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



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Parashat Ki Tavo / פרשת כי תבוא Lighting in Jerusalem 6:19 PM, September 4,2015 Elul 20 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

The Joy of the Beit ha-Mikdash

Our parsha opens with the mitzvah of bikkurim, the first fruits that must be given to the kohen. Chazal teach us that for many halachot we consider bikkurim to be similar to another gift that is given to a kohen - terumah. For example, if a non-kohen intentionally eats bikkurim, the punishment is "death by the hands of heaven", similar to the punishment for eating terumah. Also, both terumah and bikkurim require one to wash hands before partaking of them in order to ensure a state of ritual purity.

However, despite these similarities there are fundamental differences between them. Perhaps most prominently expressed in this week's parsha is that while trumah can be given to a kohen in any location, bikkurim must be brought to the Beit ha-Mikdash. Only after the farmer places the basket of fruits in front of the alter does the kohen attain ownership over the bikkurim. Of all agricultural gifts to the kohanim and levi'im, why is bikkurim singled out that it must be brought to the Beit ha-Mikdash?

Perhaps an answer can be gleaned from the concluding verse in the section of bikkurim. The Torah summarizes the experience of bringing bikkurim with the following words:

You shall be glad with all the goodness that Hashem, your God, has given you and your household – and the Levite and the proselyte who is in your midst.

The mitzvah of bikkurim is supposed to be accompanied with great joy. The Mishnah describes the procession to Yerushalayim as being filled with music, beautiful greens and happiness. The farmer expresses his joy over his plot in the Land of Israel and his crop through this mitzvah.

In the Torah, joy is often associated with the Beit ha-Mikdash. For example, the holidays which contain a mitzvah of joy also entail a pilgrimage to the Beit ha-Mikdash. Sukkot, which is the Chag where this joy is most permeating, is a very Beit ha-Mikdash centric holiday. Every night there is a Simchat Beit ha-Sho'evah celebration in the Beit ha-Mikdash, culminating with a special water libation. The alter is most active during the holiday of Sukkot.

Happiness and joy are associated with the Beit ha-Mikdash, and therefore, Bikkurim, which also entails this emotion, must also include a Beit ha-Mikdash element.

Why is there a connection between joy and the Beit ha-Mikdash? Rav Soloveitchik explained that true joy and elation can only take place in the presence of Hashem. It is only when one feels the presence of the divine and connects with the ultimate Being that intense happiness can be felt. Therefore, it would be impossible for the Torah to mandate a time of joy, be it a holiday or involvement with the mitzvah of bikkurim, without a connection to the Beit ha-

Security issues continue to be a concern in our communities in the Old City

Daniel Luria, Executive Director talks about our concerns and how ludicrous it is that Jews have to fear for their safety in the Old City of Jerusalem



Aftermath of Terror Attack Outside of the Old City

A number of brazen attacks have occurred in our neighborhoods. While our residents wish to live in peace and cooperation with their Arab neighbors, there seems to be no end in site of wanton dangerous terror attacks on the children and their families. We can combat this by increasing our security presence, installing better security lighting, providing our residence with more and better protective gear and working closely with the police. Your donations can help us achieve our goal of making our residents safe and secure.

Donate Now

Mikdash.

May we all merit the joy of being in the presence of Hashem

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See our Jerusalem!

Auntie Vivien Singer brings smiles and a magician to the top of Beit Chashmonaim in the Old City



Our Visitors include those who have already made Aliyah



Daniel Luria standing next to the heavily damaged security vehicle that daily transports our children to school.

Playground in Beit Frumkin Opens for Children



Your donations have help us start the playground in Beit Frumkin. We have a way to go for completion, but the smiles from the children have started. A great way to bring in the New Year

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](#)

For those interested in being involved in future building project and real-estate opportunities, please contact Daniel Luria in Isael only via email - djjerusalem@gmail.com

URGE CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE BAD DEAL WITH IRAN [Take Action!](#)

Established in 1978,
This year is our "double chai" year



American Friends of Ateret Cohanim / Jerusalem Chai



5 friends who made Aliyah tour with us in the Old City. This picture taken from Beit HaTzalam in the Old City overlooks the Temple Mount . Pictured here are Kal Feinberg, David Winer, Dovid Wadler, Marty Weisberg, and Mel Saltzman

Our Mission

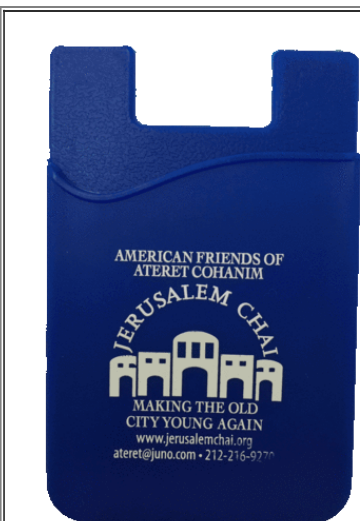
The Old City is home to nearly 35,000 people.. The Jewish population of the Old City numbers 5000 of which 4000 reside in the Jewish Quarter. The additional 1000 are living and learning in the area of the Old Jewish Quarter (Referred to as the Moslem and Christian Quarters in East Jerusalem)

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

תשע"ה - ה' 5775
May it be the year of "The City - Jerusalem" (עיר), of Hashem. (ה')

May G-d's City - Yerushalayim, be rebuilt and restored to its previous glory for Am Yisrael. Next year in a united Jerusalem with a flourishing Jewish life centered around religious and educational institutes.

Lehitraot BaAretz



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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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9/4/2015

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