



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)
[Forward this message to a friend](#)
[Printer Friendly](#)

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem ChaiMaking the Old City young Again



[Our Website](#) | [Tours](#) | [Donate](#) | [Advocacy](#)

Parashat Beshalach / פרשת בשלח Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 4:23 PM, January 22, 2016 12, Shvat 5776



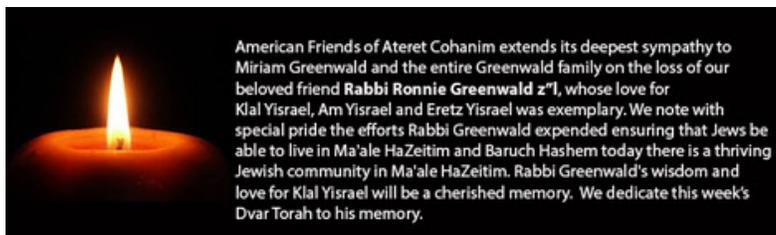
Larry Gordon, Editor of the Five Towns Jewish Times, Visits the Yemenite Village



Larry Gordon, Editor of the 5 Towns Jewish Times, writes about his recent visit to our properties in Arab East Jerusalem.

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](#)



American Friends of Ateret Cohanim extends its deepest sympathy to Miriam Greenwald and the entire Greenwald family on the loss of our beloved friend **Rabbi Ronnie Greenwald z"l**, whose love for Klal Yisrael, Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael was exemplary. We note with special pride the efforts Rabbi Greenwald expended ensuring that Jews be able to live in Ma'ale HaZeitim and Baruch Hashem today there is a thriving Jewish community in Ma'ale HaZeitim. Rabbi Greenwald's wisdom and love for Klal Yisrael will be a cherished memory. We dedicate this week's Dvar Torah to his memory.

Our Mother City

Towards the end of Jews' song celebrating the splitting of the sea, they turn their attention to the eventual destination. They sing that the nations surrounding the Land of Israel were startled and that the actual inhabitants of Kena'an were melting in fear. Finally, the crescendo of the song mentions the ultimate goal of the Exodus – that the Jews enter the Land and build the Beit ha-Mikdash, the eternal capital of Hashem:

You will bring them and implant them on the mount of Your heritage, the foundation of Your dwelling-place that You, Hashem, have made – the Sanctuary, my Lord, that your hands established. Hashem shall reign for all eternity!^[1]

Rav Elazar of Worms^[2] notes that the first word of the verse "tevi'eimo"

Undividing Jerusalem

The clarion call and red-line position is that Jerusalem is the eternal, undivided capital city of Israel and the Jewish people everywhere. But is that really so? There is a struggle taking place here for every inch of sacred Jerusalem ground, crowded with Arab homes built illegally in defiance of Israel's stated policies. We basically know two things about this area. One is that it has a sacred Jewish history. The other is that it is solidly Arab today.

That was the case until 2004, when Ateret Cohanim, the saviors of the Old City, made it their top agenda item to slowly but surely return Jewish sovereignty to Jerusalem.

But first let me share with you the experience of navigating our way in the area and then being in one of the Jewish residences in a spot on the globe where hostility to Jews is at its apex.

Arab residents are everywhere. They are in the doorways and on the porches; the kids are playing in the street. For some reason, Daniel Luria

(You will bring them) is comprised of the same letters as “beit imo” – (the house of his mother). He explains that the Jews were praying that Hashem bring them to the city of Yerushalayim, which is “the mother of the Jewish people.” As a source for this description of Yerushalayim, the R. Elazar of Worms cites the following verses:

For thus said Hashem: Behold, I will extend peace to her
[Yerushalayim] like a river and the wealth of nations like a surging
stream, and you will suckle; you will be carried on the side and dandled
on the knees. Like a man whose mother consoled him, so will I console
you, and in Yerushalayim you will be consoled.[3]

Understood simply, Yeshayahu makes two references to Yerushalayim in these verses. First, Hashem will bring peace and wealth to the city. Second, Yerushalayim will be the location where Hashem will console the Jewish people as a mother consoles her children.

Rav Elazar of Worms, however, is revealing a new layer of interpretation. In his metaphor it is Yerushalayim that acts as the mother and comforts the Jewish people. The city itself will partner with Hashem to heal the wounds of its children. What does this mean? In what way can the city itself comfort the Jewish people?

Perhaps an answer emerges from the metaphor itself. One reason that a mother is so successful at comforting a forlorn child is that she is a familiar and stable figure in the child’s life. A stranger who would act just as the mother and say identical words to the child would certainly not have the same effect. The mother is unique in that she is recognized by the child as a constant and consistent source of love.

The same is true of Yerushalayim. Despite centuries of exile and lack of physical contact with the city, the Jewish people still look to Yerushalayim as a mother figure. The return to the city has a feeling of a homecoming even though Jews were distant from it for nearly two thousand years. Visiting the city is like returning to the familiar setting of one’s childhood neighborhood with the accompanying therapeutic effects.

Now is the time period when this constant connection can be actualized to its fullest. May we merit to see the full unification of the Jewish people with their mother city – Yerushalayim.

[1] Shemot 15:17-18

[2] Pirushei Siddur Tefilah le-Rokei’ach, Az Yashir.

[3] Yeshaya 66:12-13

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

In Advance of TuB'Shvat

(Executive Director of Ateret Cohanim in Israel) explains, it is easier and safer to walk through here than to leave the community. I thought he said we would be entering and exiting the area in a specially outfitted bulletproof vehicle, but there we were, walking up a steep hill toward one of the newly purchased Jewish buildings.

to continue reading, please [click here](#)



Larry and Esta Gordon on the Mirpeset of an Ateret Cohanim Apartment in the Yemenit Village. A Unique view of Jerusalem

A Great Problem must be solved. Your help is required.

Over the last year, Baruch Hashem, we have effectively doubled the Jewish presence in the old Yemenite Village of Shiloach (Silwan). Notwithstanding the hatred, incitement, the ongoing Arab attacks and terror, there are many Jewish families, children and Yeshiva students who want to be at the "Jerusalem forefront" and who have already moved, or who want to move into the neighborhood.

In addition to our existing families from Beit HaDvash and Beit Yehonatan - We have now added two families to the newly acquired buildings - Beit Frumkin, Beit Ovadiah, Beit Rachel and even a small apartment under the redeemed Synagogue.

(Renovation money is still required for Beit Rachel to add another 3 families and a nursery, plus funds required to add 2 more families to Beit Ovadiah)

But now we have a problem (A good one).

We don't have enough security vehicles to transport the children/adults to and from the neighborhood.



A view of Yerushalayim from the Yemenite Village

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)



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

[Our Website](#) | [Tours](#) | [Donate](#) | [Advocacy](#)

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai
248 West 35th Street
New York, NY 10001
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

