



[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 t Miketz / פרשת מקץ Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 3:55 PM, December 11, 2015 Kislev 29, 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](#)

The Menorah of Torah

Like all of our holidays, Chanukah celebrates multiple themes simultaneously. On a simple level, Chanukah commemorates both the victory of the Chashmona'im over the Greeks and the rededication of the Beit ha-Mikdash which included the miracle of the oil. These alone would certainly be enough for a holiday.

However, many commentators note that Chanukah also has an added dimension. While the Greeks wanted to ruin the Torah way of life in general, they had a particularly aggressive attack on the Oral Torah. For example, Rav Yonasan Eibshheitz^[1] explains that Greek philosophy is the impure parallel to our Oral Torah and the Jews were in danger of substituting the former for the latter. It was the Chashmona'im who restored the importance of studying the Oral Torah. It is for this reason that Chanukah, as a post-prophetic holiday, has no mention in the Written Torah. Historically, the names of Tannaim with which we are familiar, with a few exceptions, begin with the post-Chanukah period as there seems to have been an increase in this area of Torah in the wake of the Chanukah miracles.^[2]

This connection between the Oral Torah and Chanukah is buttressed by a thesis of the Netziv.^[3] In his commentary to the Torah, the Netziv explains that the menorah is a symbol of the Oral Torah and the type of in-depth and rigorous Torah study that is epitomized in Talmudic learning. The Oral Torah allows us to use our rational faculties to understand, explicate and innovate in Torah, and these aspects – the “pilpul of Torah” - is symbolized by the Menorah. It is for this reason that the Menorah becomes the symbol of Chanukah, the holiday of

חנוכה שמח



Ateret Cohanim The Maccabees of this Generation. מי לירושלים – אלי

Who will join us, in the quest to keep Jerusalem in Jewish hands?

Please do not remain silent - its time to act this Chanukah!

Since our return home to the city in 1967, the eyes of the world have always been 'overly' focused on Jerusalem, with ongoing attempts to either divide, internationalize the city or to simply delegitimize our Jewish rights in the city.

the Oral Torah which gained prominence during this historical time period.

The fact that the celebration of the Oral Torah is interwoven into Chanukah poses a serious question. What is the connection between the Oral Torah and the other themes? More specifically, why is our celebration of the Oral Torah centered on the Beit ha-Mikdash? If anything, one would expect the opposite – the Oral Torah flourished in Babylonia and seems to be a series of ideas and a way of life that transcend location?

There is a powerful message embedded in the fact that the symbol of the Oral Torah is situated in the Beit ha-Mikdash. As the Netziv emphasizes, the Oral Torah represents the abilities for humans to understand Torah through their own intellect and skills. Heavenly voices and flashes are disqualified in the discourse of the Beit Midrash – we must grapple with the ideas as human beings. The study of Oral Torah represents the radical peak of human capabilities and creativity.

But despite all this we must realize the source these human gifts and capabilities. Jews around the world can only properly understand Torah if they connect to the Menorah of the Beit ha-Mikdash, if they understand what is the source of holiness in this world. It is the Divine Presence in the Beit ha-Mikdash of Yerushalayim that is the center of sanctity, and all holy human endeavors must be undertaken with that understanding. The Chashmona'im understood that if they wanted to cause Torah study to flourish around the world, they needed to first purify the Beit ha-Mikdash. In order for all of our individual menorahs to burn, we need to first connect ourselves to the Menorah of the Beit ha-Mikdash.

[1]Ya'aros Devash, Drush 3

[2]See Rav Hutner's Pachad Yitzhak, Chanukah, ma'amar 3.

[3]See, for example, Ha'amek Davar Shemot 27:20-21; Bamidbar 8:2

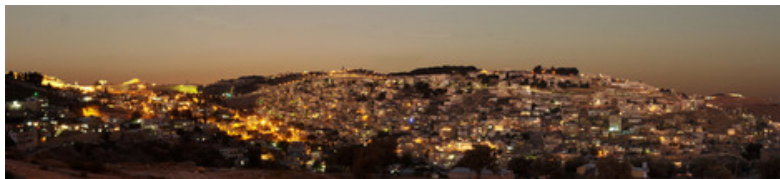
[click here for a pdf copy](#)

SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE NOT AFRAID

VISIT ISRAEL NOW

Book a Tour With Us [CLICK HERE](#)
See our Jerusalem!

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



View of Jerusalem from the Yemenite Village



Our New Chanukiah at Flowers Gate

We literally stand alone, as an independent sovereign nation, recognizing the united city of Jerusalem as our capital city. Not even so-called "friends" like Britain, Australia, France and America recognize united Jerusalem as our capital.

Although our families, children and Yeshiva students have been under fire-attack for many years in and around the Old City, nevertheless, over the last few months, we have seen an escalation of attacks and more dangerous methods being used by Arab terrorists.

This is being coupled with unparalleled incitement in the Arab sector, PA and Hamas controlled areas, together with a "sick" glorification of Arab terror at every level.

There is also the continuous and unprecedented 'political' attacks by the Arab League, Hamas, the PA ("More Jewish families into East Jerusalem will destroy the peace process. etc") and not long ago, we also were witness to the EU having the audacity to declare that it will recognize Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital. (G-d forbid)

Even our "ally" America has made disheartening statements against our Jewish rights to build and live in all parts of our united capital. (*Jerusalem is occupied territory...do not build in Gillo or Ramat Shlomo.do not destroy illegally built Arab homes...do not allow 20 families into the Shefer Hotel...do not change the demography of city...etc*).

The world understands the importance of the work of Ateret Cohanim with Yeshivot (Centres of Jewish learning), families, students and children living in and around the Old City, and they will stop at nothing to stop our activities.

The world understands the value of even one more Jewish family moving into the old Yemenite Village of Shiloach or into the old Jewish neighbourhood of the Old City.

The world does not want us to return home.

**Now, more than ever, We need YOU to help us
Protect the Children living in East Jerusalem**



PARTNER WITH
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM

block by **block**
courtyard by
courtyard
neighborhood
by **neighborhood.**

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

DAILY HARASSMENT • STONES AND ROCKS • FIREBOMBS

We respond by building
SAFE AND PROTECTED PLAYGROUNDS

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS: \$18 • \$36 • \$72 • \$180 • \$360

248 West 35th Street • NY, NY 10001 • 212-216-9270 • jeruchal@gmail.com • www.jerusalemchai.org/donate

Making the Old City young Again

[Your donations help us keep the children smiling click here](#)
Arts & Crafts Activity with Children In The Wittenberg Play Center

The world does not want us to redeem or reclaim and old Synagogue or other holy sites.

The bottom line is - that the world simply doesn't want Jewish roots strengthened in and around the Old City, and nor do they want to see Jews reclaiming Jerusalem.

Our answer must be direct, immediate and powerful.

Our response - in fact your response must be to reclaim Jerusalem and help Ateret Cohanim and our pioneering families at the forefront.

Your response must be to make a statement today - by either donating to the organization, taking on a children's, family, security project, or even help finance the restoration of an old desecrated Synagogue in the Shiloach.

Not everyone can be a Montefiore or Rothschild, but many Jews acting now and together, can make the difference and change the face of Jerusalem.

**We may be outnumbered. We may stand alone.
BUT SO WERE THE MACCABEES !**

Terrorists killed our Rabbi Nechemiah Lavi hy'd and they are trying to stymie Jewish growth in and around the Old City. In response: We will double our Jewish presence.

The Arabs once drove out the Jews from Shiloach, desecrated a Synagogue and have illegally squatted in those premises for 77 years. The Synagogue complex is back in our hands

In response: We will now restore the Synagogue to its previous glory.

About 2200 years ago, a small group of ideological fighters from one family of Priests-Cohanim, led by the father Matityahu, took on the world power - the Greek Empire, to save Jerusalem from being "defiled and internationalized".

Most of the Jewish world initially stood to the side, as apathy reigned, and Jerusalem was forgotten. These few Cohanim woke up the Jewish world and Jerusalem was secured.

Ateret Cohanim is not a political movement. We aren't an army. We don't even measure up to the fingernails of the Maccabees, but we do hope to make a difference and find others who will stand by our side and help secure, build and enrich Jerusalem.

***The call of the Maccabees was - "Whoever is for Hashem, stand up and come to me !"
I say -"Whoever is for a united Jerusalem, stand tall and come to us !***

מי לירושלים – אלינו !!!

In this Channukah period, it is time to recall the bravery and fighting spirit of those few who fought for Jerusalem against the odds. It is also time to think of our students, families and children, who are under fire in Kfar HaTeimanim, in Maaleh HaZeitim, Kidmat Zion and in the old Jewish neighbourhood of the Old City.

It is time to look deep into your hearts, look for that small flask of "Jerusalem oil" and help us to ignite the "light of Jerusalem".

We stand as a shield against world pressure. We call on you to stand by our side, and be ongoing pillars of support for our city - Jerusalem.

Finally: Channukah isn't just saying Hallel, lighting candles, or eating oily latkes and sufganiot-doughnuts.

Playground For Children Nearly Finished at Beit Frumkin (Kfar HaTeimanim) Thanks to:

**Uncle Jack 'Yehoshua' and Ana Berger
Matthew and Doreen Skolnick
Rafi Lamm (Australia)
Andy and Sydney Lewis
Yeshivat Har Torah Students**



Flowers Gate Playground special Thanks to:

**Dr Steve Rubel
Matthew and Doreen Skolnick
Robert and Laurie Koppel
Werdiger Family (Australia)
Yeshivat Har Torah Students**



It's being a modern day Maccabee and helping our brothers and sisters in all areas of Jerusalem.

Toda Raba in advance.
Channukah Sameach
Daniel Luria, Executive Director Ateret Cohanim in Jerusalem

**We encourage our readers to:
BUY ISRAEL**

BREAK THE BOYCOTTS!  **BUY YOUR GIFTS FROM ISRAEL**

You can play a role responding to Arab terror by donating to help us with any of the following projects. These are your brothers and sisters - and these are OUR children. Please help them.

- Beit Wittenberg Childrens Activity Center \$180
 - Sponsor a monthly Oneg Shabbat: \$180
 - Sponsor the monthly shiur in memory of Rav Nechemiah Lavi hy'd on Sefer Nechemia: \$360
- AM YISRAEL IS NEEDED NOW. TOMORROW IS TOO LATE.**

Donate Now

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

www.yemenitesynagogue.com



 **Build Jerusalem**

To learn more from Build Jerusalem
[please click here](#)



5776 - תשע"ו May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), 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.

[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.

**vertical
response**
A DELUXE COMPANY
Free Email Marketing >>