

THE MOUNT ZION REPORTER

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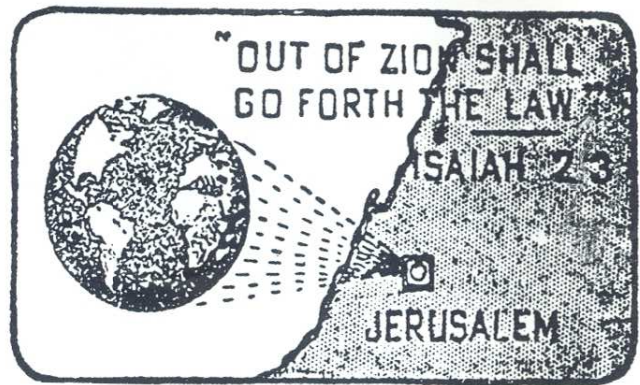
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The Head and Director: Jesus (Yeshua)
Membership: "Lamb's Book of Life,"
in Heaven—Revelation 20:15.

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Jerusalem—The Chosen City of God



"For the Lord hath Chosen Zion: He hath desired it for His habitation" (Psalms 132:23). "The Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 24:23). "They shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:17). "But I have chosen Jerusalem, that My Name might be there" (2 Chron. 6:6). "The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem" (Joel 3:16).

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A View From Jerusalem

As the new Prime Minister, Netanyahu, shakes hands with Arafat, many of his supporters are wondering about his pre-election promises of no compromise. Many settlers and concerned citizens are angry with the handling of, among other things, the Hebron agreement. A feeling of betrayal is smouldering among the extreme right. People are wondering what the government will give away during the negotiations over Jerusalem itself. At this time, we remember the higher purpose of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel—pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Terrorist attacks have been lessening in number and severity; However, many fear that it is only a pause in the bloodshed. The falsehood of peace is felt more than ever as turmoil once again threatens to disrupt the lives of the innocent.

Nothing can change the plan that God has laid before us and the special part that Jerusalem plays in this plan. The Word is our assurance that His purpose will be fulfilled and that no obstacle great or small will stand in His way; However, many hard times will come. We must keep our faith in the Word and in our Creator to survive the hard times yet to assail us—**KEEP FAITH!**

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Rewards of Good and Evil

by Reuben Fauth

It is said that men reap what they sow. Sometimes, in our struggle against evil, evil seems to reap all the rewards and good seems to be put down and left in the gutter. Needless to say, that is how this world is run—evil over good. However, this doesn't mean that good doesn't have reward. When you frown do you feel wonderful, happy or content? Contrast this to when you smile. Not just to smile with your lips but to smile with your heart and soul. Doesn't smiling make you feel wonderful, happy and alive?

Individuals who indulge in evil ways are never happy and can never really smile. In fact, they are always frowning and brooding. They can hide this behind a fake smile or laugh and they frequently do. We must guard against becoming this way: It is misery and hell for those who live this way.

During our stay in this world we go through a test of faith—faith in all that is good and righteous. It is a continual struggle between good and evil; between what is right and what is wrong; between a smile or a frown. Sometimes, you will doubtless find yourself frowning and sometimes you will smile. We all have good and evil in us: The potential is there for both. Remember that a righteous man still has the weaknesses of a man. However, if you are a righteous person evil finds it hard or even impossible to corrupt.

This brings us to the deception of rewards. It sometimes seems, that evil is rewarded and that good is not. Let us take a closer look—past all of the deceptions put there by this world. When you do a wrong and are rewarded for it, what is that reward? Is it a hug, a kiss, a kind word or is it a thing that rots and decays and can't give you any affection at all? Is it eternal life or is it prolonged suffering on this world? The contrasts are there and they show that material rewards are not all they are put up to be. If you acquire worldly goods through a misdeed, what happens? After a time these goods become worthless and the people (maybe even someone close to you) that you did these misdeeds to are still not talking to you. More importantly, when judgment day comes you will be remembered for this misdeed.

What about a good deed: What happens when you do a good deed? Let us say that your good deed was

to give someone waiting beside their broken down car in a dangerous area of some big city, a lift to the nearest phone or gas station. This person probably thought she/he would never get a ride because this person knew that he/she would never think of helping someone in the same situation. This makes the person grateful and makes them think about how they would react if they saw someone stranded in the same situation. And, maybe, they will now, do the same for someone in that situation—maybe even return the favour.

This all points to the fact that good begets good and evil begets evil. Have you ever smiled at someone and gotten a smile back? Or, have you ever frowned and got back a frown in return? Be careful not to frown when it can spread. It is sad to say that a lot of the evil out there comes from 'good' people. Are any of us strong enough to endure a slap in the face without putting on a sour countenance? Remember that this reaction is probably what the person slapping us wants. The evil person knows no freedom and is miserable. The evil person wants everyone to be miserable with him/her—misery really does enjoy company. Remember this when someone tries to provoke you. Remember that this person should be pitied and not reacted to. Sometimes, the situation gets so bad that reaction is involuntary. This is a human weakness and we all have it; However, through righteousness and faith we can overcome weakness.

Can you see how good and evil spread? If you are kind to someone that person is usually kind to someone else. However, when you are harsh and evil to someone then that person feels bad and will probably pass the buck and be harsh to someone else. This spreads from generation to generation. Although we are all under this influence, through faith and righteousness we can overcome evil. Without the Word we would be lost in this turmoil of good versus evil—the Word functions as a lighthouse pointing us in the right direction.

The rewards of good and evil contrast as freedom to bondage. We have the choice and we must decide if we will "fight the good fight" (1 Timothy 6:12) or be consumed. Remember that the reward of the faithful is eternal life and that the reward of evil is death.

LEARNING TO TEACH THE UNIMAGINABLE

by Wendy Elliman

It is no surprise that the History of the Holocaust is a compulsory subject in Israeli high schools. Less expected is that its teaching is now mandatory in no less than five states in the USA; Furthermore, that German teachers and students not yet born when World War II ended are energetically investigating this dark chapter in their nation's past; Also that Holocaust history is being taught in a growing number of Polish schools; and that schools in France, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Britain, Cyprus, South Africa, Hungary and even in Japan are developing curricula and guidelines for teaching the Holocaust.

Some 300 Holocaust educators and researchers from 18 nations worldwide were in Israel to exchange ideas and experiences at an international conference on The Holocaust in Education at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. Each brought the needs of his or her own audience to the meeting.

Miriam Klein, for example, is overall director of Holocaust education in Miami, one of the US states where Holocaust study is now compulsory. "The field is growing fast, and I came to find out what colleagues worldwide are doing," she says. "I also came to recharge my batteries. Working in an area like this can be debilitating after a while. I needed the connection with others who experience similar pressures."

Dr. Nili Keren, who heads the Holocaust Teaching College in Tel Aviv, served as academic consultant to the conference. "The idea of the meeting was to evaluate what Holocaust education has achieved so far, and examine what it can offer the generations to come. Yad Vashem, as the major Jewish research and teaching center on the Holocaust, was the obvious place to hold it. The response was amazing, and even after the riots here in Israel in early October, we didn't have a single cancellation. I think this shows how involved people in this area are in their work."

Dr. Keren attributes the massive new interest in the Holocaust among Jewish communities to the 'third generation'—the grandchildren of survivors. "It's only now, as survivors are reaching the biological end of their lives, that many of them are beginning to talk about what happened to them," she says. "Whereas pain and guilt make it hard for their children—the second generation—to hear them, their

grandchildren sincerely want to listen. They feel they're learning their own family history, and it helps them cope better with 'Who Am I?'

The school trips to former Nazi death camps in Poland demonstrate and reinforce the identification of Jewish youngsters with their past. "It's the grandchildren who started going to Poland," says Dr. Keren. "Their parents followed them, and now you often get all three generations going there together."

Interest in the Holocaust is growing among non-Jews, as well. One conference participant, Prof. Henry Ross, is a senior lecturer in Social Work at Northumbria University in northern England, teaching students who are largely from non-Jewish backgrounds.

"I introduce the Holocaust into my courses as a study in discrimination and where it can lead," he says. "Many of my students lack a sense of history, and their knowledge of

discrimination is limited to what they see around them—Asian, black, and so on. Study of the Holocaust contributes a great deal."

Two physicians who attended the conference, both of them from the United States, deal with Holocaust issues in ethics courses in university medical schools. The medical ethics of the war and the Nazis' appalling abuse of

medical research and practice, makes for fertile teaching ground.

Dr. Jacqueline Giere of the Fritz Bauer Institute For Study & Documentation of the Holocaust in Frankfurt-am-Main described to participants the interest of young Germans in the subject, and its teaching in the country where it was "conceived, facilitated, approved and activated; where people participated in it, ignored it or turned the other way."

In the late 1980s, a grass roots movement arose, in which youngsters and their teachers started searching for traces of Holocaust history. "Authentic sites dot the country," she says. "Kids find former Jewish homes and synagogues on their own block. They find family members and neighbors who witnessed the daily denunciations and humiliations. They're learning to recognize the signs."

If it is to become a universal lesson in discrimination, human rights and the evils of totalitarianism, what of its uniqueness as a Jewish tragedy—a genocide planned, directed and practiced against a specific group of people?



Participants in the Holocaust In Education conference visit an exhibit at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. (WZPS photo by Vera Etzion)

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

by Cynthia Wroclawski

I visited Avraham Kohavi on an unseasonably warm winter day in January. We sat on his patio for close to six hours as he told me the story of how he survived the Holocaust and how his family perished. Never in my life had I sat face to face with a survivor, one on one, and never before had I been so moved. Survivors will not be around to tell their story forever. I thank Avraham for being candid and for his courage.

The first time Avraham Kohavi realized he was different was when his father was fired from his job. It was September 1939, and he, like other middle class Jews in Lodz, Poland, was deprived of his livelihood. One day 11-year-old Lubok Stem (Avraham's former name) heard his starving eight-year-old sister, Adella, sobbing. "Look I killed them. " She cried all night, Avraham Kohavi, now 66, remembers. "I told her to stop; she couldn't."

"She had taken all her 'children' (her dolls) and torn their heads and limbs off," Avraham recalls. "I asked her why and she said that her babies were hungry and that because she had no food to give them she killed them."

Avraham is sitting with crossed legs on a wooden straight backed chair on the patio of his modest kibbutz home surrounded by hundreds of hanging plants. Fighting back tears, the thin, gray-green eyed Kohavi, clad in faded blue work pants and a scratchy brown sweater clutches a framed portrait of a round-faced young girl with dark eyes.

"Will mammy kill me?" Adella asked her brother.

"I won't let them kill you," pledged the boy who, having said those words, aged 30 years.

The Jews of Lodz were scheduled for deportation. Those failing to comply, a sign announced, would be shot on sight. Avraham's family fled to a squalid ghetto. They dragged blankets, clothes and dishes through

the snow on Adella's sled to a former horse stable made from rotting wood planks with a dirt floor; no water and no electricity, no windows or doors. "I begged and stole food,"



A photograph taken in the Lodz Ghetto.

(Photo by Mendel Grossman—courtesy of Yad Vashem)

Avraham admits. "That is how I fed the family. Hunger. Hunger. Hunger."

"We lived in very crowded conditions. There were epidemics, hunger and suicides," Avraham says, his voice cracking and his words marked by frequent pauses. "There were bodies everywhere and no one was able to bury them," he recalls. "Death was the norm. Life was abnormal."

When orders were posted in the ghetto for parents to deliver their

children to the municipality to be taken to a "sanitarium", the family decided to go into hiding. It was the winter of 1942 when Avraham and his father said good-bye to his mother and sister, never to see them again.

Avraham's father, so weak, could hardly walk. Avraham pushed him up a ladder into the attic of an abandoned house. "There were other people in that attic," recalls Avraham. "They were crazy beasts, packed like sardines in a can. There were people with no clothes on. There was no place to stand. There was no air to breathe."

Crawling over bodies to get to a shoe box sized window in the attic, Avraham was witness to the German soldiers method of killing of Jewish children. "They grabbed them by their feet and smashed their heads against the wall," he tells. Avraham later learned that his sister was murdered in the same manner. She had left her hiding place to urinate in privacy; and her mother, who ran after her, was shot in the back.

When the streets below were cleared, Avraham dragged his weak father back to their shack in the ghetto. They barely survived for another year. It was the summer of 1944 when the Jews remaining in the ghetto were rounded up, herded into windowless boxcars and transported to the Birkenau concentration camp.

"I have no idea how long that journey took," concedes Avraham.

"I wasn't completely conscious. When the doors of the train opened, the people tumbled out and dogs dragged out the dead bodies. I looked up and saw six or seven tall chimneys emitting black smelly smoke," he recalls. "I'll never forget that stench."

There was a selection. Women and children were separated from the men. "I held my father up as they prodded us to move along," remembers Avraham. "When we reached a German soldier sitting on a chair, he pushed my father to the left and me to the right. I never saw my father again."

After a week at the camp the boys and young men were stripped naked and subjected to another selection. Avraham, who was short, stood on the tips of his toes and remained with a group that was taken to be branded.

Avraham pulls his brown sweater over his head and points to the black number branded on the inside of his forearm. B-8095.

The prisoners, devoid of strength, were forced to walk to Auschwitz, where a sign at the entrance read "Work Liberates." According to Avraham the camp was "paradise." He took a hot shower with soap; his first shower in four years. He also learned carpentry in Auschwitz. "The Germans prob-

ably felt the end of the war nearing and wanted to show the world they had treated their prisoners well," Avraham conjectures.

Avraham was transported three or four more times and finally reached a refugee camp in Austria. When the camp was liberated, he was found among a pile of dead bodies. One of the liberating American soldiers saw his toes moving and pulled him from the pile.

It was 1945. Avraham Kohavi was 16-years-old and weighed 25 kilos (55 lb.'s). "A soldier from the Jewish Brigade of the English army asked if I wanted to go to Palestine," Avraham recalls. "I was taken to Italy where I joined a group of Hashomer Hatzair youth in training for aliya."

Avraham's *garin* (group) called "*Geulim*" (redemption) became his family. Their *madrachim* (group leaders) taught them Hebrew and farming, preparing them for the pioneering life of Jewish settlers in Palestine.

Two years passed and when the group still hadn't obtained immigration papers they decided to immigrate illegally. "It was March 13 1947 when we reached Palestine," Avraham recalls. "We jumped in the water and swam to shore. The water was freezing cold. It took me a few hours to reach the shore, but

others never made it at all."

Avraham settled on Kibbutz Mizra; but after enlisting in the Hagana, and serving as a medic, he was persuaded in 1950 to move to Kibbutz Yad Mordechai. "I was attracted by the fact that Yad Mordechai needed pioneers to help build the place up," says Avraham who has since worked as a dairy farmer, gardener, manager of the chicken coop, headed the cultural and work committees and coordinated the annual Holocaust memorial and remembrance day. This past year, he has taken responsibility for upkeep of the kibbutz cemetery.

In 1977, Avraham broke his silence and began speaking to countless groups of soldiers and 11th and 12th graders on his experiences during the Holocaust, twice accompanying groups of high school students on study trips to Poland.

"I always explain that I'm telling about my family and not giving a history lesson," says Avraham. "This is my way of memorializing my family. I don't have a graveside to visit."

Avraham also volunteers at the Yad Vashem archives, translating survivors' accounts from Polish to Hebrew. "The stories are very moving," he whispers. "My story is only one of millions."

A Labor Of Love

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.

Sometimes my work reminds me of the fable of a little boy who was crossing the desert alone. He became very thirsty, so he was obliged to dig in the ground with bleeding fingers until he came to water. He drank and went on his weary way. Each time that he became thirsty, he dug holes and his hands became more torn and bleeding. At last he reached the other side, exhausted and fainting, his clothes hanging in dusty rags. Some time later, he looked across the desert and saw a happy child coming with his hands full of flowers.

The child was taking the same route that he himself had travelled. He looked at the strange sight in perfect amazement.

When the little boy arrived, he asked him how it could be that he had crossed the awful desert and looked so fresh and cool. The child answered, saying, "Oh, the way was beautiful. There are many small wells out of which comes lovely cool water, and around each of these wells there are flowers and shady bushes and soft grass. I had no trouble at all in crossing."

The first boy looked down at his own scarred fingers and knew that it was his own suffering which had made the desert bloom and made the way

easy for other little boys to cross. But the second boy would never think to thank him or to ask who had dug the wells, but he who had laboured so strenuously knew, and was well satisfied.

As I think of this lovely little fable, it gives me courage to go on trying the best I can to dig holes in the desert that others who have never had a chance before, may be able to face life, with the help of God and a knowledge of Him. The years have not all been spent "digging wells" there have been bright, beautiful days full of love and joy, as well as the days of heavy burdens.

— "Grace and Glory"

THE ZIONIST HAGGADAH

by Gail Lichtman

"In every generation, each individual is bound to regard himself as if he personally had gone forth from Egypt", commands the Haggadah, the traditional text retelling the exodus from Egypt which is read at the Passover seder.

This sentence, uttered by Jews for centuries, inspired award-winning Jerusalem artist David Harel and his wife Chaya, an historian and leading scholar on Theodor Herzl, to spend four years creating a unique work of art and tradition (the "Rebirth of Israel Passover Haggadah") a Zionist Haggadah portraying the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the birth of the State of Israel.

"We were looking for a way to bring our children and ourselves closer to the Exodus. The establishment of the State of Israel is the modern equivalent of this biblical event, with the return of the Jewish people to Israel from exile. We wanted to connect the two and communicate that we too are a part of an ongoing Jewish history," Chaya explains.

Of more than 3,000 different Haggadahs (pictorials and text) created over the centuries in various countries around the world, the "Rebirth of Israel Passover Haggadah" is the only one which connects the Passover theme of freedom with the modern return to Zion and the establishment of Israel's independence. Faith-

fully following the traditional text, it describes the transition from slavery to redemption using both illustrations and text describing the return of the Jewish people to their homeland from the First Aliya (new immigrant) through the establishment of the state.

Premiered at a special exhibition held in the Tel Aviv Museum in April 1986, the Haggadah won immediate critical acclaim both as a work of art and as "a modern-day version of the traditional Haggadah." In honor of the 100th anniversary of Zionism in 1997, the Haggadah is now being issued in a new English-Hebrew version.

Every detail is filled with meaning from the special introduction providing a synopsis of modern Zionist history to the closing words of Chad Gadya, illustrated by milestones in the history of Jerusalem.

The Harels give a new and fresh perspective to the traditional passages. "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt", is illustrated by a drawing of the convoys which carried food to besieged Jerusalem during the War of Independence.

"Ma nishtana?" is accompanied by a portrait of Herzl at the first Zionist Congress in Basel and David Ben-Gurion proclaiming the establishment of the State of Israel.



An illustration from the "Zionist Hagaddah" of pioneers working the land, appears beside the words "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy," from Shir HaMa'alot (A Song

(Photo by Sammy Avnisan)

By "We were slaves unto Pharaoh in Egypt", appears a ship of illegal immigrants trying to reach Israel during the British Mandate, while by "In your blood shall you live", appears a burning synagogue during Kristallnacht. The words "the Egyptians ill-treated us, afflicted us", is illustrated by a photo-

graph of the main gate of Auschwitz.

And there is joy too. The reclaiming of the land, the building of Tel Aviv, the first Rishon LeZion orchestra, the rebirth of the Hebrew language—all culminating in "next year in a rebuilt Jerusalem" with a composite of both the earthly and heavenly Jerusalem of the past, present and future.

PITCHAT NITZANA

CITY OF PEACE

by Dan Goldberg

According to Jewish Agency figures, some 707,973 immigrants from the former Soviet Union have arrived in Israel since 1989. Whilst the general problems of such mass immigration have been confronted and largely overcome, long term structural solutions are still being developed. One such proposal follows in the footsteps of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, who envisioned the development of the desert as the key to overcoming the problems of immigration.

"We need men of the desert who will. . . lead us in transforming the wasteland into a blessing, a place in which to work and live. Unless we conquer. . . the desert. . . we cannot succeed in the tasks of immigration and resettlement."

Over 50 years later, Jewish Agency professionals and government ministries are still nursing Ben-Gurion's notion whilst

deliberating on a potential panacea. With the population of Israel fast approaching five million, the majority living in the central part of the country, the Ministry for Housing and Construction recently issued a proposal for a new development project in the Negev desert called Pitchat Nitzana — the City of Peace.

The Nitzana region lies in the south west Negev, close to Israel's border with Egypt. Despite the establishment of towns such as Dimona, Ashkelon and Arad in the northern Negev and a handful of villages and kibbutzim in the Arava, the Negev desert is one of Israel's last havens of largely undeveloped, natural beauty.

Veteran politician, Lova Eliav, is the modern day Ben-Gurion. An ex-Labor party member, he is among the brave who have followed the vision of reclaiming the desert and making it bloom. In the late 80s, he began building

a youth village on the Israeli-Egyptian border, which today accommodates more than 450 students and counselors, and offers programs on desert ecology, flora and fauna. "The Nitzana youth village," says Eliav, "was the catalyst for Pitchat Nitzana."

Ultimately, the plan is to build a settlement of between 50,000 and 100,000 people. The area is expected to attract new immigrants, Israelis looking for a higher quality of life at a lower cost, and army personnel located in the Negev.

Over 50 years ago, Ben-Gurion issued an urgent call: "The desert area of our land is calling us. . . (it) is not a Sahara or a hopelessly arid wilderness. . . (we must) find a way of making the wilderness bloom and of turning the desert into a place of settled habitation." Israel is heeding that call, and by building and settling the City of Peace, it hopes to turn the desert dust into a blooming flower.

THE OLIVE TREE

The olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane (according to experts) date back to the time of Christ. Some of the olive trees in Israel still bear fruit after the age of 1000 years. In old age the trunk is hollow, but still keeps growing in thickness. The base of a large tree sometimes measures around 21 feet in circumference. Most of the olive trees on the Hills of Judea (around Jerusalem) are much smaller than this in size.

The olive tree is an evergreen. It is also at home in mountain areas (in rugged and steep terrain)—"oil out of the flinty rock." Deut.32:13. There are groves of wild olive trees mainly in upper Galilee and Carmel. Romans 11:17,24. The Promised Land was sometimes called "The Land of Olive Trees" and Mount of Olives the "Mount of Oil." The olive is mentioned in the Bible as one of the 'seven fruits' of the land. Deut.8:8. Also Deut.6:11 and 7:13. The vine, olive and grains remain the basic staples in Israel.

When the trees in Jotham's parable went forth "to anoint a king over them," their first choice was the olive tree. Judges 9:8,9. King David once appointed Baalhanan over the olive trees in the lower plains and Joash over the cellars of oil. 1 Chron. 27:28.

Even if the tree is cut down, the root shoots forth new plants, giving assurance of the continuation of existence. We read in Psalms 128:3 "...thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

"I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever." Psalms 5.

Rare Mosaic Floor Uncovered



This colourful panel shows roaming wild animals as well as a lion and lioness atop two different mountains with a mythical monster in between.
(Photo by Sammy Avnison)

During road construction near the Lod turnoff on the Ramle-Ben Gurion airport highway in June 1996, workers were astonished to discover an almost undamaged mosaic floor (10m. x 18m.), apparently from the house of a third century CE Roman official.

The central section of the mosaic shows a lion and lioness on two different mountains, separated by a lake, with a mythical monster in between. Another scene depicts a hare eating grapes while being stalked by a dog. Along the

borders of this square are birds, fish and dolphins. Other sections include additional panels with birds and fish, a giraffe, a hippopotamus, an elephant and a tiger; another a variety of fish and two merchant ships.

Thousands of curious Israelis were lucky enough to view the mosaic in the few short weeks prior to its being covered over. Officials are yet to decide whether to restore the mosaic at the site or remove it to another location for restoration.

Bible Calendar

Remember, there is a new *Bible Calendar* for the new year. If you require copies be sure to submit your requests while supplies last.

Holidays, Sabbaths and the beginning of each Hebrew month are highlighted in red.

Of course the *Bible Calendar* has much more in it and features pictures of Israel and its people.

The *Bible Calendar* is free upon request.

Send all requests to:
Mt. Zion Reporter - P.O. Box 10184
Jerusalem, Israel

FISHY FARE

by Cynthia Wroclawski

The foods we eat at the Rosh Hashana meal reflect our blessings for a healthy, prosperous and sweet year to come. In many Jewish households it is customary to eat fish on *Rosh Hashana* (the Jewish New Year).

Fish grant health, fertility and intellect according to Jewish tradition. The Talmud, the collection of Rabbinic writings constituting the basis of religious authority for traditional Judaism, contains several passages mentioning the merits of

eating fish.

Fish prevent intestinal diseases and heal the whole body (Brachot 40:1). A woman who eats fish will bear gifted children (Kethubot 61:1).

Fish are standard Sabbath fare in many Jewish homes. A Yiddish saying, dating back to Germany in the 1800's, states, "Sabbath without fish is like a wedding without a bride and groom."

On Rosh Hashana it is cus-

tomary to eat fish heads. The head symbolizes "being at the head and not the tail," according to the Shulkhan Arukh, the code of Jewish law.

"My grandmother in Argentina told me we eat the head so that we may be strong, smart and leaders among others," says Haviva Livne, 60, a cook at Kibbutz Revadim. "Stuffed fish symbolizes fullness; so that we may have a fulfilling year ahead," she adds.

**Read on for a number of scrumptious fish recipes
and some facts about Israel's fish industry.**

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Haviva's Gefilte Fish

(A recipe from the kitchen of Haviva Livne, a cook at Kibbutz Revadim).

1 kilo (2 1/2 lbs.) of carp (putting aside the skin and bones) 100 gr. (3 1/2 ozs.) raw onion 100 gr. (2 1/2 ozs.) sautéed onion 100 gr. (3 1/2 ozs.) bread crumbs, 2 eggs, 1/2 cup of seltzer water, 3 carrots, parsley, salt, sugar and pepper to taste

Separate the fish from the bones and skin. Use the skin and bones for the fish sauce (below). Add to the fish the raw and sautéed onions, wet bread crumbs, salt, sugar, and pepper, eggs and seltzer water. Mix all the ingredients and grind them in a meat grinder (medium-sized holes). When the mixture is constant, shape into oval balls and set aside.

Fish sauce:

Cook the head, bones and skin of the fish in a large pot with 3 liters (1 gallon) of water. Boil for 45 minutes. Add the carrots (whole or cut into rounds) and 2-3 whole onions. Boil for another 15 minutes. Gently add the fish balls to the boiling water and boil for another half hour. Cool the balls, place on a tray and decorate with parsley and carrots. Pour remaining sauce on the fish and cool in the refrigerator for several hours until the sauce gels. Serve cold.

Marinated Carp

(From Israeli food columnist Gerda Cohen's book, *Cooked Tales*).

5-6 carp
1 cup sliced carrots
1 cup sliced onions
1 cup water
1 cup vinegar
1 cup sweet fruit juice
one bay leaf
salt, sugar and pepper to taste

Cook one cup of sliced carrots and one cup of sliced onions in a pan containing one cup of water for 1 hour. Add 1 cup of vinegar and salt, sugar, a bay leaf, and pepper (to taste). Add 5-6 fish, cut to serving size, and cook for a half hour. Let the fish cool in the sauce. Afterwards, take the fish out and arrange it on a serving plate. Sprinkle the sauce on top and let it harden. Serve cold.

Whole Trout in Almond Sauce

(From the kitchen of Shaki Shkolnick, chef at Kibbutz Revadim).

2-4 trout (fresh or frozen)
1/3 cup lemon juice
a pinch of salt
70 gr. (2 1/2 ozs.) butter
1/2 cup sliced almonds.
salt and white pepper to taste

Wash and clean the fish; inside and out. Place fish in a shallow dish. Mix the lemon juice, fruit juice and salt with a whisk and pour over the fish. Marinate for three hours in the refrigerator. Turn the fish every so often during that time. Dry fish with a paper towel. Place fish on aluminum foil in a baking pan. Spread half of the butter on and in the fish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for 20 minutes at 120-130 degrees Celsius (300 degrees Fahrenheit) on one side. Turn over and bake for another 10 minutes.

Prior to serving: sauté the almonds in the remaining butter and sprinkle on the fish. Serve hot.

Orna's Spicy Carp

(A North American Jewish dish from the kitchen of Orna Ben Haim from Shoham)

4-5 carp, cleaned well and marinated in lemon juice and salt

1/2 tsp. ground kimmel

2 tsp. cumin

Sauce:

3 tbs. concentrated tomato paste

1/4 cup oil

1 clove garlic (finely chopped)

1 tsp. hot paprika

1 tsp. sweet paprika

lemon juice from 1/2 lemon

1 1/2 cups water

Add all the sauce ingredients together in a deep, wide saucepan and cook for 1 minute. Add water, cover and cook for 20 minutes over a low flame. (Add boiling water if the sauce dries out). Add the fish, kimmel and cumin and cook for another half hour. If necessary, add water as the sauce should be thick. Serve hot.



According to Jewish tradition, fish, as seen in this Jerusalem market place, grant health, fertility and intellect. It is also customary to eat fish on *Rosh Hashana* (Jewish New Year). (Photo by Sammy Avnison)

Fishy Facts: Israelis have been harvesting fish for 60 years. The first aquaculturists were members of Kibbutz Nir David in the Bet Shean valley. Israelis consume over 60,000 tons of fish annually. Seventy percent of Israel's seafood is imported at a cost of \$ 100 million per year. The rest is supplied locally from wild catch fisheries, land based freshwater fish ponds and offshore sea water fish ranches.

Freshwater fish production, consisting of carp, tilapia, mullet, hybrid bass and trout, accounts for 15,000 tons of Israel's annual crop. According to Gidi Sivan, director of the Israel Fish Growers' Association, demand for carp quadruples during the month of *Rosh Hashana* (Jewish New Year). Israel also exports fish to kosher markets abroad.

SECRETS OF ONCE FLOURISHING ANCIENT CITY BEING REVEALED

by Cynthia Wroclawski

When excavations at the ancient city of Hazor were renewed in 1990, Professor Amnon Ben-Tor of the Hebrew University's Archaeology Department who is directing the current ten season excavations at the site, planned to restore some of the major architectural monuments, such as the wall and gate attributed to King Solomon, and public structures from the period of the divided monarchy. But most of all, he hoped to expose the Canaanite palace; find one or more archives of the Canaanite kings of Hazor, and determine exactly how and when Hazor was destroyed.

Archaeologists working on the *Selz Foundation Hazor Excavations* in Memory of Yigael Yadin, a joint project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Complutense University of Madrid, have recently uncovered four ancient Canaanite documents in the ruins of the Canaanite royal palace, where excavation work has been taking place for several seasons. (To date, 30 x 40 meters of the palace have been unearthed).

Written on clay tablets in a western dialect of the Akkadian language, scholars have thus far discerned that the first document deals with the dispatch of people or goods to three places, one of which is Hazor, and the second a civil dispute of an unclear nature between three people. The third is a study text of multiplication tables, and the fourth deals with dispatch of goods from Hazor.

Two of the documents date to the 14th century BCE, the late bronze age preceding the arrival of the Israelites, and all the others date to the 18th century BCE. "This is what leads me to believe that maybe

there were two archives," says Ben-Tor.

If Ben-Tor's theory proves correct, Hazor will yield one of the greatest prizes in the history of Israeli archaeology, revealing details of Canaanite culture that other archaeological finds have merely hinted at. Archives discovered in royal palaces in Egypt and Mesopotamia contain the most accurate records of all facets of life in the ancient world.

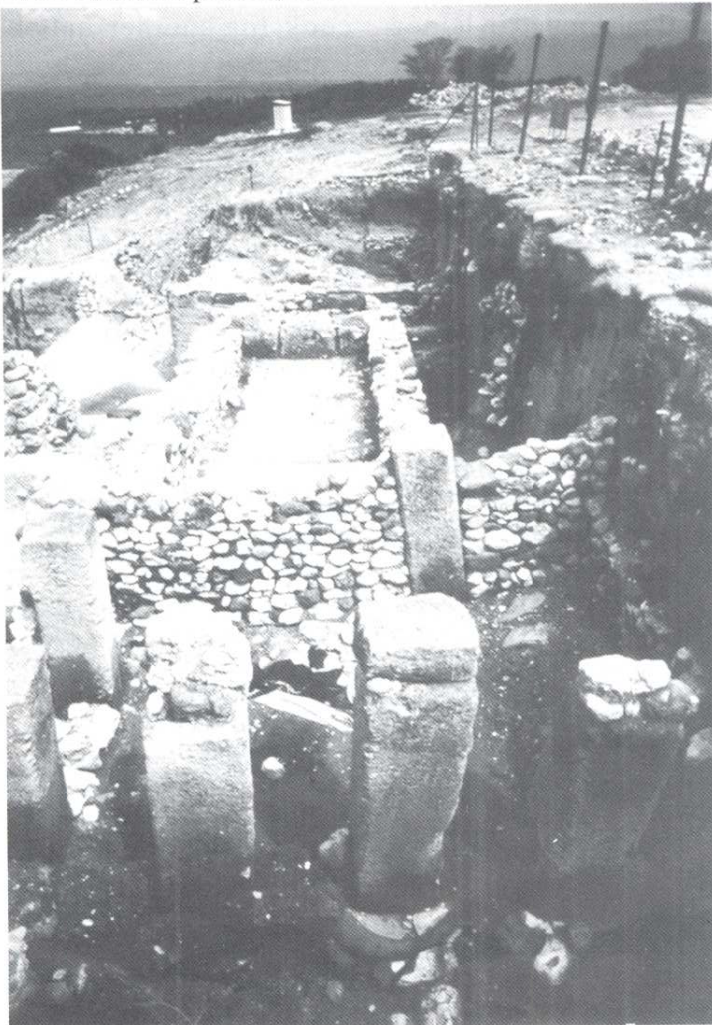
There are two chapters in the history of settlement

at Hazor, which is situated north of the Sea of Galilee, near Rosh Pina—Canaanite and Israelite. The Canaanite city, the biggest and most important city in the country at the time, flourished during the middle and late bronze age, from 2,000 to 1,200 BCE, with both the upper and lower cities occupying an area of 800 dunams (200 acres). The city was fortified and extensively built with temples, public buildings and private houses. Its population was between 20-30,000, ten times that of Jerusalem.

In the tenth century BCE, Solomon rebuilt Hazor. "And this is the reason of the Levy which King Solomon raised; for to build the house of the Lord... and the wall of

Jerusalem and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer." (Kings 19:15). Then in the ninth century BCE, under the reign of King Ahab, Hazor grew to 80 dunams (20 acres). This was a prosperous period and a water system was built.

"We know the date of Hazor's destruction within 120 years," says Ben-Tor, "but we don't yet know the exact date." Theories surrounding its final destruction abound. "One theory suggests there could have been a slow infiltration by Israelite tribes who



Ruins of the Canaanite royal palace at Hazor.

(Photo by Sammy Avnisan)

displaced the Canaanites; another that there may have been a revolt by the masses from within," says Ben-Tor.

Due to a thick layer of ash throughout the tel (artificial hill), Yigael Yadin, who directed excavations at Hazor between 1955 and 1958 and 1968 and 1970, believed that a fierce fire took place there late in the 13th century BCE. He, therefore, attributed the destruction of Canaanite Hazor to the Israelite tribes as related in the Book of Joshua: "And Joshua at that time turned back, and took Hazor, and smote the king thereof with the sword.... and he burnt Hazor with fire.... But as for the cities that stood still in their strength, Israel burned none of them, save Hazor only; that did Joshua burn." (Jos. 11:10-13). Ben-Tor, named in Yadin's will to continue his scientific legacy,

cautions that the evidence doesn't fully support this conclusion.

Another version of the conquest of Hazor appears in the account of Deborah's wars: "And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan." (Judges 4:24).

Unfortunately, concedes Ben-Tor, "the events weren't written down at the time; only a few hundred years afterward." What is clear, however, is that a great number of strata existed during the Israelite occupation, indicating that the city was constantly rebuilt.

Ben-Tor aims to dig till the year 2,000, hoping "to solve the problem of *why* and *when* Hazor was destroyed and find one or two archives." Estimates indicate that a full excavation of Hazor would take 700 years.



Rose Blumenthal and Connie Fernandez being baptized by Elder Gordon Fauth in the Jordan River.

"And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John."

— Luke 3:3; 7:29.

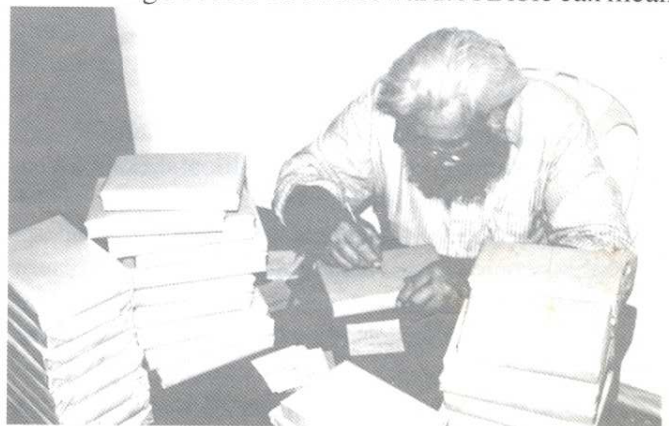
The Bible ministry goes on: So, keep those Bibles coming! The Word of our Lord is worth more than all earthly treasures! This ministry is very important because many people here, and around the world, cannot afford a Bible. A Bible can mean the difference between darkness and light for those that are searching for a rock in the ever increasing ocean of chaos, fear and despair.

The Word can save a soul and those of us who can give a Bible as a gift to another are fortunate. Remember that your reward in heaven will be tenfold! Also remember that saving a soul is its own reward. A Bible can mean the difference between everlasting life and eternal death.

An old Bible is as good as a new one, for the Word never ages and is eternal. So, if you have an old Bible collecting dust please send it to us. If you feel led to help, please send us your Bible(s). Also, because we send Bibles across the world, a donation toward postage would be a great help.

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NEWS DIRECT FROM ISRAEL

All Items from The Jerusalem Post

Jittery Jerusalemites want IAF to stop sonic booming the city

THE Jerusalem Municipality has asked the air force to order jets to stop breaking the sound barrier over the city because the sonic booms are causing panic among residents, who fear the noise is the sound of terror bombings. Jerusalem residents say that recently there has been a marked increase in the number of sonic booms. The booms, which make windows rattle, apparently send hundreds to reach for the telephone. Ze'ev Shaltiel, head of the city's security and emergency department, sent a letter to OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu saying that after every boom the switch boards at City Hall and Jerusalem Police headquarters are flooded with calls from residents asking if a bomb has just exploded. "In light of the high sensitivity among the residents of the city to the sound of any kind of explosion, I am asking that you instruct those involved to refrain from breaking the sound barrier over the city," Shaltiel wrote to Ben-Eliahu. Ben-Eliahu was in Washington and not available for comment. But the IDF Spokes man said the matter was being dealt with. "The IAF has standing clear instructions limiting supersonic flights over populated areas and their surroundings," an IDF statement said. The IDF added that the air force had no special agreement with the City of Jerusalem. But Teddy Kollek, former mayor of Jerusalem, told *The Jerusalem Post* that he had come to an agreement many years ago with the IAF that it not allow its jets to break the sound barrier over the city. "I asked for the sonic booms to cease. It was very annoying and many people complained to the city about it," Kollek said, adding that the air force had honored the agreement for years.

"The Song of Peace" ruled not political

"The Song of Peace" is not a political song, the High Court of Justice ruled recently, and convinced petitioners to withdraw their petition to the court that the song not be played on Army Radio or at events sponsored by the defence establishment. The petitioners said the song carries a political message and lowers soldiers' motivation by making light of war. "I see here an approach to war and peace. This is not political," Justice Mishael Cheshin said.

Treasury: Government earns 2 billion Shekels a year from car theft.

THE government earns some 2 billion shekels a year from car thefts, the Knesset Economics Committee learned. Treasury representative Gila Metaido explained to the committee that people whose cars are stolen generally buy new ones, and the purchase of any new car entails paying heavy taxes. Based on data collected by the Lapidet Committee, which shows that taxes on a new car come to 120% of the car's cost and the fact that about 36,000 cars a year are stolen, this comes to a profit for the state of 2 billion shekels a year, she said. "The committee is getting the impression that car thefts have become a profitable business for the

government," said acting committee chairman Shalom Simhon (Labour), expressing the committee's shock. "You could solve all the problems of the state budget by doubling the quantity of car thefts," suggested Ya'acov Enoch, representative of the Association of Car Importers, who admitted that the importers are also a major beneficiary of thefts. Simhon said the committee will recommend passing a law exempting those whose cars are stolen from paying taxes on replacements. The committee was also surprised to discover that the police's car theft unit consists of only 26 policemen, even though the crime is endemic. Its budget, paid for entirely by the insurance companies, comes to 4.5 million shekels a year. MK Effi Oshaya (Labor), who initiated the discussion, noted that 5,573 cars have been stolen in the Sharon region alone during the first eight months of the year. This is an increase of 35% compared to the same period last year, he said. Oshaya said this increase can largely be attributed to the region's proximity to the autonomous Palestinian regions. He recently met with the Palestinian governor of Tulkarm, he said, and the latter told him that the Palestinian Police were aware of joint Israeli-Palestinian rings that routinely steal cars in Israel and smuggle them into the autonomous regions.

"My head's fine but my heart aches"

"MY head doesn't hurt, but my heart does," Tamar Tzur said from her hospital bed, while a funeral procession left Jerusalem for Beit El with the bodies of her mother, Etta, and her brother, Ephraim. A wisp of a 13-year-old with braces on her teeth, Tamar was swathed in a large bandage, after doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem removed ricochets from her head and neck. But it was her two younger sisters, Shoshana, 8, lying in the next bed after a six-hour operation on her right hand, and six-year old Avital, at home, who worried her. "They don't know yet that mother is dead. They are too young to absorb that at this stage, so we haven't told them. It will be so hard for them to come home from school every day and not to find her there," she said, dry-eyed. "Avital is only in first grade." Tamar said her father had given her hope. My dad is so full of faith and he told me to be strong and to believe in God. Dad said we must look on the bright side of things. We didn't suffer so much," she said. "those who died, didn't feel anything and we were only lightly wounded and don't have much [physical] pain." She said only five of the family's eight children had been in the car. The four girls were all described as lightly injured and two were released from the hospital. The moments of horror of the evening before remain clear in her mind. She spoke quietly, as if out of respect for the dead, and with detachment. "Our car had stopped at the intersection for the vehicles traveling in the opposite direction to pass. Suddenly there were shots. I knew immediately what it was. "The car seemed to be filled with blood in a moment. I was sitting next to Ephraim. In the beginning, he was still breathing heavily, then he was dead. Dad said that he died

instantly and that those were simply death throes, so I guess he didn't suffer. "Dad—he was unhurt, just a few ricochets in his back—jumped out to run to call for help. It was so scary. Mom was still conscious and she muttered a few times, "Quick, get help." After a while, a car with some members of our settlement arrived and started helping us. They took us to an army clinic nearby. Even in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, mom was alive and spoke with the doctor. "But my big sister, Shlomit (she's 16.) was totally hysterical. She started shouting: 'Look at Ephraim; he's dead.' His eyes had rolled back. She made a mistake. She should have realized that would frighten the little girls." Tamar admitted that she had worried in the past that something could happen to them. "It happened to other families, so why not to us? Yes," she said, "we will stay on in Beit El. Jews have to be everywhere in *Eretz Yisrael* (the country of Israel)." She is not angry, nor is she looking for retribution, she said. "The Arabs have a right to use the road like we do. We have Arab friends. One was here today and he was terribly upset. There's no point in killing or even looking for the perpetrators. They cannot bring back my mom. She looked at the time. Then, comforting herself, added with a rare sigh: "I believe that my mom will now go to heaven."

Syria has arsenal of nerve gas, expert says

A LEADING Israeli expert on chemical and bacteriological warfare said that Syria has an arsenal of deadly nerve gases and anthrax, a lethal bacterium. Dr. Danny Shoham, a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, said the Syrians had the chemical agents installed in thousands of aerial bombs and between 100-200 warheads for Scud B and the more advanced Scud C ground-to-ground missiles. He stressed, however, that Syria has built up its nonconventional arsenal primarily as a deterrent and to counter balance Israel's reputed nuclear capability. Shoham, a former senior army intelligence analyst, stated that in his opinion the prospect of Syria initiating a non-conventional strike against Israel is low. He added, however, that such a possibility could not be ruled out completely, especially if Syria's vital interests or the very existence of the regime were threatened or power passed into the hands of someone less rational than President Hafez Assad. He spoke to *The Jerusalem Post* following comments made earlier this week by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who said Syria's chemical warfare capability posed a serious threat. "Syria is reckoned to be the most advanced Arab country in terms of its ability to materialize a chemical warfare threat," said Shoham. "The main components of Syria's chemical arsenal are the nerve agents, 'Sarin' and more recently VX which is more virulent and can penetrate through the skin and not only the respiratory system; It also persists longer because of its less volatile nature." Shoham said the nerve agents had been produced in Syria over more than a decade, initially with the possible assistance of the former Soviet Union, then private Western European concerns and more recently through suppliers in China, India, and North Korea. Lately there have been reports that Russian scientists have once again been helping the Syrians to produce the nerve agents, particularly VX. According to Shoham, the VX agent produced by the

Syrians plausibly resembles the Soviet version of the deadly gas which is much more toxic than that manufactured originally by the Americans. "There are reports that the Syrians have also produced anthrax, a highly lethal bacterium, which together with their two chemical warfare options make their non-conventional threat much more significant in terms of strategic capabilities."

Homeless protest camp steals electricity: blacks out traffic lights

TRAFFIC by the Knesset was disrupted for several hours when a chain accident occurred on Rehov Ruppim, part of which has been without street and traffic lights for several days. No one was seriously injured in the accident. The lights went off on a major section of Rehov Ruppim due to the illegal connection of power lines to the city supply by a homeless tent camp. Mordechai Feder, chairman of the Jerusalem branch of Metuna (a voluntary organization fighting road accidents), said its hot line has received many complaints about this. When he called the Jerusalem Municipality's 106 emergency hot line, he said the man on duty told him, "The Jerusalem police ordered the city to shut down all street lights until the homeless stop stealing the electricity." Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby denied this and declared that it was strictly a municipal problem. A municipal spokeswoman said City Hall was aware of the disruptions in lighting and traffic lights over a period of months. "We did not cut off power intentionally. The problems are due to the fact that the electricity lines can't function properly when power is drained off by the homeless. There are short circuits from overuse," she said. The city has filed a complaint with the police against the demonstrators for having stolen municipal electricity and contacted the Ministry of Housing and Construction, "which is responsible for dealing with homeless people," she said.

Israelis love Arafat — when he's a puppet

YASSER Arafat may not win any popularity contests among the Israeli public, but the doll that imitates him on Channel 2's Hartzufim satire program was the hands-down winner in a Gallup poll for Army Radio this week. Of the 511 people surveyed, 15.9 percent said the Arafat doll, whose fast-talking, stuttering charm always steals the show, is their favorite. In second place was the doll modelled after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, with 10%. Opposition leader Shimon Peres took third place, with 6.7%, while Finance Minister Dan Meridor got 5.9%.

Woman almost dies from bee sting treatment

A 52-YEAR OLD kibbutznik who submitted to bee stings in an effort to relieve her shoulder pains nearly died recently after going into anaphylactic shock from the stings. Doctors at Kupat Holim Clalit's Lin Clinic in Haifa gave her emergency treatment and saved her life. The woman, a member of a kibbutz in the North, went to a complementary medicine practitioner who said bee stings would relieve her pain. After the 12th sting, an allergy appeared that caused a rash and shortness of breath.

Dr. David Nusam, a senior Lin allergy expert, said that while complementary medicine could be helpful, patients

should be aware of the fact that they can also be dangerous and even life-threatening "if they are carried out in an irresponsible manner." The woman will have to undergo immo-therapy at the Lin clinic to ensure that she doesn't suffer a serious reaction to bee stings in the future. If she hadn't been exposed to so much bee allergen at once, the "accident" would not have happened and she would not have to be careful in the future, he said.

Chimps stay healthy with human flu remedy

Chimpanzees serving as "guinea pigs" for the testing of a herbal flu remedy for humans are lapping up the elixir at the Tisch Family Jerusalem Biblical Zoo. The elderberry syrup—manufactured in Jerusalem and sold in pharmacies and health stores around the world under the name Sambucol has apparently produced a coughless and feverless winter for the monkeys. "They sleep curled up together in clusters," said Dr. Sambucol developer DL Madeleine Mumcuoglu, a virology researcher who left the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School to set up her own company, Razei Bar, in the Maiha industrial Park last October. "This makes them susceptible to infecting each other with winter flu and other viral diseases, which are the same as those suffered by humans." Ape-keeper Beverly Burg-Beri, who had been taking Sambucol to relieve or even prevent her own colds and flu, decided that the syrup couldn't hurt the chimpanzees. With permission from zoo director Shal Doron and chief veterinarian Dr. Gabi Eshkar, she gave plain fruit juice to a control group of six and a table spoonfull of Sambucol to the other six. "Four months into the project, we have had several incidences of cold-like symptoms in the control group, which lasted two to six days. In the group receiving Sambucol, we have observed either none, or symptoms lasting 24 hours or less," said Burg-Beri. "A check of the health records we have for previous years showed that by this time of year, several mild to severe outbreaks of viral-like infections had already occurred." She added that "the animals love" the syrup, and the chimps in the CHIMPS control group who got a whiff of Sambucol now refuse to take the placebo. "This is for us very important, as it is impossible to force a full-grown chimp to take any medication he or she doesn't like." Eshkar, who has vaccinated staffers against influenza says that since the winter has been mild and could be responsible for the low rate of infection in all the animals, the zoo intends to give the chimps preventive doses of Sambucol in another year to test it under more difficult conditions. Mumcuoglu said her 15 employees each week manufacture 20,000 bottles of the syrup, made by a patent-pending technique from European extracts of elderberries.

Policeman lightly wounded on Temple Mount

A 14-year old Arab girl tried to stab a policeman in the back on the Temple Mount, then tried to flee after she missed. The policeman ran after her and caught her, but was stabbed lightly in the hand when he disarmed her.

Jordan returns drunken Eilat man

An Eilat man who, while drunk after celebrating New Year's Eve, crossed the border into Akaba and was caught

on the grounds of King Hussein's compound, was returned to Israel. The man was arrested by Akaba police after apparently crossing the border into Akaba and wandering around the city. He was charged upon his return with illegally leaving the country and released on bail.

Kibbutz to evict dogs

SOME 120 dogs will find themselves without shelter unless the *Let The Animals Live* welfare group can persuade Kibbutz Glil Yam not to evict them. The group has been promised a site in Hod Hasharon to build a new facility, but it will take at least a year to do so, spokeswoman Etti Altrnan said. However, Glil Yam, where the group currently operates its shelter, has ordered them off its land. Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen sent the group a letter saying the negotiations for the new site are in the advanced stages and stating her belief that the kibbutz will allow the shelter to remain on its premises in the meantime.

Police deliver pizza to catch criminal

AN Eilat policeman disguised as a pizza delivery boy apprehended a young man who had gone on a shopping spree with a stolen credit card. When the man ordered Dominos Pizza to the Soldiers' Welfare Association hostel with the credit card, the store notified police, who gave the man a special delivery and arrested him after he signed for the pizza.

50th ship of immigrants arrives from former USSR

NEARLY 300 immigrants from the former Soviet Union disembarked from the Dimitry Shostakovich passenger ship at the Haifa port. They are the fiftieth group to sail here from the Black Sea port of Odessa in an immigration-by-sea project funded by the international Christian organization, the Ebenezer Emergency Fund. A reception was held at the Haifa port passenger terminal to celebrate. Senior officials from the Ports and Railways Authority, the Jacob Caspi shipping agents firm, the Absorption Ministry, the Haifa Port, the Ebenezer Fund and volunteer helpers, as well as *Jerusalem Post* president and publisher Yehuda Levy, welcomed the new immigrants with gifts and doughnuts. The Ebenezer Fund's international coordinator, Gustav Scheller, said more than 12,000 new immigrants had made the exodus from the former Soviet Union since this project began in 1991.

Jewish/Arab hospitals save life

The life of a 14-year-old youth from eastern Jerusalem has been saved by cooperation between Bikur Holim Hospital and St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital, where the youth was in serious condition from a massive eye infection and total obstruction of the sinuses that were threatening to put pressure on his brain. Doctors in the eastern Jerusalem eye hospital contacted the ear-nose-and-throat department at Bikur Holim and asked to transfer him. An operating room was readied for the youth, and department head Dr. Elimelech Deutsch was alerted. Using endoscopy instead of a major open operation, the doctors drained the pus from around the eye and the sinuses, saving his life.

AWOL prisoner robs bank, held in drug bust

A man arrested during a drug bust in Lod for being in possession of 60 doses of heroin was discovered to have robbed a Tel Aviv bank only hours earlier. Police raided a suspected drug den in Lod after watching numerous people coming and going from the house. During the Operation, a taxi drove up and two people got out and entered the home. The two were searched, and one was arrested after he was found to be carrying 60 doses of heroin. During questioning, police learned that not only was he a prisoner who had not returned from a leave from Damun Prison, but that he had robbed a Bank Hapoalim branch in Tel Aviv of 6,000 shekels only hours before. He had purchased the drugs with the cash from the theft, he said.

Child makes advertisers wash their mouths out with soap

Nine-year-old Shachaf Zilberman of Moshava Kinneret was not amused by the jingle in the Dial soap commercial on Channel 2. In fact, she and her two siblings were so offended by the line, 'If you've got children, you've got germs,' she made her mother promise not to buy the soap. Then she wrote to the National Council for the Child, a children's rights advocacy group, to express her disgust at the commercial. She ended her letter with a sharp, "Excuse me, but I'm not a germ." Council director Dr. Yitzhak Kadman forwarded Shachaf's letter to Yoel Rekem, ombudsman of The Second Television and Radio Authority, and Rekem brought her complaint to the attention of Nabman Shai, the authority's director-general. Shai took the matter to the advertisers. In a letter to Rekem, Shai said the authority itself had initially nixed the ad containing the offensive line, but its advertising committee - in response to the sponsor's appeal - had reconsidered and allowed the ad to stand. But Shachaf's complaint, he continued, coupled with the committee's reservations, apparently wrought a change of heart in the sponsor, who decided to clean up its act and remove the offensive line. Shachaf was very cavalier about her achievement. "I don't think it's a great honor," she said. "I did it because [the ad] was insulting and presented children in a negative way. We're not germs."

Beware buying wedding rings on credit

A bridegroom from a moshav in the North who bought a wedding ring via his credit card almost had to redo his wedding ceremony, after the credit card company failed to debit his account on time, meaning the ring still technically belonged to the shop he bought it from when the wedding took place. The matter was presented to former Chief Sephardi Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, who said the wedding was valid because the delay was the company's, and not his. However, the rabbi warned bridegrooms not to buy wedding rings via credit cards, unless it is clear they will be paid for before the wedding takes place. "You cannot legally wed a woman with a ring that does not belong to the bridegroom," he said.

South Lebanon school children plant trees

Scores of youngsters from the security zone in south Lebanon took part in a Tu Bishvat tree planting ceremony at a school in Hatzor in Upper Galilee alongside local

schoolchildren. The Lebanese youngsters brought cedar saplings to plant in Israel, in a symbolic gesture of hoped for peace between the two countries. The ceremony was attended by senior IDF officers including Brig. Gen. Eli Amitai, head of the IDF's Lebanese Lashon Unit and South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, as well as senior SLA officers and soldiers.

Western Wall on the Web

A live video picture of the Western Wall in Jerusalem will be available over the Internet, day and night, except on Shabbat and festivals. The pictures, made possible by a video camera installed in a yeshiva opposite the holy place, will be provided free to Internet users around the world by Virtual Jerusalem. This Internet site (<http://www.virtual.co.il>) provides multimedia information on Israeli and Jewish organizations and commercial firms, as well as material from various news media. The camera will be focused in only one position, but will offer a view of both the men's and women's prayer sections at the foot of the Wall and the large plaza next to them. Virtual Jerusalem had earlier initiated a free e-mail prayer service, in which electronic mail sent via the Internet to the site would be printed out and placed in the crevices of the Wall.

El Al employee returns envelope with \$30,000 to bride-to-be

PLANNING a wedding can mean keeping track of an overwhelming number of details, and a woman flying recently from New York to Tel Aviv for her wedding lost track of 30,000 of them. The bride-to-be left an envelope containing \$30,000 in cash on the airplane. Thanks to the honesty of El Al employee Etti Asraf, however, she still has the money to pay for her wedding. Asraf found the large envelope while cleaning out the airplane's cabin to prepare for the next flight. She took it to her supervisor, and the two of them were shocked to find it contained \$30,000 in bundles of \$5,000. Just as they were reporting their discovery to El Al's office at Ben-Gurion Airport, the distraught woman came in to ask for help. Asraf returned the envelope to her, and she pulled several hundred dollars out to reward her. But Asraf refused the award, saying it was all in a day's work.

Mysterious note found in old Palmah rifle

WORKERS renovating the Ministry of Defense war museum discovered a hidden note in a World War II vintage rifle and are looking for survivors from the Palmah unit which fought in the battle of Tzemah in the War of Independence to help them make sense of it. The note was found in the butt of a British-made Lee-Enfield rifle by workers who were cleaning it for display. The note's heading was in printed Hebrew letters and says: "A souvenir to remember forever." This is followed by a handwritten note which says: "We Palman soldiers fought until the end—7, 1948—Tzemah Degania." The museum has put the note on display next to the rifle in its War of Independence wing. "It is hoped that this will help us reach the fighters or their families, so we can find out more about it," a Defense Ministry statement said. Tzemah was a fortified police post on the

southern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was from here the Syrian thrust into Israel began in May 1948. The Syrians threw over 30 armored vehicles and tanks at the post, which was defended by a rag-tag company equipped with just two 20 mm. guns. The defenders suffered heavy casualties and part of their force fled, leaving behind many wounded, who were ultimately killed. As the Syrians move on to Kibbutz Degania A, a company from the Palmah's "Yiftah" Brigade was rushed forward in an unsuccessful attempt to recapture Tzemah.

Rabin photo display on Hebrew University web site

THE Hebrew University marks the first anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination with a photo exhibit it has put up on the Internet. Thirtythree photos taken by photographer Tal Glick in Tel Aviv on the night of the murder can be viewed at the site (<http://www.snunit.k12.il/rabin>). Glick says the collection "tries to register the feelings from those terrible moments of an execrable crime that is still difficult to accept: that a Jew murdered the prime minister."

Israelis in peace group donate milk to Gaza

ISRAELIS on a committee advocating dialogue with Palestinians donated 30 tons of powdered milk to the Gaza Strip, the group said. The Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue said in a statement that at its initiative "the Matzna factory in Kibbutz Ma'abarot donated 30 tons of milk powder to Gaza children." "This is a humble contribution to ease the great difficulties felt by the people of Gaza Strip, especially the children, as a result of the closure Israel has imposed on them for long months," the statement said. Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip a series of suicide bombings by Moslem militants killed 59 people. Palestinians say the closure violates the Oslo Accords, which guarantee freedom of movement of goods and people between Israel and self-rule areas.

Girl from hepatitis-stricken village gets first live-donor liver transplant

THE four-year-old girl who recently was the first person in Israel to receive a lobe from the liver of a living person, her mother, was one of 70 children in the Poverty-stricken village south of Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael to contract hepatitis A since September. The girl, Liel Jibrán, from the Arab village of Jisr az-Zarka, and her mother Fauzia, who gave a part of the left side of her liver, are recovering well at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus and the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva. The Health Ministry has begun immunizing all village children aged two to six with the active vaccine against hepatitis A. The disease usually passes without harm, but in Liel's case- a one out of 1,000 chance - liver functioning broke down.

Burg: 1.2 million potential immigrants still in CIS

Jewish Agency emissaries in the CIS are "knocking on the doors of Jews there, and not waiting for them to knock on ours," according to Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg. Burg told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee that there are some 1.2 million, potential olim in

the CIS. That number includes 700,000 families in which both husband and wife are Jewish, Burg said, adding that the solidification of the government in Russia and the rest of CIS requires new organization by the Agency. Sixty percent to 70% of the agency's Aliya Department budget goes to the periphery in the CIS, since there is a greater chance to convince Jews there to immigrate, and at a smaller cost, he said. Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said that despite the fact that the governments in the CIS had become more stable, there is no guarantee that the Iron Curtain will not be lowered again, and Jews forbidden to leave. For that reason, she said, these Jews should be considered Jews in distress.

Family, friends mark Rabin's 75th birthday

Friends and family of the late Yitzhak Rabin marked his 75th birthday at Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv, the site of his assassination. The memorial for Rabin was covered with flowers, and Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, speaking at the site, attacked those who opposed what he termed the path to peace led by Rabin, who shouted "traitor" and "murderer" at him, and today are doing what he dreamed about doing. "We must tell our youth: Cry for him, but never give up hope. His dream will still emerge victorious." Rabin's daughter, Dalia Rabin Pelosoff, said that a prayer would go up from the square asking that her father's blood not have been shed in vain.

More hospital beds needed for premature babies

The Health Ministry is like the old woman who lived in a shoe: it has a lot of children, but doesn't know what to do with them. Over the last two decades, the ministry has approved the opening of about two dozen invitro fertilization units around the country (there's hardly a hospital without one). Most of them were authorized to open during the past 10 years. But there isn't enough room in neonatal intensive-care units for the many tiny, premature babies—often born as triplets or even quadruplets—that have been produced. An empty bed is as hard to find as a parking place at mid-morning in the center of Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

The sharp increase in multiple births and the shortage of beds in the country's neonatal units has caused a game of musical chairs, in which infants born prematurely in one hospital are transferred within hours to hospitals in the same city or in other cities dozens of kilometers away. When a bed becomes available, the premature infant is often moved back closer to home. Hospital administrators and neonatologists are pressing the ministry to expand the number of beds in public hospital neonatal units and to revise the fee schedule for which the hospitals are compensated. A woman from the Jerusalem area who gave birth in the 34th week of pregnancy to triplets at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopes lost one of the babies, a boy, three weeks ago. For lack of room at Hadassah, the triplets were moved immediately after birth to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon and a few days later, the largest baby contracted an infection. Although she had delivered by cesarean section, she left Hadassah four days after her surgery, sleeping at a

friend's home in Ashkelon and staying all day at the side of the remaining two babies in the hospital.

Court gives ministry two months to justify ban on Women of the Wall

The High Court of Justice gave the Ministry of Religious Affairs 60 days to justify why it should not permit the Women of the Wall group to pray aloud at the Western Wall. The court issued the order in response to a petition filed by the group. The ministry will also have to explain its opposition to women reading from the Torah and praying at the Wall while wearing prayer shawls, which are usually worn by men. The Women of the Wall have been trying since 1989 to conduct services at the Wall's women's section that include singing prayers aloud and reading from a Torah scroll. Both actions are forbidden to women by the management of the site, which is administered by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Numerous attempts by the group to pray openly at the Wall have been met by violence on the part of male worshipers, who have thrown chairs and tables at the women.

In response to an earlier petition to the High Court, a committee of ministry directors-general was set up to attempt to find a solution. The panel proposed an alternative prayer site at the southern end of the Wall near Robinson's Mch, which is an extension of the Western Wall but some 100 meters from the main plaza. The Women of the Wall rejected this proposal as irrelevant, since they would need the permission of the same authorities to pray there. Jerusalem councilwoman Anat Hoffman, a member of the group, said she was encouraged by the court ruling. "We see this as finally talking about the problem, about the issue itself, about why they are silencing women in Israel," Hoffman said. The Women of the Wall are seeking to abrogate - the law that bans their praying aloud at the Wall as a public nuisance, Hoffman said, since such a law is more appropriate to Iran than the State of Israel.

Arafat tells congressmen of assassination attempt

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat told members of Congress recently that there was an assassination attempt against him in Gaza. According to a congressman who attended the meeting, Arafat said one of his aides, who was also at the event in the Capitol, nearly became a victim too. Arafat motioned to him and the two nodded, the congressman said. Arafat did not provide details on the alleged assassination attempt. Asked about Arafat's claim, a senior US official said: "I haven't seen anything on that at all. I have not been aware that there have been any focused attempts on him." During the recent meeting with 25 members of the House of Representatives, Arafat said he was willing to have Americans and Europeans inspect cargo entering a Palestinian seaport to assure that contraband weapons do not enter the territory under his control, which is a major concern of Israel's. According to New Jersey Congressman Steve Rothman, Arafat said he would welcome Congress assistance in obtaining sophisticated weapon-detecting equipment at the port. He also asked the congress' help in obtaining a forensic laboratory, which he told the

members the Palestinians do not possess. Another participant said Arafat criticized Arab countries particularly those in the Gulf, for not fulfilling their financial pledges to the Palestinians. "He was not being at all indirect about it. He said: 'We're not getting the help we need,'" the source said. Meanwhile, Arafat told Security Council members that Israel was harming the Middle East peace process by planning to build at Har Homa. He was speaking to reporters after conferring privately with the members of the 15-nation council a few hours before the start of a council debate on Har Homa. Arafat also met with Jewish leaders, then left New York to deliver similar messages to two former US presidents—Jimmy Carter in Georgia and George Bush in Texas.

Salameh trial begins

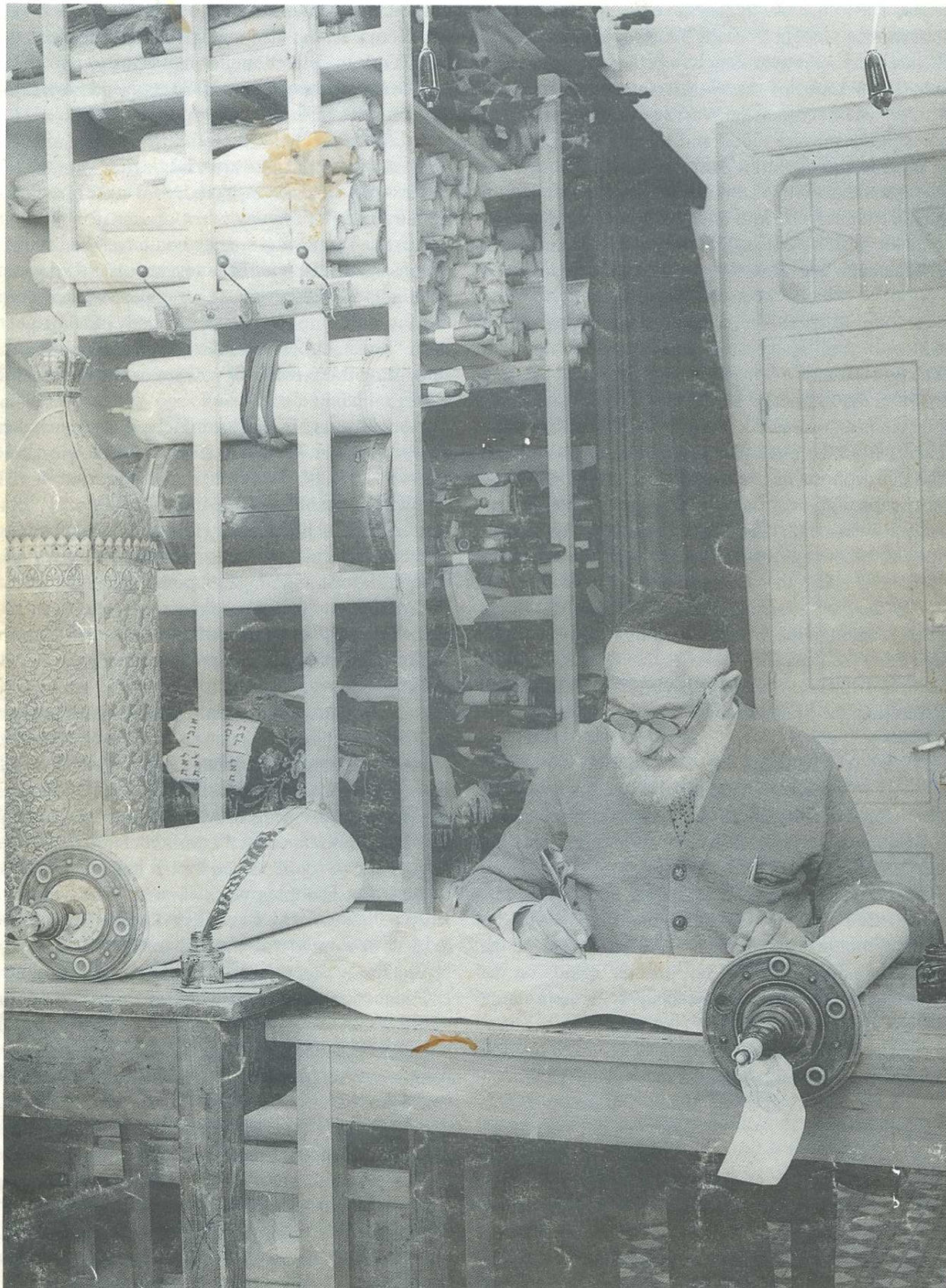
Hassan Salameh, considered No. 2 in the Izzadin Kassam military wing of Hamas, went on trial for supplying the bombs used in several suicide bombings, justifying armed actions against Israel. "The most successful way to defend our rights is through armed struggle," he said before his hearing at Erez military court. "Nobody has the right to stop jihad." Salameh, 26, was charged with preparing bombs, smuggling them from Gaza to the West Bank, and killing collaborators.

He was caught by chance in Hebron last year, when a car he was in was stopped at an IDF roadblock. He tried to flee and was shot and wounded. He was arrested in a Hebron hospital, apparently after Palestinian security forces informed Israel of his identity. He is accused of planning three suicide attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon weeks before his capture and of smuggling the bombs to the suicide attackers. He is also accused of involvement in an attempted attack in Gaza in 1995, which failed when a donkey cart loaded with explosives blew up as it approached soldiers.

Army refuses to let male soldier serve as nurse

THE IDF considers nursing a "feminine" occupation and is refusing to let a male soldier serve in this capacity despite three years of training, a bachelors of nursing degree and full registration, according to MK Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya). Solodkin raised a parliamentary question on the subject after a soldier asked for her help. The soldier, Yuli Winick, finished three years of nursing studies at Barzilai Hospital but when he was enlisted a month ago his request to serve as a nurse was rejected and he was sent instead to be a quartermaster at a base in the center of the country. The IDF induction center at Tel Hashomer ignored a request by the IDF's Chief Nurse, Lieutenant Colonel Sima Cohen, who knew Winick from his studies and wrote a letter recommending he serve as a nurse in a military hospital. She said there is a lack of nurses in the army. Winick was turned down with the explanation that nursing is "recognized" by the IDF as an occupation for female soldiers." Solodkin said the IDF was acting arbitrarily in a way that harmed both the soldier and the army's own interests. She said it is a waste of the soldier's training and talents for him to serve as a quartermaster. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has yet to respond to the question.

*"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning,
If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of
my mouth; if I prefer not JERUSALEM above my chief joy."
(Psalms 137:5,6)*



Bible scribe working in Jaffa.