

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai

....Making the Old City young Again



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Parashat Behar-Bechukotai / פרשת בהר-בחוקתי Candle Lighting in Jerusalem 6:48 PM, May 15, 2015 27 Iyyar 5775

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](#)

This week's Dvar Torah sponsored by the **Essrog Family**:

לז"נ העניע בריינע בת הרב צבי הירש ע"ה

ה"לז"נ יצחק שמואל בן הרב שמעון דוב ע

Yom Yerushalayim and Shavu'ot

Sefirat ha-Omer links the two holidays that celebrate our freedom. Pesach celebrates our physical, material and legal freedom from suffering and slavery. Marking such a historical event is something that we share with other peoples who also underwent a similar process. What makes us unique is that we are able to elevate this base level of freedom by connecting it to Shavu'ot, our day of spiritual freedom. "There is no free person except one who studies Torah."^[1]

In a speech delivered at Merkaz ha-Rav's annual Yom Yerushalayim celebration, Rabbi Shaul Yisrael^[2] fascinatingly drew a parallel between the relationship of Pesach and Shavu'ot, and the relationship between Yom ha-Atzma'ut and Yom Yerushalayim. Yom ha-Atzma'ut is the day that we gained our physical, legal and political freedom. Similar to Pesach, this is an important first step, one that deserves a celebration. But the possibility of using this newfound political freedom as a springboard for higher levels of spiritual freedom was marred by our lack of the heart of the world – Yerushalayim. Without the city which is the center of the Shechina's presence, without the city that is the gate between heaven and earth – we were impeded from sustained spiritual ascent. Our conquest of Yerushalayim grants us the key to spiritual freedom.

But similar to Shavu'ot, Yom Yerushalayim represents not the end but the beginning. The Torah that was given on Shavu'ot was on the one hand the greatest gift ever bestowed to man, but simultaneously posed the greatest challenge. The Torah is the key to our ultimate spiritual freedom, as it encapsulates Hashem's vision for this world. But the full unveiling of this latent potential requires lifetimes of hard work, study, discipline, and fixing of one's character. The free man is not one who received the Torah, but one who *studiesthe* Torah.

Yom Yerushalayim 48



The Shabak report - Dated May 14th 2015:

It is permissible to now publicize, that the SHABAK (Internal Israeli Secret Service) in coordination with the Israel Police, thwarted attacks by Arabs and intention to harm (Stabbing) security guards and Jewish families stationed within "**Beit Ovadiah**" in the neighbourhood of Silwan (Shiloach) Jerusalem. The stopping of the specific attack on "**Beit Ovadia**" was part of uncovering a whole terrorist network and infrastructure, that was planning attacks on security personnel and Jewish-Israeli families in the neighbourhood of Silwan. (Shiloach)

As a result of the ongoing investigation by the SHABAK, over recent days, a number of active Arab terrorists from Silwan, including a minor have been arrested.

The central figures apprehended and arrested are:
Machmad Nasser Achmed Abasi - Born 1994 -

The same is true with Yerushalayim. By liberating ancient Yerushalayim and Temple Mount, Hashem granted the Jewish people one of his history's greatest gifts. But we have a long road ahead of us to unfurl the true nature of this present. We need to deeply engrain in ourselves the values of Yerushalayim in order to merit the full unfurling concealed in this gift. Yerushalayim serves as the crossroads between the Jewish people, the Torah and Hashem. "The city that is united" [3], challenges us to inculcate within our consciousness the unity of the Jewish people, the unity of our nation with Hashem and his Torah, and the unity of our spirituality with a physical land and a political state.

Yom Yerushalayim should motivate us to a dual submersion into these values. First, is to learn about Yerushalayim and the lessons that it teaches. But as is especially crucial with learning about Yerushalayim, the more we learn about our city the more it must affect our behavior. Our hopes for the future of Yerushalayim demands that we develop an active streak, a *derisha*. We need to act upon our convictions to further Jewish unity, the importance of Torah, and the Land of Israel. And we need to be active in furthering the redemption of the city that began in 1967.

May we merit to see Yerushalayim restored to its former glory.

[1]Pikrei Avot 6:2.

[2]Available at <http://www.yeshiva.org.il/midrash/11726>.

[3]Paraphrase of Tehillim 122:3.

[click here for a pdf copy](#)

**Eleventh year Anniversary of Kidmat Zion
celebration sponsored in part by
American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai
A magician for the children (and some moms) and lots of good food**



Active member of Popular Front
Muraad Machmad Uda Kostiro - Born 1993 -
unaffiliated

Under interrogation, Abasi admitted to enlisting an Arab youngster to observe the movements of all security guards within and around Beit Ovadia, in order to carry out a shooting attack on the guards. After receiving information about the guards movements, Abasi decided to carry out a terror attack using an axe and a knife. These were hidden and ultimately discovered in his grandfather's home, thus preventing the attack. In addition, Abasi admitted to making pipe bombs and molotov cocktails, which he passed onto other 'activists', **together with instructions to throw them at the Jewish buildings in the Silwan neighbourhood. (Ovadia, Frumkin, Dvash and Yehonatan)** (areas where American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai support educational and recreational activities)

The Arabs interrogated admitted to belonging to the "National Front", and they gave further information about tens of other terrorists and activists in the general Silwan area, many of whom were involved over the last year, in attacks on the Jewish families, homes and vehicles, and also attacks on security personnel and Border Patrol Police.

One of the Arabs investigated admitted to throwing stones at Police and visitors to the Temple Mount during 2014, and even incriminated other Arabs involved in similar terror activities against Jews visiting the Har HaZeitim Cemetary. (Mt Olives)

Over the coming days, many of those investigated and apprehended will be indicted and charged with a series of security offences.

The exposure and uncovering of the terror infrastructure coupled with the arrests, is all part of ongoing undercover Shabak and Police work against Arab terror in Jerusalem. **The threats are real, the alerts are high and the terror infrastructures are being developed by Arabs.** And so, alot of Police work needs to be done and is being done.

Shabak Press Communications. Please help us protect our families and the security that stands guard over them.

**GREAT NEWS FOR FROM
JERUSALEM
YEMENITE BEIT KNESSET BACK IN
JEWISH HANDS AFTER 77 YEARS**

**From Desecration in 1938 - to Redemption in
2015**



Restoration has started. A beautiful experience to return a Yemenite Synagogue back to its glory



Past



Present



Future

VISIT ISRAEL NOW

Book a Tour With Us [CLICK HERE](#)
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Stay Tuned for New Tours





B'nei Akiva Visits Beit Hatzalam



By the grace of G-d, Baruch Hashem, on the morning of 17th Iyar 5775 (6th May 2015) Jewish life returned to the Beit Kneset, and it was returned to Hekdesh Benvenisti.

Although only part of the original Synagogue has been returned (Some of the Arab families who have illegally squatted in the old Synagogue are no longer in the premises, while others remain), it is still the amazing realization of a dream.

The Beit Kneset and its adjoining buildings are located adjacent to Beit HaDvash and in close proximity to Beit Yehonatan (named for Jonathan Pollard), both buildings with Yeshiva students, and Jewish families.

The Beit Kneset complex (partially) has returned to its rightful heirs after 77 years !!



It has been redeemed and after some future serious restoration and renovation work, the sweet sounds of daily prayers, Jewish learning and Jewish life in general, will once again be heard from the Beit Kneset complex.



The old Yemenite Synagogue will G-d willing service the Yeshiva students in the area (Kolel Yehoshua Rohr-Ometz Yishecha) and also the Jewish families and Yeshiva students, currently living nearby, in the Shiloach neighbourhood. (Beit Yehonatan, Beit HaDvash, Beit Frumkin and Beit Ovadia). (*Note: Needy Jewish families may also move into the complex, as this is one of the aims of the original Yemenite Hekdesh (Benvenisti))

For more general information about the Synagogue and Kfar HaShiloach (Kfar HaTeimanim): www.yemenitesynagogue.com
Stay tuned for Dedication Opportunities

Yaakov and Elimelech on Tour



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.

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**JOIN US AT THE ISRAEL DAY CONCERT IN
CENTRAL PARK,
SUNDAY MAY 31, 2015**

The New Yemenite Village Website click the picture to learn more



Our current projects in the Old City of Jerusalem and areas adjacent to the Old City actualize our mission of "Making the Old City, Young Again"

Donate Now

Today, the walled city of Jerusalem (the Old Yishuv) and the areas immediately adjacent to it, have come back to life with children and families due to the work of Ateret Cohanim. The miracle that was the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948, the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 and the continued growth of the Jewish community in these areas, are constant reminders of the eternity of our religious belief. Help Us Continue Our Work

*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.

