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American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai ...Making the Old City young Again

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Parashat Vayeilech / פרשת וילך Shabbat Shuva / שבת שובה Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 5:36 PM, Oct 7, 2016 5 Tishrei 5777

AS WE BEGIN THE YEAR THAT MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE REDEMPTION OF JERUSALEM IN 1967 (5727)
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A

שנה טובה ומתוקה
A Happy and Healthy New Year!

5777 - תשע"ז *May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר) of Gold. (זהב')*

Jerusalem Divrei Torah

The centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish People is indisputable and is the core of our mission. Our Divrei Torah by Rabbi Yosef Bronstein focus on Jerusalem and its connection to the weekly Torah portion. For a pdf to discuss at the Shabbat table, please [click here](#). To sponsor a Dvar Torah please [click here](#).

The City of Torah and Prayer

Our haftorah focuses on the way that repentance and redemption are intertwined. The haftorah begins with the Jewish people engaging in teshuvah and concludes with a triumphant return to the Land of Israel. As the last haftorah of the "shiva de-nechemta," the seven haftorahs that focus on the future redemption, and the week before Yom Kippur, this Shabbat represents the nexus between these themes of repentance and redemption. With this in mind, let us closely examine the form of "teshuvah" discussed in the haftorah that can lead to the ultimate redemption.

While the opening verse exhorts in a general fashion "Return, Israel, to Hashem your God," the second verse is already more specific: "Take with you words and return to Hashem." What words are integral to our teshuvah process? The midrash identifies two verbal activities that have led to redemption in the past – learning Torah and prayer. Our ancestors in Egypt, Yehoshua, the Shoftim, Shmuel were all saved in the merit of these "words." So too regarding the "people of Yerushalayim" who angered Hashem and were exiled from the holy city. It is the words of Torah and prayer that will aid our return to Hashem and consequently Hashem's bringing us back to Yerushalayim.

Perhaps this is the background for the two national activities that occur in Yerushalayim which are associated with this Shabbat – Hakhel and the service of Yom Kippur. Hakhel is the quintessential mitzvah of communal learning. All of the Jewish people are to review Sefer Devarim together at a single ceremony – the only time that the entire nation is to simultaneously learn the same section of Torah.

Yom Kippur represents a day of national prayer. While during the times of the Beit HaMikdash the service of the Kohen Gadol took center stage, it is logical to assume that the average Jew who was busily watching the Kohen Gadol was engaged in prayer as we are on Yom Kippur. It is in the merit of these "words" of Torah and prayer and we will be able to both engage in proper teshuvah and properly conclude the summer theme of redemption.

It is no coincidence that these national activities of Torah learning and prayer take place in Yerushalayim. First, as the capital and unifier of the Jewish people it is a fitting place for nationwide spiritual endeavors. But also, the midrash identifies the "people of Yerushalayim" as the ones who will be redeemed through the words of Torah and prayer. Yerushalayim is integral to the matrix of repentance and redemption and therefore needs to be the location of the "words"

Mayor Nir Barkat Joins Ateret Cohanim at the dedication of memorial outside of Beit Wittenberg

At the spot where Rabbis Nechemia Lavi and Aharon Banita were murdered by Arab terrorists last year, the Jerusalem municipality and Ateret Cohanim establish a memorial to their memory outside of Beit Wittenberg. Rabbi Lavi's father speaks to those in attendance (In Hebrew)



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The Jerusalem Post - Israel News

Right-wing NGO denies working to evict Palestinians from Silwan

[see full article by clicking here](#)

Homes in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, pictured left. (Photo by: **MARC ISRAEL SELLEM**)
By DANIEL K.

EISENBUD

of Torah and prayer are most heard.

May we merit to merit true repentance and redemption through the words of Torah and prayer, together with the people of Yerushalayim!

[1]Hoshaya 14:2.

[2]Midrash Shemot Rabbah 38:4.



Rosh Hashana 5777 marked the beginning of the 50th year since the redemption of Jerusalem during the Six Day War. It was our soldiers and our leaders who looked upward with trust and faith as they hoisted the Israeli flag on the Har Habayit and lovingly touched the stones of the Kotel, the Western Wall, after 2000 years of physical separation. Our commitment and deep appreciation to their service and sacrifice will IY"Y ensure that Jerusalem always remains in the secure hands of the Jewish people. Protecting the families who live there today is our duty and responsibility. This cannot be their struggle alone. **Become their partner. [Please Donate Now](#)**

In the merit of your caring and tzedaka may you be granted all the blessings that Hashem can bestow upon you.



WITTENBERG PLAY CENTER



10/06/2016

Ateret Cohanim:
There is "no force or coercion used in any circumstance – only free sale, free will and financial payments."

Ateret Cohanim, a rightwing NGO that aids Jews in facilitating legal purchases of residential Arab properties in east Jerusalem, dismissed on Wednesday a report by two left-wing NGOs alleging that it is colluding with the government to evict the primarily Palestinian community of Silwan.

The report, published by Ir Amim and Peace Now, entitled "Broken Trust: State Involvement in Settlement in Batan al-Hawa, Silwan," claims that Ateret Cohanim has been working since 2001 to evict Arab residents in Silwan's Batan al-Hawa to create "a large Israeli settlement," citing Beit Yonatan, a six-story dwelling that houses 10 families, and Beit Hadvash, a small one-unit building situated nearby.

Located near the Temple Mount, the Batan al-Hawa neighborhood has a population of approximately 10,000 Palestinians. It was formerly a thriving Yemenite Jewish community, before Arab rioting in 1929 and 1936-37 violently displaced 150 Jewish families living there.

Last June, despite strong political opposition, the Jerusalem Municipality's Planning and Building Committee approved construction of a residential building near Beit Yonatan.

The decision followed several years of delays due to concerns by government officials and activists regarding the geopolitical implications surrounding the structure's approval.

"Over the ensuing decade, settlement in the area was limited to these two buildings [Beit Yonatan and Beit Hadvash], comprising a total of seven or eight housing units," the report stated. "Today, the primary tool used to realize settlement plans in Batan al-Hawa is the forced eviction and removal of Palestinian families who have lived in the neighborhood for decades."

According to the report, claims are based on the argument that the title to the area was held by the Benvenisti Trust, a Jewish trust active there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The land in question covers an area of 5.2 dunams, and is currently home to some 90 Palestinian families.

Based on Israeli law, the report states that land belonging to Jewish trusts prior to 1948 is managed by the Israeli General Custodian, which it claimed is enabling Ateret Cohanim to illegally take over the disputed properties.

"In 2001, individuals with close ties to Ateret Cohanim were appointed as trustees to the Benvenisti Trust, and in 2002 the General Custodian transferred the land to its possession, thereby empowering the trustees to advance their eviction claims," the report claimed.

It also alleged that via the General Custodian, the Benvenisti Trust has purchased additional tracts of land previously managed by the General Custodian "without tender and without the residents currently living on the plots being afforded an opportunity to purchase them."

The NGOs go on to claim that Ateret Cohanim has "purchased properties from Palestinian residents using questionable means," which the report contends are engineered to evict over 100 families to create "the largest settlement compound in the historic basin of the Old City."

Wishes Everyone a Shana Tova



Join our BBQ in Kidmat Zion during Chol HaMoed

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The outcome, the report stated, is designed to “significantly tighten the emerging ring of settlements around the Old City, and severely undermine the possibility of a future two-state solution in Jerusalem.”

Not so, said Ateret Cohanim’s executive director, Daniel Luria, who on Wednesday dismissed the report as grossly “biased and flawed,” both ideologically and legally.

“The radical left-wing organizations behind the report simply have an agenda which opposes the realization of the centuries-old Zionist dream of returning to our Jerusalem...

and an agenda which promotes [an] anti-democratic stance of free and open real estate sales, regardless of religion, creed, or race,” said Luria.

“Ateret Cohanim does not believe in Judenrein areas, whereby there should be areas, free of Jews, and whereby Jews should be forbidden to purchase and live in any neighborhood.

“Ateret Cohanim believes that Jews have the natural, historical, legal, moral and religious right to purchase in any neighborhood in the “holy basin” – or anywhere in Jerusalem – and to be able to live in peaceful coexistence with their Arab neighbors.”

Luria said all the NGO’s acquisitions of Arab properties remain unequivocally legal, and are undertaken to further its mission to lawfully reacquire Jewish homes to rebuild a Jewish presence in neighborhoods of the capital where Jews were driven out en masse by Arab mobs during the British Mandate.

“By returning to these old Jewish neighborhoods, and paying good money and acting in accordance to the law, we are both fulfilling the Zionist dream, and righting a historical wrong,” he said.

“We live in a democratic country of law and order, not a banana republic. There is no force or coercion used in any circumstance, [only] free sale, free will, [and] financial payments.”

Moreover, noting ongoing death threats against Arabs who sell property to Jewish buyers, Luria said such transactions are far from routine, and therefore “one should take some of the 1r Amim [and] Peace Now claims with a grain of salt.”

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Your gift helps us fund the following security projects:

- **4 Static security cameras requested by Old City Police on very strategic rooftops: \$3,000 each**
- **3 Moveable - rotating cameras required for other strategic rooftops: \$8,500 each**
- **2 Security systems to be synchronized with Old City Police systems to guard Beit Wittenberg & Beit Rubin \$30,000**
- **First ever Pinat Cham in the Old City for all security personnel and police: \$42,000**

Help us establish a critically needed “rest and refreshment” spot at the entrance to Beit Wittenberg for our first responders. *They protect us. Let’s show them our appreciation.* (projected cost \$42,000)

- **Free food, coffee and a restroom which will accommodate the 8 hour schedule of 100 security personnel**
- **Outside of Beit Wittenberg on the spot where Rabbi Nechemia Lavi HY”D and Rabbi Aharon Banita HY”D were murdered last September**



CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM 5727-5777

OHEL YITZCHAK

OUR JERUSALEM IS EAGER TO WELCOME YOU!
Tour with us during the High Holidays and Succot




BEIT WITTENBERG

KOTEL HAKATAN



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5777 - תשע"ז May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר) of Gold. ("זהב")
May G-d's City - Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for the Jewish People. May it be a year of "עז"- strength for Jerusalem and Am Yisrael. Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious educational institutes.



SILVER LININGS
 a movie produced by American Friends of Ateret Cohanim to understand our unique connection to Jerusalem

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