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



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Parashat Vayera / פרשת וירא Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 4:11 PM, October 30 ,2015 Cheshvan 17, 5776



Jerusalem is At the Heart Of It.

adapted from an article by Yishai Fleisher in *ISRAPUNDIT*.
To Read the entire article, [click here](#)

#10 Finally, to defeat the jihad against Israel, we must realize that the epicenter of the struggle is Jerusalem. Jihadis want to keep us out of Jerusalem, out of the Old City, and certainly off the Temple Mount, because they sense correctly that the bedrock of their power (and ours) is Jerusalem. Holding on to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount gives them religious authority and clout, and keeps us from achieving our true potential as sovereigns of this land. Indeed, almost all of their anti-Israel propaganda has an image, emblem, or icon of the Dome of the Rock.

They are fighting to take the heart of our story, Jerusalem, and replace it with their Al-Quds. In the face of this assault, we must not retreat or relinquish any sovereignty in this city. We must not capitulate to the terror by dividing the city, or by keeping Jews away from the Temple Mount. Every person can be part of this fight: **Visit Jerusalem, buy in Jerusalem, walk the streets of Jerusalem, pray in and for Jerusalem, and declare our rights to a sovereign and Israeli Jerusalem.** In short, to beat the jihadis' vision of Al-Quds, we must say the following phrase, and mean it: **"Next year, and every year, in a rebuilt and united Jerusalem."**

The jihad against us is only partly about physical violence. It is mostly about mental intimidation and exploitation of our weaknesses. Yet this challenge is also an opportunity: If we rise to the occasion, overcome fear, and beat back the jihadi scourge, then Israel will take its rightful place as a world leader in the defense of freedom, along with being a nation of innovation and the world's spiritual superpower.

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](#)



Desiring Hashem

The Torah's first description of our holiest site is "a mountain in the Land of Moriah." Chazal offer many layers of meaning for the name "Moriah" and its connection to the Beit ha-Mikdash. Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi explains as follows:

The land that the righteous 'teach' from it and decree decrees on Hashem and he acts [on those decrees].[1]

The Beit ha-Mikdash is not only the seat of Hashem's kingdom, but also represents the pinnacle of man's spiritual prowess. The power of the righteous to effect this world through their prayers and "decrees" reaches its heights on Har ha-Bayit.

Why? What is the nature of this ability of the righteous to effect a change in this world and why does it get amplified on Har ha-Bayit?

Rav Kook[2] explains that Hashem's creative abilities are connected with

In Response to the "Matzav" the Children at Yeshiva Har Torah Come Through.

[Junior High School Yeshiva Students Raise Money for a Playground in the Old City of Jerusalem](#)

his Will (*ratzon*). Hashem desired the world to exist and it was immediately created. Since man is created in God's image, man's Will (*ratzon*) can also have this creative capacity. However, this depends on the degree to which a particular human's Will is in line with Hashem's Will. The more one desires the things that Hashem desires and cares about the things that Hashem cares about, the more similar one's Will can be to Hashem's. It is for this reason that the desires of the righteous have the ability to create reality – "The righteous one decrees and Hashem fulfills."^[3]

Perhaps it is for this reason that the righteous are more effective in the Beit ha-Mikdash than elsewhere. When a spiritually sensitive soul is enveloped in the inherent sanctity of the Beit ha-Mikdash then the desire to become close to Hashem is overwhelming. One can feel that his Will being united with the Will of Hashem and that he only cares for the things that Hashem cares for. This is symbolized by prostration, which is an integral part of the service in the Beit ha-Mikdash. Lowering oneself to the ground in the Beit ha-Mikdash represents self-nullification and the complete identification with Hashem's Will.^[4] Once a person's Will is united with the Will of Hashem, then it is only natural that the former will take on some of the latter's characteristics and have a creative capacity.

The lesson of the importance of our Will is also integral in understanding the nature of Anticipating the Redemption (*tziyiyah le-yeshu'ah*). This anticipation effects not only us, but the world as well. The more we desire to see a utopian world, the more of a creative capacity our Will can attain and then the desire itself will help actualize our dreams.^[5]

^[1]Pesikta Rabbati pesikta 40. See also, Midrash Tanchuma parshat Vayeira siman 45 and Yalkut Shimoni Shir ha-Shirim remez 588.

^[2]Shemonah Kevatzim 5:227.

^[3]Cf. Ta'anit 23a.

^[4]See, for example, Ma'amara d'ha-ve-Hayah ba-Yom Hahu, Shabbat parshat Ha'azinu, 5728, from the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

^[5]See, Rav Kook, Orot ha-Kodesh Volume 3, pg. 353.

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See our Jerusalem!

Assemblyman Dov Hikind of New York on a
Solidarity Mission to Jerusalem



Assemblyman Dov Hikind speaking to Rabbi Nechemia Lavi's chavruta, Elad, at Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim



Rabbi Yisrael Silverman, Rabbi Gary Menchel, Rabbi Ahron Rosenthal with students of 7th and 8th grade at Yeshiva Har Torah

In August of this past summer, [Yeshiva Har Torah](#) had the distinct pleasure of donating a Sefer Torah to an IDF air force base in Ramle, Israel.

While visiting Israel during the week of the Hachnasat Sefer Torah, Rabbi's Menchel, Silverman and Rosenthal, visited the communities of Sderot, Silwan and the Old City of Jerusalem, meeting with the leaders of those respective communities. Daniel Luria, executive director of Ateret Cohanim, gave a personal tour of the current Jewish communities of East Jerusalem, a tour which at times, definitely made the American visitors from YHT a little nervous! While in the neighborhood of the "Yeminite Village", an old Jewish neighborhood now located within Silwan, Daniel pointed out an open area in which the community hopes to build a protected playground for the Jewish children.

Upon hearing about this project, the staff of YHT jumped on the opportunity to connect children in America to children in Israel. It would be especially meaningful to help children that are unable to play freely outdoors, enjoying the activities that children here in the U.S. take for granted. All of this came to a reality, and in the last month, the students of YHT embarked on a "Dollar Campaign" to raise money to help build a playground in the Old City of Jerusalem. Daniel Luria spoke to the children virtually and encouraged them to continue showing their support for Eretz Yisrael. He noted that more important than anything else, when the citizens of Israel see that Jews around the world take a deep interest and care greatly for their welfare, it gives them tremendous chizuk. YHT is proud to show it's continuing support for Eretz Yisrael!

For more information on how your Yeshiva can get involved, please [click here](#)

Old City youth "take over" the Golan for Shabbat

Over 150 youth (80 girls and 70 boys) from the Old City and the surrounding neighborhoods (Kfar HaTeimanim, Ir David), traveled to the Golan for an inspirational Shabbat in the Yishuv of Keshet in the Golan.



Being briefed by Ateret Cohanim Executive Director Daniel Luria near the site of the terrorist attack where Rabbi Nechemiah Lavi and Rabbi Aharon Banita-Bennett were murdered.



The youth who showed an enormous amount of emunah (faith), strength and resilience during the communal "shiva" of Rabbi Nechemiah Lavi hy'd, that was held in the Old City, forged a unique bond with each other during that period and so it was decided with Ateret Cohanim to have this special Shabbat of bonding up north.

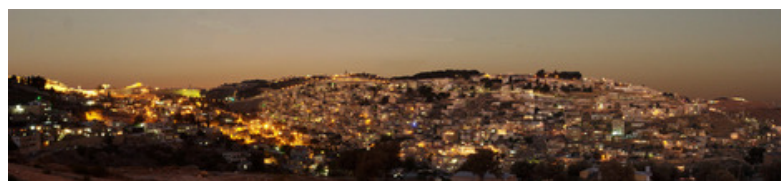


Yeshiva Ateret Yerushalayim



The residents of Keshet warmly welcomed all the Ateret Cohanim youth with open arms and love, and showed a tremendous amount of empathy with the youth.

Take a tour with us, you will never forget the experience



View of Jerusalem from the Yemenite Village

We cry and mourn for those who have been murdered by Arab Terror and we pray for those injured and in pain; for their sake and the sake of Jerusalem we still carry on living and redeeming.



The Shabbat was full of special "unity activities", educational programs, shiurim and a warm restful atmosphere, that was well deserved by the youth after a very difficult and trying period of Arab intolerance and terror, which doesn't seem to be abating for our families and youth in and around the Old City.

This Shabbat will hopefully be a springboard for many more youth activities that will take place in the Old City over the coming year. These activities

and programs are in addition to the ongoing Ateret Cohanim playcentre activities (young children of ages 6-14) and nurseries, which are under the auspices of Ateret Cohanim.



If you wish to help, sponsor activities or donate for general youth and children activities, please [donate here](#) on site or be in touch with either our NY (212-216-9270) or Jerusalem offices. (972-2-624-3337 dljerusalem@gmail.com)

Examples-

Sponsor a monthly Oneg Shabbat: \$180

Sponsor the monthly shiur in memory of Rav Nechemiah Lavi hy'd on Sefer Nechemia: \$360

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by neighborhood.

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Making the Old City young Again

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TERROR HELP OR BE INVOLVED WITH ANY OF THE
FOLLOWING:**

Donate Now

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

- 1) Security projects, emergency/medical equipment in compounds, self defense classes for youth, cameras, lighting, pepper spray
- 2) Beit Wittenberg Family needs - auxillary help for families in Beit Wittenberg affected psychologically and traumatized by recent terror attacks.
- 3) Youth activities in the Old City and its environs.
- 4) Renovation and dedication of apartments in the area to **ADD JEWISH FAMILIES OR STUDENTS.**
- 5) Invest in our efforts to modernize apartments and **ADD JEWISH LIFE TO THE AREA** of old Jewish Quarter.
- 6) Major restoration of Beit Wittenberg as a monumental heritage house (Mark Twain also stayed in the building in 1867)

**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)

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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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.

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5776 - תשע"ו May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (ירושלם), and her residents. ('ויושביה')

May G-d's City - Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for the Jewish People.

Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centred around religious educational institutes.

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