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



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Parashat Mishpatim / פרשת משפטים Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 4:36 PM, February 5, 2016 26 Shvat 5776



### The Heroism of Hadar

by Yishai Fleisher

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Hadar Cohen was a hero. She helped spot suspicious behavior, and was quick to respond when the attack began, she cocked her weapon, shot and killed an attacker. Other Jewish 19-year-olds around the world - they don't have the opportunity to be Jewish heroes on this level.

Think about her name - Hadar - it means beauty, or majesty. Cohen - the ultimate Jewish name, with genes going all the way back to Aaron. Cohen also means priest, or really, minister.

The whole Jewish people are called a Kingdom of Priests - we are all Cohanim on some level.

So Hadar Cohen is another way of describing Israel - a beautiful and heroic minister. Indeed, with every one of these attacks we



learn of the Hadar - the beauty and the courage - of Am Yisrael, the Jewish people, and we send that message to the world.

At the moments when Hadar was struggling with the terrorists, less than a kilometer away I was sitting on Jaffa Road, enjoying the beautiful weather when suddenly emergency vehicles began flying in front of me, disturbing the peaceful moment. Indeed, the Jihad wants to turn our country into terrorized land to strike fear in our hearts - to fill our streets with blood, fear, and darkness.

But we won't let let them. We will keep building, beautifying, and fighting. With amazing women like Hadar we will fight our enemies and give birth to the next generation. Solomon's famous song Eishet Chayil, a Woman of Valor, says "Oz VeHadar Levusha" - she will be clothed with strength and beauty - indeed this a blessing for all of Israel.

Blessings, Yishai Fleisher

#### Kfar HaTeimanim PROJECTS:

- **First Nursery** to be built in the Yemenite Village to accomodate the influx of babies and toddlers in Beit Rachel (\$95,000)
- **Playroom** being built for older children in Beit Ovadiah (\$25,000)
- **Security station** at entrance of Beit Rachel - to protect the entrance to the neighborhood (security doors, cameras, intercom, screen for guard: \$35,000)
- **Spectacular scenic lookout** from rooftop of Beit Rachel with view of Ir David, Old City, Temple Mount and Kings Garden (includes new flooring, guardrail and possible pergola: A major kavod in Jerusalem for a special donor-\$75,000)

***Partner with us as we continue to make the "dream" come true***

## 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](#)***

### Yerushalayim, The Storehouse of Civil Law

There is a deep connection between the laws of this week's parsha and Yerushalayim. One of the opening midrashim on this week's parsha reads as follows:[1]

Just as Hashem warned the Jews regarding the Ten Commandments, so too He warned them regarding proper judgement. Why? Because the world is dependent on it... and with [proper adjudication] Tzion is built as the verse states: 'Tzion will be redeemed with law (*mishpat*) and its captives with righteousness.'[2]

The merit of observing the laws of this week's parsha will lead to the rebuilding of Yerushalayim. Why? What is the link between Yerushalayim and halachik civil law?

Perhaps an answer lies in a different midrashic passage.[3] The midrash compares knowledge of Torah to scrumptious grain, and fear of heaven to the building that stores the grain. While the grain is of obvious importance, without a proper storehouse it is worthless as it will soon be blown away by the wind. So too, without proper fear of heaven the Torah knowledge that one acquires will ultimately amount to nothing.

This beautiful midrash concludes that so too the prophets screamed that Tzion will be redeemed with laws. Here we have a connection between Yerushalayim, civil law, and fear of heaven. This association implies that Yerushalayim and civil law as well, are a form of an essential storehouse.

The Torah's civil law helps create the fabric of society. While on the one hand it is not inherently spiritual, it is an essential element in having interpersonal relationships modeled on the values of the Torah. It is only within a society that is observing and implementing the

Torah's civil law that the broader ideals and values of Judaism can be manifest. In this sense, our parsha represents a prerequisite, a setting within which the rest of the Torah can come to fruition. Civil law, then, is similar to fear of heaven in that it creates the bedrock framework upon which the rest of Torah is built.

The same is true regarding Yerushalayim. In a very literal sense, Yerushalayim is the setting in which the ideals of the Torah can be fully realized. We can only properly connect with Hashem and feel His presence when we are in the proper setting – Yerushalayim. It is for this reason that Yerushalayim is so essential for the ultimate redemption. Yerushalayim is the foundation which is necessary to have in place before the Divine presence could be properly experienced.

To summarize, fear of heaven, civil law and Yerushalayim are all foundational, setting creating elements that are prerequisites for further growth. Therefore, it is in the merit of civil law that Yerushalayim will be rebuilt.

[1]Shemot Rabbah 30:15.

[2]Yeshayahu 1:27.

[3]Shemot Rabbah 30:16.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

In this week's chug the girls learned about the life of Rav Kook ZT"L  
**at the Wittenberg Children's Center**  
 and tried their hand at some creative drawings.



the view from the Yemenite Village

## Support Our Ongoing Projects

Beit Wittenberg Childrens and Older Youth  
 Activities Center \$3000  
 Four Yaldei Tzion V'Yerushalayim Nurseries \$2000  
 Monthly Hosting of Students in our neighborhoods  
 for Shabbat: \$1800

Sponsor the monthly shiur in memory of  
 Rav Nechemiah Lavi HY"D on Sefer Nechemia: \$360

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**AM YISRAEL IS NEEDED NOW.  
 TOMORROW IS TOO LATE.**

## Additional Ongoing Projects

### Security Projects:

- Self defense classes for youth
- Cameras, lighting, pepper spray

**Renovation and dedication of apartments in the area to add Jewish families or students**

**Major restoration of Beit Wittenberg** as a monumental heritage house (Mark Twain also stayed in the building in 1867)

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