-end and back-end programming concepts and concerns, including security and structure. (Long-term)

The pandemic has left us short-staffed and in need of both long- and short-term volunteers to fill the gap. Join our team of volunteers in Israel to make a difference in the lives of the Israeli people.



Chicken Shawarma

Shawarma features high on the list of Israel's favorite fast foods—and for good reason. This meal-on-the-go features juicy morsels of meat stuffed into a warm pita or flatbread, topped with crispy French fries, salad and sauces to taste, making for the perfect marriage of flavors and textures. You'll find a stand or a shop selling *shawarma* on nearly every street in every town or city in

Israel, each claiming the renown of serving up the best *shawarma* in the Promised Land.

If you're craving a *shawarma* fix but can't visit Israel, our blend of herbs and spices for a distinctive Israeli flavor will fool your taste buds into thinking that you're right here, sampling the best *shawarma* in the Promised Land.

Ingredients

For the marinade

- 1 ¾ tsp. paprika
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. coriander
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 1 ¼ tsp. turmeric
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 cloves garlic, finely minced
- ½ cup olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon

For the shawarma:

- 3 chicken breasts
- Oil for frying
- 5 pita or flatbreads
- 1 cup purple cabbage
- ½ onion, diced
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 3 tomatoes, diced
- ½ cup dill pickles
- Prepared French fries
- Hummus to taste
- Tahini to taste

Directions

For the chicken:

1. Slice the chicken breasts into bite-sized pieces along the grain of the meat.
2. Mix together all the dry spices.
3. Add the garlic, olive oil and lemon juice, and combine well.
4. Pour the marinade over the chicken pieces and mix well until every piece is coated. Set aside for 1–6 hours to marinate and allow the flavors to develop.
5. In a frying pan, fry the marinated chicken over medium heat for 10 minutes or until golden brown.

To Assemble:

1. Stuff your pita or flatbread with a mix of chicken, hummus, cabbage, onion, cucumber, tomato, dill pickles and French fries.
2. Drizzle over tahini.

Serves 5



Fifth Ave

Tens of Thousands March in New York City to Show Support for Israel

Growing up, Jeremy and Rachel Mazurek used to march up Fifth Avenue in New York City with their schools to celebrate Israel, waving to family and friends on the sidelines who cheered them on during the Israel Day Parade.

The couple, who lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia, returned to do the same on May 22 for the 58th annual “Celebrate Israel Parade,” this time with their three children—Yosef, Gabriella and Eliana—who are now marching with their own schools.

“We’ve been coming since we were little in the 1980s, and it’s exciting to be back post-COVID,” said Jeremy Mazurek. “It gives us a sense of pride, and it’s very emotional. We’re happy to bring the next generation to show our support for Israel.”

Yosef Mazurek, a 10th-grader at the Mesivta High School of Greater Philadelphia, believes that the rally shows that “people really do care, and it makes me happy to see people supporting Israel and that the whole world doesn’t hate us.”

As this was the first parade since the pandemic started, the theme was “*Kulanu B’Yachad*” (“Together Again”). That sentiment was visible on floats and T-shirts worn by participants.

Despite temperatures well into the 90s [32°C+], tens of thousands of people of all ages walked the 1.5-mile [2.4-km.]



parade route to show their support for Israel. They waved flags, danced, sang, shook blue-and-white pom-poms and even blew bubbles at the crowds. Signs were held by groups affiliated with schools, synagogues and other groups, and a solid representation came from local and national leaders, including New York Governor Kathy Hochul.

“It’s heartwarming to see such a huge crowd,” said Robin Feit of Long Island, NY, whose son, Marc, was marching with his school. “It’s a real morale boost and pride to know there’s so much support for Israel. We hear so much in the media about anti-Semitism, but this turnout shows they are not going to stop us.”

Among those who experienced the Israel Day Parade for the first time was Dan Elbaum, head of the North America division for the Jewish Agency of Israel.

“It was amazing,” he said, “to see so many people turn out to cheer, despite the weather. It was really inspirational.”

The parade sends a message that despite two years of coronavirus lockdowns and occasional political disagreements, he said, “a significant amount of American Jews—not just Jews from New York but from around the country—come to wave the Israeli flag and show their solidarity, and to be there in a physical sense for the State of Israel.”

Faygie Holt, *Jewish News Syndicate*

BDS Fail: Israel Swears in an Arab Supreme Court Justice

The charge that Israel is an apartheid state was dealt another blow as the Jewish state swore in its first Muslim Supreme court justice in May.

Advocates for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement frequently level the apartheid accusation at Israel. Taken from the former South African movement, apartheid refers to racial segregation, blocking people from holding certain jobs, owning land, serving in government and having access to different services based on race.

Actual life in Israel flies in the face of the apartheid libel every day.

Judge Khaled Kabub was sworn in at a ceremony at the President's Residence in Jerusalem. Another 82 judges were also sworn in at the ceremony for a variety of court positions.

Though Christian Arabs have served in the position before, Kabub, 64, born in Jaffa, is the first Muslim to serve on the 15-member Supreme Court.

Israel's Supreme Court is the most powerful judiciary body in the state, and deals with Israel's society, its economy and the conflict with the Palestinians.

Kabub was previously serving as the vice president of Tel Aviv's District Court and is now replacing former Justice Neal Hendel, who retired from his position this year.

The ceremony was attended by top Israeli officials, including President Isaac Herzog and Supreme Court President Esther Hayut.

Kate Norman, *Bridges for Peace*



Arab Israeli Gold-medalist Kickboxer Waves Israeli flag at World Cup in Turkey

Arab Israeli kickboxer Loay Sakas won the gold medal at the seventh International Turkish Open Kickboxing World Cup in Istanbul, held in May.

The Christian athlete raised an Israeli flag after defeating Slovakian opponent Marek Karlik in the under-75-kilogram [165-lb.] weight class.

Sakas told Israel's *Channel 12* that he hopes to encourage coexistence by representing Israel in international competitions. "I'm first and foremost an Israeli citizen," said Sakas. "I do not care about Judaism, Islam, Christianity or Druze. I represent the country and want everyone here to live in peace with each other."

Speaking about his decision to hold up Israel's flag following his victory, he explained: "I expect every Israeli citizen to wave the Israeli flag. I do not try to rile up people or anything like that. I wave the flag because I am an Israeli citizen."

The Israeli athlete acknowledged receiving some criticism from Arab residents in his hometown of Kafr Yasif for representing Israel on the world stage, but said, "I also get a lot of support from a lot of people for what I do, and I concentrate on that," according to the *Times of Israel*.

"People can think what they want; I am Israeli," he noted. "If I walk down the street and I see someone attacking a Jew, I will protect him."

To qualify for the finals, Sakas had to win a match against a Moroccan athlete, which he did. His opponent, however, refused to shake his hand at the end of the fight. Sakas noted that during the World Cup, the Moroccan delegation and its entourage "shouted at us all sorts of things during the fight and made a small demonstration, but, of course, I did not react to it."

Jewish News Syndicate



Bridges for Peace



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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 bank in Jerusalem.

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 20 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 91,000 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.

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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, re-wiring and installing cabinets.

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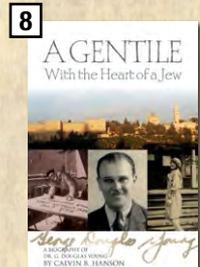
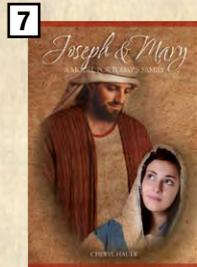
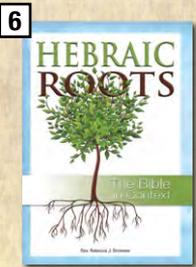
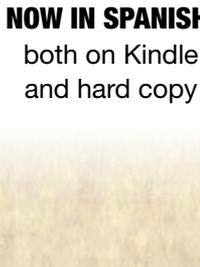
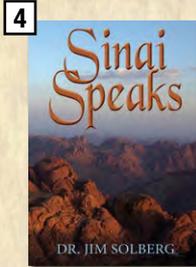
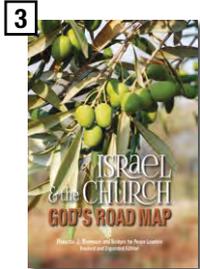
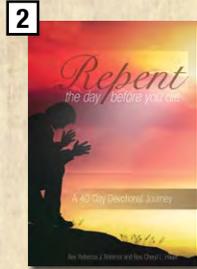
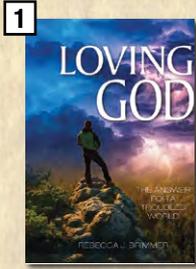
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***THE STREETS OF THE CITY SHALL BE FULL OF
BOYS AND GIRLS PLAYING IN ITS STREETS.***

Zechariah 8:5



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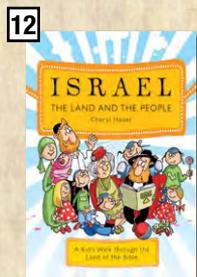
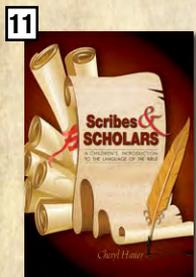
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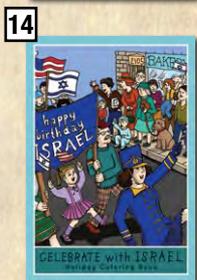
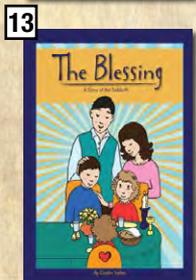
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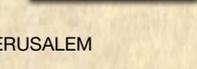
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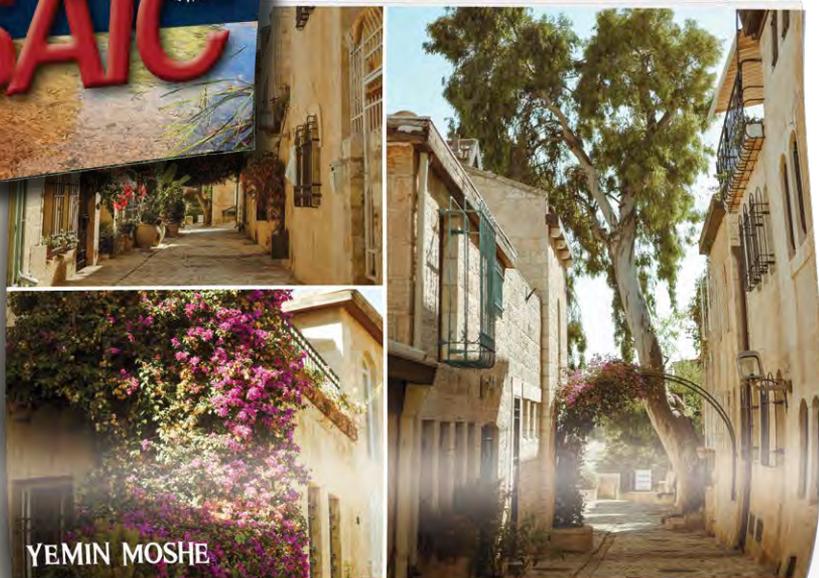
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FEED A CHILD PROGRAM
Hope for a Future!
Your sponsorship for one year will provide an Israeli school child with critically needed school books that parents can't afford, plus a backpack, school supplies, a daily hot lunch, a gift on their birthday and more.

YEMIN MOSHE

AUGUST 2023
Av-Eiul 5783

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 Av	15 Av	16 Av	17 Av	18 Av	19 Av	20 Av
21 Av	22 Av	23 Av	24 Av	25 Av	26 Av	27 Av
28 Av	29 Av	30 Av	1 Elul	2 Elul	3 Elul	4 Elul
5 Elul	6 Elul	7 Elul	8 Elul	9 Elul	10 Elul	11 Elul
12 Elul	13 Elul	14 Elul	15 Elul	16 Elul	17 Elul	18 Elul
19 Elul	20 Elul	21 Elul	22 Elul	23 Elul	24 Elul	25 Elul
26 Elul	27 Elul	28 Elul	29 Elul	30 Elul	31 Elul	1 Tishrei

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

25 7 Chesvan
26 8 Chesvan
27 9 Chesvan
28 10 Chesvan
29 11 Chesvan
30 12 Chesvan
31 Chesvan

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Give an Israeli Child the Chance to Succeed

One in nearly three Israeli children lives at or below the national poverty line, trapped in a cycle of lack. We are committed to help break that vicious cycle. Through our Feed a Child program, we support hundreds of needy Israeli children, lifting them out of poverty and offering hope for a bright future.

Would you join our effort to ensure that every Israeli child has what they need to succeed?

