

# American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat Vayeilech / פרשת וילך Shabbat Shuva Lighting in Jerusalem 6:01 PM, September 18,2015 Tishrei 5, 5776

## 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](#)

### Shabbat, Teshuvah and the Beit ha-Mikdash

The Shabbat between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is known as Shabbat Shuvah and has Teshuvah as its theme. While there is a special connection between this Shabbat and teshuva, in truth, Shabbat Shuvah simply highlights an inherent aspect of every Shabbat.

The Midrash[1] relates that when Adam sinned and ate from the Eitz ha-Da'at, some of the angels lobbied Hashem for a capital punishment. It was Shabbat that stood before Hashem and pleaded with Hashem in Adam's defense. After Adam received the more lenient punishment, he burst out in a song of praise for Shabbat - "Mizmor Shir le-Yom ha-Shabbat"[2] – and declared "all future generations will learn from me that anyone who confesses his sins and abandons them will be saved from the fires of Gehinom."

This midrash indicates that Adam's ode to Shabbat is simultaneously a proclamation about the efficacy of Teshuvah. In what way are Shabbat and Teshuva connected? The Maharal explains that teshuva is much more than a reaction that each person has to their individual sins. Teshuva, which was created before the world, is a way of reconnecting with the ideal reality that existed in Gan Eden prior to the first sin that tragically caused this ideal world order to crumble.[3] As Rav Kook explains, in the few hours that Adam lived in Gan Eden he was privy to perceive the ultimate divinity that is manifest in every physical item. The spiritual substratum of the world that is hidden from most humans was paramount and perceivable.[4]

Shabbat as well is a time when this super-human perspective is manifest. In its restful state of being a taste of the World to Come, Shabbat allows us to tap into the spiritual reality that existed in Gan Eden prior to Adam's sin. Perhaps this is why on Shabbat we are required to enjoy a delicious meal – even the physical act of eating can take on a new character when perceived in the light of Shabbat.

In a word, then, both Teshuva and Shabbat allow us to touch the ideal spiritual reality that existed in Gan Eden prior to Adam's sin. Therefore, a Mizmor dedicated to Shabbat is one that is spurred by Adam's teshuvah.[5] This being the case, it is no wonder that the Mizmor which begins with Shabbat and teshuva concludes with the Beit ha-Mikdash:

*A righteous man will flourish like a date palm, like a cedar in the Lebanon he will grow tall. Planted in the House of Hashem, in the courtyards of our God they will flourish.*[6]

If Teshuva and Shabbat are the mechanism and the time to connect to the pre-sin world of Gan Eden, then the Beit ha-Mikdash is the place where this most ideally occurs. The Beit ha-Mikdash is a remnant of Gan Eden and the location

## Rosh Hashana 5776

### Dear Friends:

As we herald in 5776 and begin a new Jewish year, our hearts and minds are directed towards Jerusalem, the eternal, undivided capital of the Jewish People. American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai has embraced the Old City of Jerusalem and the neighborhoods surrounding the Temple Mount for the last 36 years. We ask you to be our partners as we provide for the charitable, educational and security needs of so many of the pioneering children and their families, the Yeshiva students and their institutions, who now reside, study and pray in the redeemed buildings and neighborhoods of the Old Yishuv. Join us for the sake of Jerusalem, the crown of the Priests, Ateret Cohanim.

### What have we done in 5775 and what do we hope to accomplish in 5776?

**The Yemenite Village – overlooking the Temple Mount from the South** – Three new homes, Beit Rachel, Beit Frumkin and Beit Ovadiah are in the process of being renovated even as they are already the homes to new families and their children. Today over 48 little ones are growing up in the "hotbed" area that the world calls Silwan. They need a place to play and we need to give them a playground in Beit Frumkin, a playroom in Beit Ovadiah, and a steel pergola to protect them in Beit HaDvash. And for our Yeshiva students and families we need to provide an outside protected area for those attending the restored Yemenite Synagogue (Beit Knesset Ohel Shlomo).

**Kidmat Zion – future Jewish neighborhood of 280-320 residential units** – near the security fence and Abu Dis, east of the Mount of Olives – has become the home to nine families. They need security cameras and sensors, fencing and lighting, electric gates for Beit Sara and Beit HaAchim, protective fire prevention equipment, and a secure guard booth.

**Beit Wittenberg – the historic hotel, former home of the late Prime Minister and brave warrior, Ariel Sharon and favorite spot of Mark Twain – is in the process of being renovated.** Our Mark Twain Center will serve as an educational center for American political leaders, students and tourists. Recent visits to the "center in progress" by US Congressmen and Senators have shown how valuable is the historical connection between the United States and Jewish Jerusalem. Beit Wittenberg also serves as an afterschool center for children ages 3-12. Here they explore the world of computers, paint, exercise and enjoy being children on our rooftop playground away from the rocks, Molotov cocktails and anti-Semitic slurs hurled at them by their neighbors.

where we can see Hashem most manifestly. It is no surprise, that Yom Kippur, the day of teshuvah which is called "Shabbat", is centered around the service of the Kohen Gadol in the Beit ha-Mikdash. It is only there that we can truly witness, as much as humanly possible, the revelation of the Shechina.

[1] Pirkei de-Rebbi Eliezer, perek 18.

[2] Tehillim perek 92.

[3] Chiddushei Aggadot Nedarim 39b, Netiv ha-Teshuvah perek .3

[4] Shemonah Kevatzim 3:66.

[5] See Rav Chaim Sabbato's analysis of this connection at <http://www.ybm.org.il/hebrew/LessonArticle.aspx?item=3034>.

[6] Tehillim 92:13.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

**Maalei HaZeitim Nurseries** – The Mount of Olives today is more than a cemetery, B"H. It is now a thriving community with hundreds of families. Our Yaldei Zion V'Yerushalayim nurseries in Maalei Hazeitim alone, service over 60 children so both parents can work. American Friends of Ateret Cohanim supports three other nurseries in the Old City and we need to expand the playgrounds as the families continue to grow.  
**Shaar HaPrachim - Flowers Gate and Damascus Gate** community. Guarding the Old City from the north, this growing community needs its playground renovated and necessary security expanded to meet the growing needs of the children.

**Summer and Pesach Kaytana – Camps- in Ateret Cohanim neighborhoods** – Children need to be supervised at all times and particularly the down times when school is on break. In our neighborhoods especially, when the threat of bodily injury from hostile neighbors is ever present, Ateret Cohanim provides supervised and structured programs for our children. These are but a sampling of what we do on a daily basis. When you visit Israel we ask that you tour with us and see how we have grown with your help. Experience the areas that were the glory of a bygone Jerusalem in what today is called East Jerusalem. See a three thousand year old community come back to life. Be a part of the realization of the two thousand year old dream.

Help us crown the Priestly City, our Jerusalem.

Wishing you and all of Klal Yisrael a Shana Tova,,

Shani Hikind,  
Executive Vice President  
Executive Council

Dr. Joseph Frager,  
Chairman of the  
Executive Council



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Children living in the Shiloach (Silwan) and East Jerusalem are subject to:  
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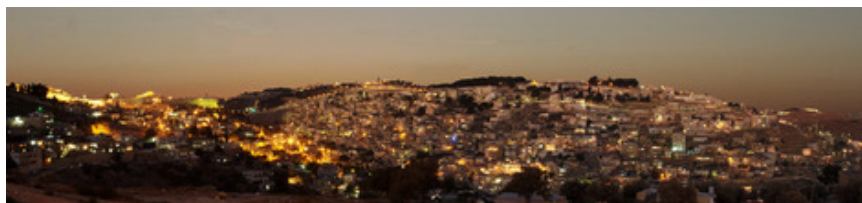
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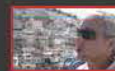


View of Jerusalem from the Yemenite Village

## New From the Yemenite Village

### The Old Yemenite Village

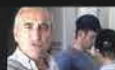
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1 Overview of the Yemenite Village Adjacent to the Gihon  
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2 Approaching Beit Rachel  
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3 Beit Rachel Entry  
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4 Unbelievable Views from the Top of Newly Acquired Beit Rachel  
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**Established in 1978,  
This year is our "double chai" year**



**American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai  
Our Mission**

The Old City is home to nearly 35,000 people..  
The Jewish population of the Old City numbers 5000 of which 4000 reside in the Jewish Quarter. The additional 1000 are living and learning in the area of the Old Jewish Quarter (Referred to as the Moslem and Christian Quarters in East Jerusalem)





### Keep Jerusalem on your cell phone

Please send us your name, address and current email address and we will send you this American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai cellphone wallet absolutely free

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### Our Kotel Compass

Always pointing in the direction of Jerusalem (and follows the halacha in Israel). A phone app and companion for your trip to Israel. The Kotel Compass App (Available in the ISTORE or ANDROID MARKET is free and you can book your tour from the App.

For nearly four decades, the efforts of American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai have been instrumental in meeting the social, recreational, and educational needs of the families and Yeshiva students who have returned to areas that were once predominantly Jewish, including the Old City, Maaleh HaZeitim, The Yemenite Village (Shiloach) and Kidmat Zion



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