

THE MOUNT ZION REPORTER

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THE MOUNT ZION REPORTER

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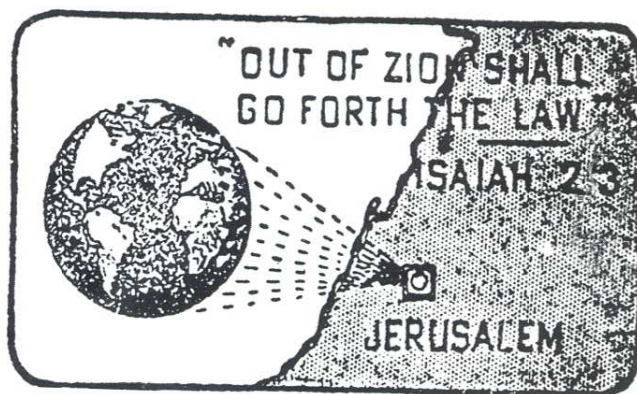
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The Head and Director: Jesus (Yeshua)

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Jerusalem—The Chosen City of God

"For the Lord hath Chosen Zion: He hath desired it for His habitation" (Psalms 132:13). "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

Israel has passed through another year and has entered the Jewish calendar year of 5759. On September 21 Israel celebrated their New Year—*Rosh ha Shanah*. (Israel's fall civil New Year is on the first day of the Biblical seventh month known as Tishri). According to Leviticus 43:24 this is a High Day Sabbath for the Blowing of Trumpets. The Bible plainly states that the month of Nisan is the beginning of months for Israel. Exodus 12:2; Esther 3:7. Why the Jewish people celebrate their New Year in the fall and not in the spring of the year is always a question in the minds of Bible scholars. There seems to be no satisfying answer. The seventh month does mark the ending of the Harvest year and the beginning of a new harvest year. Going with the seasons, this has been so since Canaanite times. According to Jewish thought and source, Tishri 1 is also the time to celebrate Creation—the Birthday of the Earth and to commemorate Abraham's binding of Isaac.

Don't forget to order next year's Bible Calendar. The Bible Calendar features photos of Israel and lists the holidays and commemorations of the Bible. To order your Bible Calendar send a letter to the address listed below.

The *Jerusalem Son Beam* tapes can now be obtained on CDs (compact discs) as well as the regular cassette tape format. There are three albums: Jerusalem, New Song, and Hosanna. If you are interested in receiving CDs or tapes then please let us know by sending your order to the address listed below.

Mt. Zion Reporter, P.O. Box 10184 - Jerusalem, Israel

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THE SOUND OF THE SHOFAR

— OPENING LOCKED HEARTS —

by Chana Falik



A group of young men blow a variety of different shofars.

(photo by Vera Etzion)

“And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you,” Numbers 29:1.

The Jewish New Year (*Rosh Hashana*) is characterized by one of the most mysterious *Mitzvot* in the entire Torah—blowing the shofar. Every other major holiday in the Jewish calendar finds us eating certain symbolic foods (such as matzot at Passover) or performing certain actions (such as learning Torah all night on Shavuot), or saying special prayers (the confession of sins on Yom Kippur). *Rosh Hashana*, ironically, even though it is the first day of the Jewish Year and the birthday of Creation, has none of these. It seems as if when *Rosh Hashana*'s turn came for *Mitzvot*, God in His love, teased His people by giving them a *Mitzvah* [*Mitzvah* literally means precept. Today, the most common usage of the word means a good deed. *Mitzvot* is the plural form of *mitzvah*.]

that they could perform literally through their sense of hearing.

What is a Shofar?

The shofar is one of the earliest musical instruments known to man. It is made from the horn of a kosher animal — except for cows, which lost out on the “privilege” following the infamous Sin of the Golden Calf escapade.

Shofars tended to be made from the horns of the animal most prevalent in the country Jews lived in: in Ashkenazi Europe, for example, they were usually made from rams' horns, whereas in Ethiopia they were made from the horns of kudus, or African antelope.

The size of a shofar doesn't matter, as long as it is bigger than the width of a man's hand. The largest curlicued kudu horns stretch the length of an entire arm.

Each shofar has its own distinctive sound.

According to professional musician and shofar blowing instructor David Lloyd Perkins, the longer the shofar, the easier it is to play and produce harmonics.

"On a short ram's horn I can get three harmonic tones," says Perkins, "but on a long kudu shofar I can produce between nine and 12 harmonics."

Perkins has blown his shofar in such diverse locations as the roof of the Vatican in Rome, and in Seoul, Korea on Israel Independence Day 1995, when he was an official representative of the Israeli government.

According to Perkins, playing the shofar is not difficult at all. "Even the three and four year olds in my classes play the shofar wonderfully," he says. Sometimes, though, he says, "the mouthpiece cut into the shofar is too small, which is very often the case with the factory-produced shofars." What should the correct mouthpiece size be? "Big enough to be comfortable for human lips," says Perkins, who heats the ends of his shofars in order to enlarge the mouthpiece.

The Shofar Calls

Harmonics, note range, and tone are very important when the *Rosh Hashana* shofar sounds are taken into consideration. There are four distinct shofar sounds for the *Rosh Hashana* service. The blast (*tekiah*), one long blast with a clear tone; the broken (*shevarim*) sighing sound of three short calls; the alarm (*teruah*), a rapid series of nine or more very short notes; and the great blast (*tekiah gedolah*), a single unbroken blast, held as long as possible.

In fact, no one really knows what a *teruah* sound should be. It could be a *shevarim*, a *teruah* or a combination of both. On *Rosh Hashana*, several combinations are used to accommodate the various rabbinic opinions. Says Perkins: "The more a shofar's mouthpiece permits the blower a wide range of harmonic sounds, the more sincere and profound the shofar experience is for the listener."

Why a Shofar Blast?

To add to the irony of the shofar blowing *Mitzvah*, the command is given to us in the Torah without explanations. Thankfully, Torah sages throughout history have provided many interpretations to the meaning of blowing the shofar. Maimonides, the medieval Jewish philosopher and physician, likens the reason to a wake-up call to all

Jews. In his *Laws of Repentance*, Maimonides writes: "Awake, sleepers from your sleep! Arise, slumberers from your slumber! Scrutinize your deeds, return to repentance and remember your Creator. Those forgetters of the truth in the vanities of time and those who stray all their year in vanity and emptiness which can neither help nor save, look into your souls, better your ways and deeds! Let each of you abandon your evil way and your thoughts which are not good."

The famous List of 10 Symbolic Meanings of Ray Sa'adia Gaon (Rabbi Sa'adia the Genius) is still studied today — over 1,000 years after it was first published in the early 900's. Among them are:

The shofar sounds remind us of the Revelation at Mt. Sinai, where the Children of Israel in perfect faith told the Lord, "We will do and we will understand."

The shofar sounds remind us of the words of the prophets, which in the Book of Ezekiel (chap. 33) were compared to the sounding of a shofar. "And whoever hears the sound of the shofar and takes no warning—if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head; because if he had taken warning, he would have saved his soul."

The shofar reminds us that the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) is just around the corner, only 10 days away. Time to get down to the eternally important business of repentance!

Rosh Hashana is a return to beginnings: the beginning of Creation, the beginning of the yearly cycle, the beginning of autumn—and the shofar, with its otherworld calls, unlocks our heart to God and to ourselves by allowing us to make a new start. With this comes the knowledge that the *Mitzvah* of the shofar, in the end, isn't as mysterious as we thought it to be.

"And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him," *Joshuah 6:5*

The Mystery of A Seed

by Mary Fauth

I once heard a story about a woman who requested, that when she died, her body be put inside a concrete tomb with walls ten feet thick so that she could never be resurrected from the dead; so her family carried out her wish.

A tiny little seed from a tree lodged in the soil next to her tomb and soon it began to grow. After a few years, the roots of the tree began to crack the cement and soon her tomb was completely opened up.

Perhaps we don't realize what a tiny little seed can produce and bring forth within the earth, even within our own earthly hearts!

There is evil seed and good seed sown within man's earthly heart. The evil seed comes from the evil one, which is Satan, and the good seed is sown within our hearts by God, since all things that are good come forth from God's Heart of love.

An evil seed, if allowed to grow, will bring forth an evil tree which will bring forth evil fruit within the earth. A righteous seed, when nurtured and watered by God's Spirit, will bring forth a righteous tree which will produce righteous fruit within the earth.

Seed

*Messiah is the Tree of life! He is the Good Seed of God's Heart sown within our hearts!

"Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant. And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness, And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him," Isaiah 53: 1,2.

(The dry ground is man's earthly hearts. The selfish nature of our flesh sees no beauty in the unselfish nature of God's Heavenly Seed as He begins to come forth within our hearts and doesn't desire Him growing within it's midst.)

God, in His great love and mercy, towards us stretches forth His Messianic Arm of deliverance and sows the good seed of His Heart within our hearts.

All the mysteries of God's Kingdom on earth are contained within God's Heavenly Seed. Everything that we need to be delivered from sin and death is contained within the Messianic Seed of God's Heart, which He sows within our hearts.

God sows the messianic Seed of His magnificent Heart within our hearts in the hope of Redeeming us back to Himself, back to that which awaits us within the beautiful garden of His Magnificent Heart of unselfish love.

In the hope of——Bestowing within us His Heavenly Nature and Presence!

In the hope of——Regenerating a new heavenly creation within us, a new you, and a new me, who can love as God loves.

Oh, What a Messiah!

Blessed

"In your seed all the nations of the world shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice," Genesis 22: 18.

*Messiah is.....The ultimate blessing given to the nations through Abraham's seed. He is the greatest gift of God's sacrificial love. God gives the greatest treasure of His heart to us to become the greatest treasure of our hearts.

All the nations of the earth are to be blessed through Abraham's seed and this blessing was to be passed down to the nations through Isaac, as God says in Genesis 21:12, "For in Isaac shall thy seed be called." Messiah, being the greatest blessing of all was to be born within the earth through the lineage of King David. Messiah's mother was to be Jewish.

To remember God's blessings we should never stop with just earthly things. God's blessings always extend into the heavenly, spiritual realms of glory!

——— Isaac, being a miracle child conceived and born within the earth by a miraculous act of God, was the beginning of the earthly promised seed of Abraham in which all the nations of the earth were to be blessed.

——— Messiah, also a miracle child formed within the earth by an act of God's Spirit, is the beginning of God's heavenly spiritual offspring within the earth.

"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." Isaiah 11:10.

*Messiah is Our Ark! He is our link between earthly life and God's Spiritual Heavenly life!

OH, The Glory Of It All!

*Messiah is.....The only Incorruptible Seed to be sown in the earth!

The whole earth is full of corruptible seed. Corruptible seed comes forth, grows, brings forth fruit within the earth and fades away. Incorruptible Seed can only come to the earth from God's Heart. It comes forth from God's Inner-most Self, it comes forth from God's Heart

of sacrificial love. God gives a part of His Inner-most Life, (Self) to become a part of our inner-most self.

Messiah's death and resurrection, also, takes place within our earthly hearts as every seed must go through death and resurrection in order to bring forth fruit and life within the earth.

Come! Come! And behold the glory of God's Heavenly Seed as He comes forth within our earthly hearts!

As a seed dies, New resurrected life comes forth and grows!

—— The new resurrected life coming forth within a seed's shell, such as a tomato, a pepper, a melon, etc. starts very small but as it grows it consumes everything within the seed's shell. It tares through the seed's body. It pushes up through earth's darkness into the light and keeps on growing to bring forth fruit within the earth, then it fades away.

*Messiah is.....God's consuming fire of sacrificial love burning within our hearts!

—— The Incorruptible Life of God's Heavenly Seed comes forth within our hearts and consumes everything within us that is contrary to God's laws. It tares through the veil of sin that separated our hearts from God's heart. It pushes up through the darkness into Heavens light and brings forth righteous fruit within the earth. It comes forth from God's Heart of love and returns back to God's heart of love.

Seed5

Corruptible seed is —— Of the earth: earthly.

Incorruptible Seed is —— Of Heaven: Heavenly!

* Messiah is.....The Incorruptible Seed of God's Heart, sown within our hearts, being clothed in our human flesh.

The Incorruptible Life of God's Heavenly Seed is:

- Not capable of decay.
- Freedom from corruption.
- Not marred by errors or alterations, (change)

Death has no power over the Incorruptible Life of God's Heavenly Seed!

Salvation and deliverance from the bondage of sin

and death is all happening within our hearts through Messiah's death and resurrection taking place within our hearts.

Messiah's death and resurrection within the earth is the greatest miracle of God's creation!

—— Right here within our very own earthly hearts, Messiah takes upon Himself the sinful nature of our flesh for the very purpose of bringing it to death within us.

—— Right here within our very own earthly hearts, Messiah takes upon Himself the punishment for our sins!

—— Right here within our very own earthly hearts, Messiah becomes the sacrifice for our sins!

—— Right here within our very own earthly hearts, Messiah enters for the very purpose of going through death and resurrection with us!

—— Right here within our very own earthly hearts, Messiah patiently waits to go through death and resurrection with each one of us!

Oh, What A Sacrifice!

Ladder

*Messiah Is.....Jacob's Ladder!

We are climbing Jacob's Ladder. For every step we take up the ladder, we must leave a part of the old selfish nature of our flesh on the step below.

Climbing Jacob's Ladder is going through death and resurrection with our Great Messiah.

As a seed dies, new resurrected Life comes forth and grows.

The more we die with Him, (Turn the selfish nature of our flesh over to Messiah to be brought to death within us,) the more we get to become a part of His glorious resurrection!

As Earth's First Born (the selfish nature of our flesh) dies God's First Born (what is born of God's Spirit) grows, or experiences resurrection.

"If we have been planted together, with Messiah, in the likeness of His death, we shall also be in the likeness of His glorious resurrection!" Romans 6:5.

As Earth's First Born dies, God's First Born experiences resurrection! (grows within us).

"The entrance of Thy Words giveth light," (Psalms 119:130).

"Now the parable is this: The seed is The Word of God," (Luke 8:11).

"And The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth," (John 1:14).

"Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory," (Colossians 1:27).

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever," (1 Peter 1:23).

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God," (Psalms 1:3; 92:12, 13).

"Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good! For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Romans 12:9; Mark 8:36,37).

LEARNING TOLERANCE IN THE SANDBOX

by Wendy Elliman

"I'll put you all in wheelchairs! I'll kill every last child!" the hoarse voice had whispered. "It's you who bears the blame for Rabin's death!" The threats came by telephone and the Israel Police took them seriously enough to tap the phones and mount a police guard that's still in place two years later.

The people being threatened? Teachers at a pre-school for two to five-year-olds in the center of Jerusalem. But a pre-school with a difference: one that brings Jewish and Arab children together.

"It's one of many activities we run as vehicles for good will, understanding and tolerance between peoples," says Rizak Abusharr, associate director—general of the Jerusalem International YMCA, where the pre-school began life 18 years ago. "The personality of a human being is formed very young. We believe that if youngsters encounter tolerance and good will as early as age two, this outlook will stay with them and ultimately enter into the fabric of society."

Yes, but how is it done? The great issues that divide adults—language, culture, faith, tradition—are already in place in the sandbox.

"We approach these as practical rather than ideological difficulties," says Daphna Bassewitch Ginsburg, an educational psychologist who has directed the YMCA pre-school for the past three years. "We're not trying to

mix these children in a melting pot. On the contrary, we want to nurture and retain their awareness of their own identity, faith, language and customs. So when we celebrate Pesach or Easter or Ramadan together in the pre-school, we celebrate it as Yossi's festival, or Christopher's, or Ali's. Even though all the children will bake matza or exchange Xmas gifts, we don't attempt to lay claim to all the holidays."

Today, 135 children are enrolled in the YMCA pre-school, divided into seven separate classes, according both to age and the preferences of parents.

"We have three mixed Jewish-Arab classes," says Ginzburg, "two exclusively Jewish classes, and two separate Jewish and Arab classes which are twinned. The Jewish classes are taught by Jewish teachers, the Arab classes have Arab teachers, and the mixed classes have both, with the children quickly picking up a pre-school vocabulary in both languages. They learn songs and stories in both Hebrew and Arabic, listen to children's tales of both peoples, and make friends easily across the ethnic-cultural divide."

Even though the children are so young, it's not long before they want to play with their friends after school hours. Mark, for example, an Arab child from East Jerusalem, became close friends with Yochai, a Jewish child from the western part of the city, and their mothers cautiously



(photo by Vera Etzion)

Former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, during a visit to the YMCA's unique preschool in Jerusalem, which is attended by 135 Christian, Moslem and Jewish children.

began bringing them to one another's homes.

"It's the choice of the parents to come to our pre-school, and so they're open to an exchange of this kind, which is very unusual in Israel," says Ginzburg. "We're known as a very good kindergarten, with small classes, first-rate teachers and excellent equipment. This encourages Jewish families to make the daily trek from their neighborhoods to bring their children here. While almost all Jewish children attend kindergarten, however, among the Arab community, pre-schooling is far more rare. The first Arab youngsters to come to us were the children of YMCA employees. Those who've followed have been attracted by word of mouth, and enrollment has never dropped off. But we have to spend some \$195,000 a year on subsidizing families who couldn't otherwise afford the pre-school—some of them for up to 80 percent of the cost."

With tolerance, coexistence and the shattering of negative stereotypes the name of the game, the pre-school embraces the parents as well as the children. There are frequent workshops and picnics for parents and children, as well as parents' meetings, all of which are practical conduits for adults open to bridge-building.

Intense though this experience in coexistence is, it is also short. At age six, the YMCA pre-school's graduates move on into the deeply divided reality of modern Israel. The impact of their tolerant, open-minded pre-school years has not been evaluated.

"We are not an academic institution," says Ginzburg. "Financially, we scarcely survive, and there are certainly no

funds for follow-up research. But siblings of our graduates are sent here, and the children come back to mixed Arab-Jewish graduates clubs. We've recently developed an association with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and look forward to academic evaluation and follow-up through them."

Formal research into the impact and efficacy of the pre-school is becoming more important, with its organizers now raising their sights beyond age five. "We would like to see mixed Jewish-Arab schools as well as pre-schools, in Israel," says Ginzburg. "One has recently opened in the Galilee. In Jerusalem, where things are more polarized, we're hoping to begin with mixed classes in existing schools."

If anyone among the YMCA pre-school's supporters needed convincing that the kindergarten (and future mixed schools) make a vital contribution to coexistence, the menacing phone calls shortly after the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin did the job.

"Not one parent pulled their child out of the pre-school after the threats," says Abusharr, who received the Jerusalem Foundation's 1996 award for promoting tolerance and democratic values shortly afterward. "In fact, a group of 17 Arab and Jewish parents requested a meeting with me to pledge support on behalf of all the parents. As for me, let them threaten me as much as they want with life in a wheelchair. I live according to what I believe is right. And in my 42 years at YMCA, the pre-school is one of the creations in which I take most pride."

REMAINS OF 2,000 YEAR OLD MILITARY ENCAMPMENT GIVEN SAFE HOME IN JERUSALEM

In 1993, during construction of the International Convention Center's Teddy Hall in Jerusalem, the remains of a 2,000 year old military encampment and earthenware factory, belonging to the Xth Roman Legion in Israel, were discovered.

When excavations were completed, ICC Jerusalem, together with the Israel Antiquities Authority, realizing the importance of such an extraordinary historic find, decided to incorporate the findings into the hall's architecture.

Now, visitors to the Convention Center can peer through glass windows in the floor of the Teddy Hall Foyer, at two of the eight kilns used by the Legion for firing crafts at the site. A Roman mosaic floor, roof tiles with imprints of the Legion's emblem, and other ceramics are also on display.

The Xth Roman Legion played an important role in the history of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. It camped in Jerusalem for 200 years, only leaving the city towards the end of the third century CE. In addition to its military duties, the Legion ran an earthenware factory

which produced ceramics and construction materials, and was crucial in supplying materials for the construction of roads, buildings, and water systems throughout the city.



(photo courtesy of ICC Jerusalem)

A Kiln, used by the Xth Roman Legion in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago.

THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE

— BRINGING THE TEMPLE TO LIFE —

by Chana Falik

Tisha b'Av (the 9th of the month of Av) is one of the saddest days in the Jewish calendar. Many terrible things happened to the Jewish people on this day throughout history, including the Divine decree forbidding the "Generation-of-the-Wilderness" from entering the Land of Israel and the Expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. By far the two most infamous of these Tisha b'Av occurrences were the destruction of the First Temple and the destruction of the Second Temple.

When, almost 2,000 years later, the Israel Defense Forces liberated Mount Zion during the Six Day War, a soldier/rabbi named Israel Ariel, ordered to stand guard over the Temple Mount, had an unusual idea. "Now that we have returned to Zion, it is time to start learning and teaching anew all the laws pertaining to Temple Service," he thought.

Twenty years later, in 1987, he founded the Temple Institute in order to do just that.

"Until 2,000 years ago, the entire life of the Jewish people revolved around the Temple and the Temple service," explains Michael Elbaum, managing director of the Temple Institute, located in the Old City of Jerusalem. "We made three pilgrimages a year to the Temple, offered daily sacrifices, tithed our produce and gave secondary tithes to the kohenim (priests). Our aim at the Institute is to reestablish this broken connection between the Jewish people and its Temple."

Both Elbaum and Chaim Jutkowitz, the Institute's development and public relations director, emphatically stress that the Institute has no political motives: "We are strictly an educational institution," says Jutkowitz. "By sharing our knowledge of the Temple we want to make it come to life for as many people as possible."

The Institute's accomplishments in 11 short years of operation are impressive. It houses two standing exhibitions, visited each year by over 100,000 people. One focuses on the daily Temple services and the other emphasizes the special holiday services.

Walking through the "daily services" exhibition is like being in the Temple of Solomon itself. On every wall are large paintings depicting different aspects of Temple service: the kohen burning the incense, the kohen lighting the menorah, the Levites singing Psalms in the Temple courtyard. "Our painters learned the relevant mishnaic laws thoroughly before they began painting," says Raphaela

Tabak, the Institute's educational director. "Everything is drawn to proportion and sketches are checked for accuracy by the rabbis before the final painting."

Sixty out of the 93 Temple vessels have been reconstructed and are housed in glass wall units. Among these vessels are the golden crown worn by the Kohen HaGadol (highpriest), golden frankincense holders, and silver shovels used to scoop up ashes from the Temple altar.

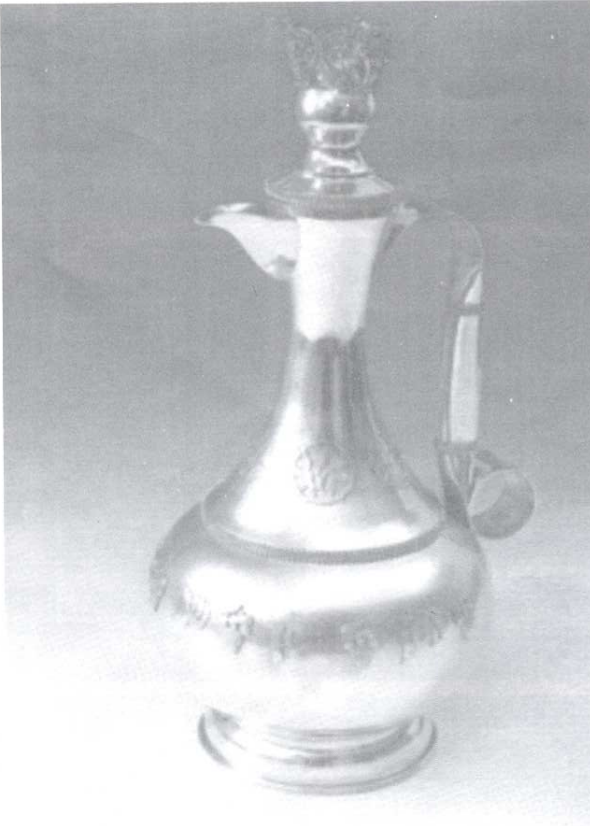
"Reconciling the different opinions in the Sources is one of the biggest headaches," says Raphaela. "The goldsmith and the rabbis strive to achieve a final result which is acceptable to all." Other glass units display musical instruments played in the Temple, from the long, thin silver trumpets (fashioned from one piece of silver), to lyres, harps

and flutes. Still others house the Avne Hahoshen (stones from the kohen's breastplate), and the various spices used in Temple services.

The refashioned tube-like outer garment worn by the kohenim adorns a mannequin. "It took our weaver about seven months to weave this garment," says Raphaela. "Each strand in the garment was itself woven from six individual strands."

The "holiday exhibition" depicts, as the name implies, Temple services on special days of the year. The exhibition is rotated from month to month to depict the particular holiday of the season. Of special interest is the recently completed Temple model, built on a scale of 1:100 and fashioned with marble and gold. "just like the original," says Raphaela.

Visitors can watch a video in the viewing room and receive detailed briefings on guided tours provided by the



(photo courtesy of the Temple Institute, Jerusalem)

A silver decanter used for offering wine on the Temple altar.

Institute's staff. "People come from all over the world but especially from the United States," says Jutkowitz. "Orthodox Jews, non-religious Jews, Catholics and Evangelicals too." "Christian visitors," adds Raphaela, "are very impressed and uplifted by what we're doing because it brings the Bible to life."

In addition to the two exhibitions, visitors can purchase Temple remembrances in the Institute's bookstore or order books from the Institute's book list. The Institute publishes children's books in Hebrew and in English depicting the Temple services; machzorim (prayer books) for each holiday of the year, which include sketches and descriptions of the Temple service for that particular holiday; a book of Temple songs; and mishnayot (mishnaic laws) in Hebrew from Midot, Yoma and Pesachim, in conjunction with the famous Kahati publishers. Pesachim is also available in English. Of special mention is the newly published "Sefer Hamikdash" (The Book of the Temple), a coffee-table



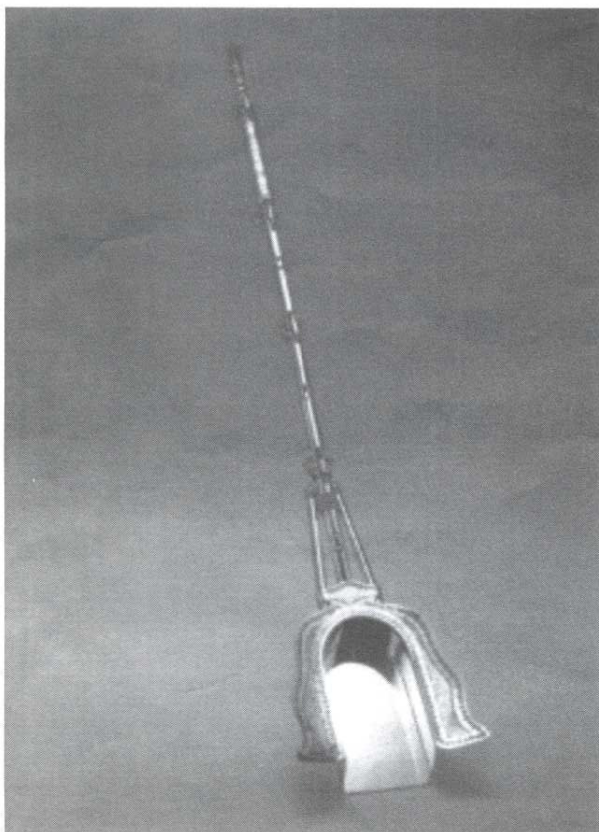
(photo courtesy of the Temple Institute, Jerusalem)

An incense chalice used for bringing incense to the Temple's golden altar.

Institute's exhibitions to Israeli schools. Children are treated to slide shows and then partake in a hands-on activity, such as "Dressing the High Priest." Raphaela designed a Monopoly game based on the concept of the famous board game where players must "purchase" the elements of the Temple building. "The kids really like it," she says.

The Institute is also beginning to make contact with communities in the Diaspora. The Board of Jewish Education in New York, for example, recently purchased a number of books from the Institute, to be added to their reference library, and there is also ongoing contact with the Jewish communities of Detroit, Chicago, Baltimore and Memphis. "Our aim is to raise awareness of the Temple in the educational process of Jews living in the Diaspora," says Jutkowitz. "To do so we supply reference materials to help schools and yeshivot better educate their students."

The Temple Institute, it's clear, is doing a great deal to help change the sadness of Tishab'Av into the day of gladness our Sages assured us it will become in the future.



(photo courtesy of the Temple Institute, Jerusalem)

(Left) A silver shovel used to scoop up ashes from the Temple altar.

"And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God."

— Ezra 6:5.

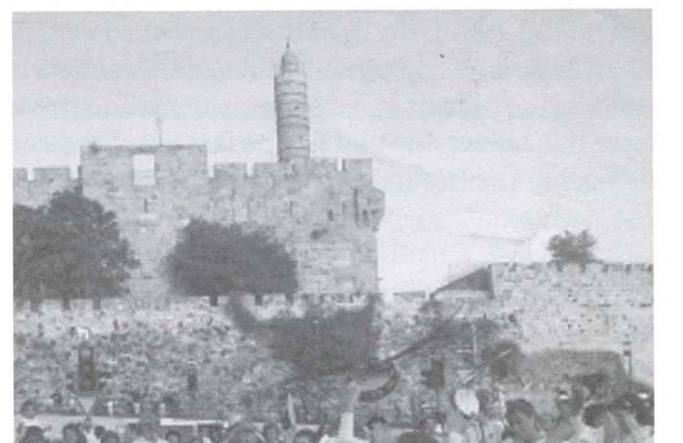
collector's item which surveys the history of the Temple from the sanctuary in the wilderness to the still unbuilt third Temple. Two new videos were released this year: "The Pesach Seder in the Temple" and "Kohenim at Work."

Outreach, Jutkowitz explains, is a big part of the Institute's work. Raphaela and her staff of National Service volunteers travel all over the country bringing the

1998 Jerusalem March

These photos are of the 1998 Jerusalem March. While the status of Jerusalem is a frequent dispute in the political arena, plainly the people are united, both those living here and those from abroad, in supporting a unified Jerusalem. The capital of Zion is Jerusalem and is solid by God's Word—the foundations of Zion will always remain firm.

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles," Zechariah 14:16.





NEWS DIRECT FROM ISRAEL

All Items from The Jerusalem Post

Syria, Iran helping Hizbullah

Hizbullah is undergoing a violent split with the quiet support of Syria and Iran, both of which want to decrease its growing independence, a defense report says.

The report, prepared by defense analysts, predicts that the feud will turn increasingly violent as the splinter group amasses power and influence.

The rivalry pits Hizbullah secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah against Subhi Tufeili, the former Amal operative who became Hizbullah's first secretary-general in 1986. Tufeili, believed to have been involved in the kidnapping and killing of US soldiers in 1983, is regarded as more extreme than the current Hizbullah leadership and for the last year has been advocating a confrontational policy toward the Lebanese government.

In July 1997, Tufeili launched his movement "Revolution of the hungry" and declared a civil revolt of the Shi'ites in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, who are regarded as the poorest in the country and who deal extensively in the production of heroin. In contrast, Hizbullah is led by residents of south Lebanon.

Tufeili, whose first rally was attended by 10,000 people, is demanding that the Beirut government allocate more resources to the Bekaa and opposes any attempt to curtail the drug trade in the valley.

The report says Tufeili is sending his supporters to Syria for military training.

So far, about 200 Hizbullah militants have joined Tufeili. Hizbullah, in response, decided to stop paying those who joined the splinter group.

The rise of Tufeili has led to a decline in Nasrallah's status in the Bekaa and Baalbek regions. The change has also been accompanied by violence. Tufeili sup-

porters have attacked Hizbullah representatives in the Bekaa and destroyed their property.

Tufeili has been supported by Hizbullah's spiritual leader, Sheik Hussein Fadlallah, who claims to be the Shi'ite spiritual authority, rather than Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Another supporter is Amal leader and Lebanese parliament speaker Nabil Berri, who prefers to see a divided Hizbullah to ensure his position in the Lebanese government.

The feud has turned so bitter that Nasrallah has appealed to Iran for a religious edict that would allow him to assassinate Tufeili.

The report says Syria supports Tufeili because unlike Hizbullah, he does not threaten Damascus's interest in Lebanon, which provides jobs for more than 800,000 Syrian laborers. To make up for its dwindling ranks, Hizbullah is now open to any Lebanese, regardless of religion.

Tufeili has gone into hiding since February, after his supporters took over a religious seminary in Baalbek and were expelled in a bloody clash with Lebanese army troops. He is believed to be protected with the help of Syria and Iran.

During Lebanese municipal elections, Tufeili won a seat in the Bekaa Valley town of Brital. The victory was followed by clashes with Hizbullah supporters in the town.

UNIFIL troops find bomb

UNIFIL troops detected a bomb near their position at Kantara in the security zone and sappers blew it up. Israeli military sources believe it was placed there by Hizbullah and claimed it showed that the Shi'ite terrorists do not hold the UN peacekeepers immune to the conflict and do not feel restricted by their presence.

Suspected Jewish bones found in Warsaw

Skeletons, believed to be the remains of Jews, have been found in Warsaw during excavations to prepare for new sewage pipes, a local Jewish community official said. The bones of at least three people, and possibly many more, were uncovered near the Umschlagplatz and have been sent for forensic testing. "Think of all the people who died in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising," said the official. "It is difficult to excavate here and not find bones." Early estimates said the skeletal remains of dozens of people had been found.

Palestinian dig unearths Canaanite homes

Palestinian archeologists, working on their first dig in Palestinian Authority-controlled areas, said they had found the remains of Canaanite homes which they believed dated from around 3000 BCE.

The archeologists said the homes, at the site of the Canaanite city of Tel Sofer west of Nablus, would help Palestinians formulate their own version of the area's ancient history.

"Their [Israeli] research stopped whenever they reached anything dating to the Israelite era in this region," said Jalal Kazzouh, head of the archeology department at Nablus's an-Najah University.

Kazzouh said the excavations, which began three weeks ago, had unearthed what could be the remains of two houses that were part of the city of Tel Sofer, which lay in the western part of what is now Nablus.

"These findings date to 3000 BC," he said.

The archeologist said pottery fragments from the site could date back to the Bronze, Byzantine and Islamic eras. The fragments must be examined by specialists to try to set an exact time period.

Some Palestinians trace their ancestry to the Canaanites, who inhabited the area before the Israelites. They say discoveries from that age are proof of their historical rights in the area.

"It establishes our roots to this land. We're saying these are our ancestors and these are our roots. It is the biggest challenge to others [Israelis] who say they own this land and that they have a historical right to it," Kazzouh said.

Iran: Military buildup is needed to counter Israel

Iranian Defense Minister Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani has pledged that Iran's military power will not be directed at any Arab state, suggesting instead that its military build-up is intended to confront Israel.

In an interview with the Saudi-owned weekly *al-Wasat*, obtained ahead of publication, Shamkhani said that Iran's military power is "part of the capa-

bilities of the Arab and Islamic worlds".

"It is certainly not directed against the interests of the Arab states," he said. "On the contrary, it adds to the strength of the Islamic world in facing the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations."

Asked why Iran was building up its military muscle, increasing its arms procurements, deploying three Russian-built submarines and developing its missile program, including the test-firing of Shihab-3 missile, Shamkhani replied: "You would notice that no other country has been as bullied or threatened as Iran. Israel, for instance, menaces Iran more than it menaces any other country."

Meanwhile, Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, said in Teheran that Israel constitutes the main danger to peace.

"Armed with a stockpile of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, the Zionist regime is a major threat to the regional countries as well as others," he said in remarks at a Defense Ministry exhibit that were quoted by Associated Press.

Khatami devoted much of his speech to encouraging the army to keep building up the country's defenses and to stay out of political factionalism.

Palestinian reporters banned from casual contacts with Israelis

The Palestinian Journalists Association has forbidden its members from engaging in nonprofessional contact with Israelis and has threatened to blacklist journalists who break the rules, an official from the organization said.

The decision was taken after the association participated in a larger meeting of Arab press groups in Egypt.

"We will form a blacklist of the names of all Palestinian and Arab journalists, who normalize relations with Israel," said Tawfiq Abu Khousa, vice-president of the Palestinian Journalists Association in Gaza.

Abu Khousa said that at the conference the Arab Journalist Associations voted unanimously to "confront and stop all forms of normalization of relations with Israel."

Abu Khousa said Palestinian journalists who ignore the ban and meet with Israelis outside the professional sphere would have their names circulated throughout the Arab world and access to high officials would be cut off.

He also said the journalists would be forbidden to participate in academic forums with their Israeli counterparts.

Palestinian Authority officials said they would not lend a hand to enforcing the rules of the journalists association.

'Iran would aid Syria against Israel'

Lebanon's most senior pro-Iranian cleric has said that Iran, which is developing missiles, would come to the defense of Syria under a military alliance if Israel were to attack it.

"Producing the new Iranian missile created a new problem for the American, Zionist, and Turkish policies, because Iran began to own weapons with which it could face Israel in the event of any war in the future, especially as Iran has started a military alliance with Syria," Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah said.

"If Syria entered war with Israel as a result of an Israeli aggression, then Iran would be ready to enter into this war to aide Syria according to this alliance," he said during a weekly religious lesson. His remarks were released.

Syria and Iran have close ties, especially since Damascus backed Teheran during its 1980-88 war with Iraq, but they have not announced a specific mutual defense pact.

Iran successfully launched a 1,300 km range Shihab-3 missile, enough to reach Israel, Saudi Arabia, much of Turkey, and portions of Russia.

Ancient wall uncovered in Tzipori

A section of the city wall that the residents of Tzipori in the Galilee built to defend themselves during the Jewish revolt against Rome in 67 CE has been uncovered in excavations carried out under the direction of Dr. Ze'ev Weiss of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archeology.

This is the first significant archeological structure at Tzipori that has been uncovered from the 1st century CE.

The exposed wall section, measuring some 15 meters wide, 2.6 meters thick and over 3 meters in height, was apparently never needed, since the people of Tzipori decided in the end not to join the Jewish revolt and instead opened their gates to the Romans.

The result is that Tzipori — unlike other Galilee cities, which were overrun and destroyed by the Romans — went on to flourish as a mixed Roman-Jewish city and later, during the Byzantine period, as an early Christian-Jewish city.

Rajoub warns of war; calls PM 'racist and a liar'

War with Israel is a possibility if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not implement peace accords, Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the West Bank, said.

"Netanyahu is racist and bloody. He is leading his people and the area to bloodshed and killing. He is

a liar. He starts to lie as soon as he opens his mouth," Rajoub said.

Speaking to foreign correspondents, Rajoub blamed Netanyahu for a 16-month deadlock in peace talks. Rajoub spoke at a briefing hours before Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met to discuss the issues that have bogged down peace talks.

"We don't want to see war, but if war happens we have no other choice... We are preparing ourselves to implement the [peace] agreement, but if he [Netanyahu] doesn't implement, all options are open, including confrontation," Rajoub said.

"Hundreds from both sides will be killed. If Israel tries to enter our areas, battles will also happen in certain Israeli areas," he said.

Palestinian officials often have warned that if the peacemaking impasse continued, they would not be able to control popular anger in areas under their control.

Israeli security sources said earlier that military intelligence believed a deadlock in Middle East peacemaking had increased the likelihood of war in 1999. The prediction focused on a target date of May 1999, when Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has said he will declare an independent Palestinian state if the final status talks with Israel are not completed.

Israel has said any unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood would be met with a unilateral Israeli response — a veiled threat to annex part of the West Bank and Gaza still under Israeli control.

Rajoub said that in case of confrontation, IDF soldiers would not be facing members of Hamas and other militant Islamic groups.

"If there is a confrontation it will be between the Palestinian Police and the Israelis. We've never used Hamas and we never will," Rajoub said.

"He [Netanyahu] is going to lose. We have nothing to lose but [Jewish] settlements and suffering," he added.

Rajoub brushed aside rumors he might succeed Arafat, saying he hoped the Palestinian leader would outlive any potential successors.

Rajoub said he would continue his boycott of contacts with his Israeli counterparts until they returned Palestinian prisoners he said Israel kidnapped last November. In November the IDF said it had seized two suspected members of Hamas as Rajoub's officers were transporting them from Hebron to Nablus.

Thousands attend rally on 'evil speech'

By going to a conference on "guarding the tongue," Linda Kelleman said that she hopes to make the world just a little bit better.

Kelleman was one of some 10,000 women planning to attend a conference at the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Binyanei Ha'uma), to hear exhortations against *lashon hara* ("evil speech").

However, as she pointed out, the laws concerning *lashon hara* include, but go beyond, forbidding saying bad things to people, slandering people, or gossiping.

The project bringing women together during the nine days before Tisha Be'av to study the laws of *lashon hara* began 14 years ago in one of the haredi neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

There were about 200 study groups meeting in synagogues and schools before coming together for the central gathering at the JICC. The classes were in Hebrew, English, French and Yiddish.

The gathering featured Hebrew-speaking lecturers; a similar rally in English took place at the same venue.

In addition to the Jerusalem gatherings, there are similar events in Haifa, Beit Shemesh and Kiryat Sefer, as well as in the US, Canada and South Africa.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about the project is that it tries to cut across the religious community's political and organizational lines.

"We don't represent any party or group," said an organizer, who asked that she not be named.

At a class at Beit Knesset Hanassi on Jerusalem's Rehov Ussishkin, over 100 women representing a cross-section of the Orthodox English-speaking public listened as Rabbi David Orlofsky spoke to them, interspersing his moral message with stories and anecdotes.

Palestinian's organs save four Israelis

A Palestinian family said that it had donated four organs from its son's body to Israeli Jews in a gesture they said defied often tense relations between Israelis and Palestinians. "We thought of the donation as a purely humanitarian issue, no matter what were the patients' nationalities, they were human beings," said Abdel-Halim Bawadi, brother of Farid Bawadi who was killed in a car accident.

His family agreed to donate several organs from his body after 35-year-old Bawadi, from the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza, was declared brain dead. Surgeons transplanted two kidneys, the liver and the heart into four patients.

Report: PA smuggling weapons, ignores Hamas infrastructure

The Palestinian Authority has launched a drive to smuggle banned weapons and munitions, including anti-tank shells, into the territories in an attempt to expand and improve its fighting capability, an Israeli intelligence report says.

The report, obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, also says the PA has refrained from striking at the Islamic terrorist infrastructure in the territories, and instead opts for low-scale operations in response to intelligence on impending attacks.

The intelligence report examines PA policy toward terrorism by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other opposition Palestinian groups over the past 10 months amid US and European efforts to improve the authority's ability to combat anti-Israel attacks. The report also examines PA willingness to maintain security cooperation with Israel.

"A continuous effort, directed by official [PA] security sources, is to smuggle weapons into the PA areas with the aim to increase and broaden the range of the amount and quality of weapons in their possession, including anti-tank missiles," the report says.

The report says the effort includes attempts to smuggle weapons from Jordan via the Dead Sea and from Sinai via tunnels, and the purchase of weapons from criminals.

Direct PA involvement cannot be proven in all the smuggling attempts, the report says. "But there are signs that some of those involved [in the smuggling] are connected in some way to PA personnel," the report says.

The report asserts that the PA has not taken initiatives to eliminate Hamas terrorist cells. The PA refrains from responding to such Israeli requests as searching for Hamas terrorist leaders, arresting Islamic preachers who call for anti-Israeli attacks, and shutting down Hamas charities and newspapers.

Parents of wounded soldier flown to Israel

The IDF has flown to Israel the parents of Cpl. Igor Pergamenchik, who was wounded in Lebanon. The soldier's parents live in Belarus. Pergamenchik was seriously wounded on June 25 by a road side bomb. An officer and another soldier were killed in the explosion. According to IDF regulations, the parents of soldiers who live abroad only are brought to Israel if their child is killed. But the Defense Ministry made an exception in this case and allotted the funds for the tickets.

Ethiopian scientist to provide community's traditional bread

The traditional *injara* bread still eaten daily by most of the 70,000 Ethiopian immigrants here could eventually be made from native grown *teff*, the cereal staple that is now imported for this purpose.

An Ethiopian immigrant scientist who joined his wife and two children here in 1996 has, with an Absorption Ministry grant, succeeded in growing five varieties of *teff*, at the Hebrew University's agriculture faculty in Rehovot.

Now he hopes private interests will provide additional funds to determine which of the types is most suited

to Israeli soil and climate and make commercial application possible.

Aynalem Hailu, who received his master of science degree in plant genetics and agriculture at Friendship University in Moscow in 1982, headed a research institute in Addis Ababa for a decade. He sent his family on to Israel and went to England to study for his Ph.D. degree, but he didn't complete it, preferring instead to settle here.

Six months ago, he launched his research project at the agriculture faculty, based on work he had done abroad.

Hailu, who speaks fluent English and Russian and some Hebrew, said that the grain, which grows to about a meter in height, needs heavy soil and thrives on only a moderate amount of water — best delivered by drip irrigation.

Three Palestinians arrested in shooting

Three Palestinians were arrested in connection with a drive-by shooting, in which shots were fired from a Palestinian van at two Jewish shepherds outside the settlement of Itamar, near Nablus.

No one was hurt.

The incident took place on a hill known by the settlers as "Hill 866." Over the past several months, residents of Itamar have set up small farms on this hill and others at a distance from the settlement, to establish a Jewish presence there.

The IDF, using a helicopter, found the van, and later arrested the three suspects. Soldiers found spent cartridges from 9-mm. bullets in the area.

Arafat: Jerusalem is 'life or death'

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said that the government's new plan for strengthening Israel's hold over all of Jerusalem could dash the last hopes for peace.

Palestinians will use all means to defend the city, Arafat told a special meeting of Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah. "The battle for Jerusalem is a battle of life and death for the Palestinian people," Arafat said, wagging his finger from time to time to make a point.

"This [Israeli] settlement aggression is a total destruction of the peace process," Arafat told the legislators.

Arafat demanded that Arab countries convene a summit on the future of the city. He also urged the UN Security Council, which was beginning a debate on the Jerusalem plan, to condemn Israel. The council has shelved the matter indefinitely without a vote.

PA Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi told the legislators that meetings and summits would not by themselves be enough to stop Israel's moves in east Jerusalem and are "not an alternative to the confrontation."

The Jerusalem plan, introduced, would expand

the city's boundaries westward, into Israel proper, to increase the Jewish population. It would also extend Jerusalem municipal authority to nearby Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Arafat said: "Our Legislative Council is meeting for this emergency session to discuss plans which are able to protect Jerusalem from the settlement dangers which threaten it, after the failure of all the international efforts during the last two years to stop the current Israeli government."

The Netanyahu government, he added, "wants to change the Arabic nature of the sacred city, and deface its cultural sites."

In his speech, Arafat said the Palestinians would never settle for Israeli control over all of the city. "The patience of the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people has run out," Arafat said. "Let Netanyahu and his government know that Jerusalem is a red line, and that there is not one person among us who would make concessions on any grain of soil of Jerusalem."

US Consul General in Jerusalem John Herbst attended Arafat's speech, but declined to comment on it.

Canaanites built city's water system

Fresh archeological discoveries near the Gihon Spring, ancient Jerusalem's principle water source, show that the sophisticated water system heretofore attributed to the conquering Israelites pre-dated them by eight centuries and was even more sophisticated than imagined.

At a press tour of the site, archeologists of the Israel Antiquities Authority said the famed Warren's Shaft was only a natural fissure in the rock that had nothing to do with the water system.

The 15-meter-high shaft, accessed from a tunnel, was heretofore believed to be the way the ancients accessed the waters of the Gihon from within the walls without exposing themselves to forces besieging the city.

Excavations in the past few months have exposed a tunnel that skirted the shaft and brought residents of the city directly down to a pool near the spring defended from attack by extraordinarily heavy walls and towers.

Contrary to previous belief, the spring itself was heavily fortified and not outside the city's defenses.

Dr. Ronny Reich, who directed the excavations along with Eli Shukrun, said the entire system was built as a single complex by Canaanites in the Middle Bronze Period, around 1,800 BCE. We have to rethink all our concepts about the City of David that were formed over the last century," said Reich.

It is presumed that the water system was still functioning when the city, inhabited by the "Jebusites, was captured by David about 1,000 BCE, according

to conventional historical dating.

Warren's Shaft was discovered by British explorer Charles Warren in 1867 and was believed ever since to have been the linch-pin of the ancient water system. A tunnel on the eastern slope of the City of David led to the top of the shaft, whose bottom was not far from the spring.

The late Dr. Yigal Shiloh, who excavated the area and cleared the tunnel system, wrote in a paper published in 1994 that "residents of the City of David could stand on a platform — perhaps made of wooden planks — at the top of the shaft and draw water by means of a bucket at the end of a rope.

In the absence of ceramics that might date the site, Shiloh attributed the water system to the Israelite period on the grounds that subterranean water systems were part of the planning of fortified cities like Megiddo, Hazor and Gibeon during this period.

Ceramics found in the current investigations tie the system firmly to the Canaanites 800 years before David's conquest, said Reich.

The excavations also uncovered on the lower eastern slope a fortified wall from the Middle Bronze Period in an area believed to have been outside the city's defenses.

This would mean that the Canaanite city was almost twice as large as heretofore believed, said Avni, if further excavations show that the wall indeed continued around the city and was not merely an isolated bastion. This might mean that the city David conquered was twice the size hitherto believed if the Jebusites made use of the same defenses.

A major non-find in the excavations was any ceramics or other evidence from the 10th Century BCE, the period of David and Solomon. This deepens the mystery over the paucity of findings from David's time in the city that carries his name.

Golan bill passes 67-32

The preliminary reading of the so-called Golan Heights bill passed in the Knesset by 67 to 32, with one abstention (Marina Solodkin, Yisrael Ba'aliya).

The bill would require an absolute Knesset majority of at least 61 MKs and a public referendum majority to approve any territorial concessions or changes in status. Despite its nickname, the bill refers to any area in which Israeli law is in force.

The bill was referred to the Knesset Law Committee to be prepared for the further three readings. The bill, proposed by Third Way whip Yehuda Harel, won fairly broad support with 14 Labor MKs, including party leader Ehud Barak, voting in favor and nine Labor MKs voting against.

Rare Green Turtle nest found near Netanya

A nest of Green Turtle eggs was found on the Netanya coast during part of a national campaign to

save the endangered species. The eggs were transferred to an artificial nest in a safe area where wardens from the Nature Protection and National Parks Authority can watch over them until the young turtles hatch and then help them return to the sea.

Since the annual Save the Turtles campaign started, 20 nests have been located, including three of the extremely rare Green Turtles, which are almost extinct in Israel. Last year, no Green Turtle nests were found.

Injured donkey ignored for five days

A donkey that had been hit by a car and lay at the side of the road to Mishom Adumim with its legs broken for five days was finally put out of its misery, even though the Let the Animals Live group had received reports about the suffering animal.

Etty Altman, chairman of the group, said she had told callers to immediately report the animal to Ma'aleh Adumim authorities, but apparently the reports were not dealt with. One caller, a Danish tourist, said she called the municipal hot-line about the donkey but was told that she would have to accompany a city official to show him exactly where the donkey was.

Dr. Itamar Tsur, who was called by the Association for the Protection of Horses and Donkeys, located the animal and put it to sleep.

Security forces catch Hamas cell planning Afula terror attack

Security forces have arrested members of a Hamas cell who allegedly were planning to bomb Afula, the IDF said. Five men from the Samaritan village of Mirka were remanded until the end of legal proceedings against them by the Dotan Military Court.

The General Security Service, assisted by the IDF and police, detained the men after two bombs were detonated close to IDF patrols on the route linking Jenin and Nablus, the IDF Spokesman said.

The IDF Spokesman said cell leader Imad Yasser Musa, 20, prepared the bombs and recruited Ahmad Said Musa, 20, Nasim Ibrahim Musa, 20, Iya Hakim Salah Musa, 18, and Iyhad Suliman Musa, 21.

During interrogation, the men admitted to using homemade guns to carry out shooting attacks over the past year against Israeli vehicles in the vicinity of the Dotan army base. They also revealed the whereabouts of four homemade weapons and ammunition, as well as components they planned to use to prepare bombs. They also admitted setting fire to a forest near the Dotan army base in September 1996.

They had planned to set off a large bomb in Afula's restaurant area, which is close to the local police headquarters.

Israel at risk for strong earthquake

It's only a matter of time before a strong earthquake hits Israel, and there's a reasonable chance it could hit Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa simultaneously, seismology experts told the Knesset Science and Technology Committee.

Dr. Avi Shapira, head of the seismological branch of the Institute for Petroleum and Geophysics, said that Israel is exposed to earthquake dangers.

"In places where fatal quakes have occurred, strong ones will hit in the future," he said.

Activists try to save vultures

Mountain-climbing members of nature protection groups are expected to try to reach seven young vultures orphaned in the mass poisoning on the Golan Heights.

The birds were left in their nests without food or protection from the intense heat after their parents were killed.

Wardens from the Nature Protection and National Parks Authority and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel said more than 20 Griffin vultures — a fifth of the population in the North — died as a result of eating poisoned bait presumably put out by a cattle farmer in an illegal attempt to kill wolves. Other animals that died include nursing wild sows whose sucklings are unlikely to survive.

Ironically, no wolves have yet been found dead from the poisoning.

"It is an incredible blow to nature in the area and we expect to feel the effects for years to come, said Moshon Gabay, head of the NPNPA's northern region.

"Apart from the vultures, which died immediately, we are concerned for the fate of at least seven young vultures which we can tell have been orphaned."

The rescue efforts entail rappelling down the mountains to the secluded spots where the parent birds built their nests.

Arafat invites Gaddafi to Jerusalem

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has invited Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to Jerusalem to head Moslem prayers, Libyan television reported. Gaddafi has accepted the invitation, Arafat said.

Arafat set no date for the visit. He has invited many Arab leaders to pray in the mosque once Jerusalem becomes the capital of a Palestinian state. Arafat was in Libya to wish Gaddafi well after his surgery on a fractured bone near his hip.

'Immodestly dressed' woman refused driving test

"Just because a woman taking a driving test has a bare navel, there is no reason for the examiner to refuse to test her."

That was the reaction of the Transport Ministry following an incident in the Haifa Bay area, where a religious examiner refused to get into a car with a young woman because her belly was bare. Transport Ministry spokesman Avner On said that the ministry would clarify the incident with the tester and appraise him of the seriousness of his action.

"The testers are forbidden to refuse to give an examination to anyone, unless their documents are not in order," On said.

The incident began when the driving student, Shiran Friedman, of Rekhasim who is almost 18 years old, showed up for her driving test in a half T-shirt, with her midriff showing. The examiner, who was wearing a knitted kippa, got out of the car and told her teacher, Moshe Gilad, to bring her a shirt. He told Gilad that Shiran was not modestly dressed and he refused to test her.

Apollonia revealed

Diggers begin excavations of the ancient port city of Apollonia, at the northern end of Herzliya's beachfront. The dig is a joint project of Tel Aviv University and Porto Allegro University of Brazil, which has sent a delegation of 15 staffers.

Haredim protest J'lem eatery's Shabbat opening

Haredim demonstrated in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim to protest the Shabbat opening of a restaurant on Rehov Hanevi'im, which borders the neighborhood. About 200 haredim blocked an intersection with garbage bins and threw stones at police. One man was arrested. No one was hurt. Police dispersed the demonstrators.

Iranian minister calls for united Arab front

Iran wants to forge a united front with Arab countries to thwart potential threats from Israel, Iran's defense minister said in comments published.

"We will not abandon the Arab countries in their confrontation against threats by the Zionist regime," minister Ali Shamkhani said in an interview with the *Al-Ittihad* daily of the United Arab Emirates. Excerpts were reprinted in several Iranian newspapers.

"To confront these threats, Iran is trying to create an Iran-Arab axis," Shamkhani said. Shamkhani said that Israel, which has said it has the capability to launch a preemptive attack against a key nuclear facility in southern Iran, "represents a danger for our national security"

'Modesty squad' suspected in attack on couple

Police are investigating an attack by four haredim on an Arab man who was seated in a car with an

Orthodox woman in Jerusalem. The victim sustained light injuries in the beating, which took place in a parking lot near the Supreme Court building. Police believe the assailants were members of the "modesty squad" of the Eda Haredit Rabbinical Court.

Yassin: Hamas will continue jihad

Hamas is determined to continue a holy war against Israel, Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin told the Austrian daily *Der Standard* in an interview published. "We have made up our mind, to relaunch the jihad and the resistance [against Israel], by all means and at all appropriate opportunities," he said. "We do not care how many more victims we shall have to sacrifice, how many more martyrs the struggle will demand. We have a noble goal and a solid commitment to bear it."

Honey, who stole the bees?

Israeli beekeepers are in a tizzy over the theft of hundreds of beehives — more than 1,600 since the beginning of the year, according to Roni Hassid, spokesman for the Honey Producers Council. Boaz Kanot, chairman of the Israel Beekeepers Organization said 20 of his hives were taken. He said he suspects Palestinians are entering Israel by night from the West Bank and making off with the hives, since most of the thefts have taken place in areas near the Green Line.

Wall segments found at Ateret Cohanim dig

Initial archeological probing at the controversial Ateret Cohanim site inside Jerusalem's Old City has uncovered a number of wall segments that are believed to be from the Mamluk period, according to Gidon Avni, chief archeologist for the Antiquities Authority. Avni said the wall portions were found about two meters deep, and about 6 meters inside the walls of the Old City, near Herod's Gate. The initial clearing by bulldozers has been completed, and the area is now being prepared for proper excavations, Avni said, which should reach about eight meters when finished.

Woman injured for a second time in bombing

Ora Kaufman, who was injured a year ago in a terror attack in Jerusalem, was one of the 21 people injured in the recent Tel Aviv blast. Her injuries were not serious and she returned home after receiving medical treatment.

On September 4, 1997, Kaufman was on the last

day of her vacation in Jerusalem when suicide bombers set off explosives a few yards from where she was sitting with her six-month-old daughter in a sidewalk cafe on Ben-Yehuda Street. Kaufman was burned on the face and left hand, but was allowed to leave the hospital the same day. The baby spent two weeks in the hospital but recovered quickly, Kaufman said.

Northern residents survey damage

'God was on our side, not just luck'

"I think that God was on our side and not just luck," said Kiryat Shmona resident Lior Tubul. "You can't be so fortunate every time something like this happens, and unfortunately it happens too often."

The fact that only 10 residents and two IDF soldiers were lightly hurt in the two separate rocket salvos that hit the town was seen by many of the people as something of a miracle.

"One of the rockets, for instance, exploded on open land between buildings in one of the housing projects here, without causing any casualties or serious damage," said Tubul, noting that it could just have easily hit one of the buildings.

He noted that 700 guests at a wedding reception that was taking place in one of the catering halls in town at the time of the first barrage had been even more fortunate.

"One of the rockets exploded only a few meters from the reception hall," Tubul said. "There were many guests there from outside the area who are not acquainted with the 'Katyusha syndrome' that we have unfortunately had to get used to and many of them were hysterical."

Emergency and security forces evacuated the guests from the hall, including the "happy couple" who were just about to be married.

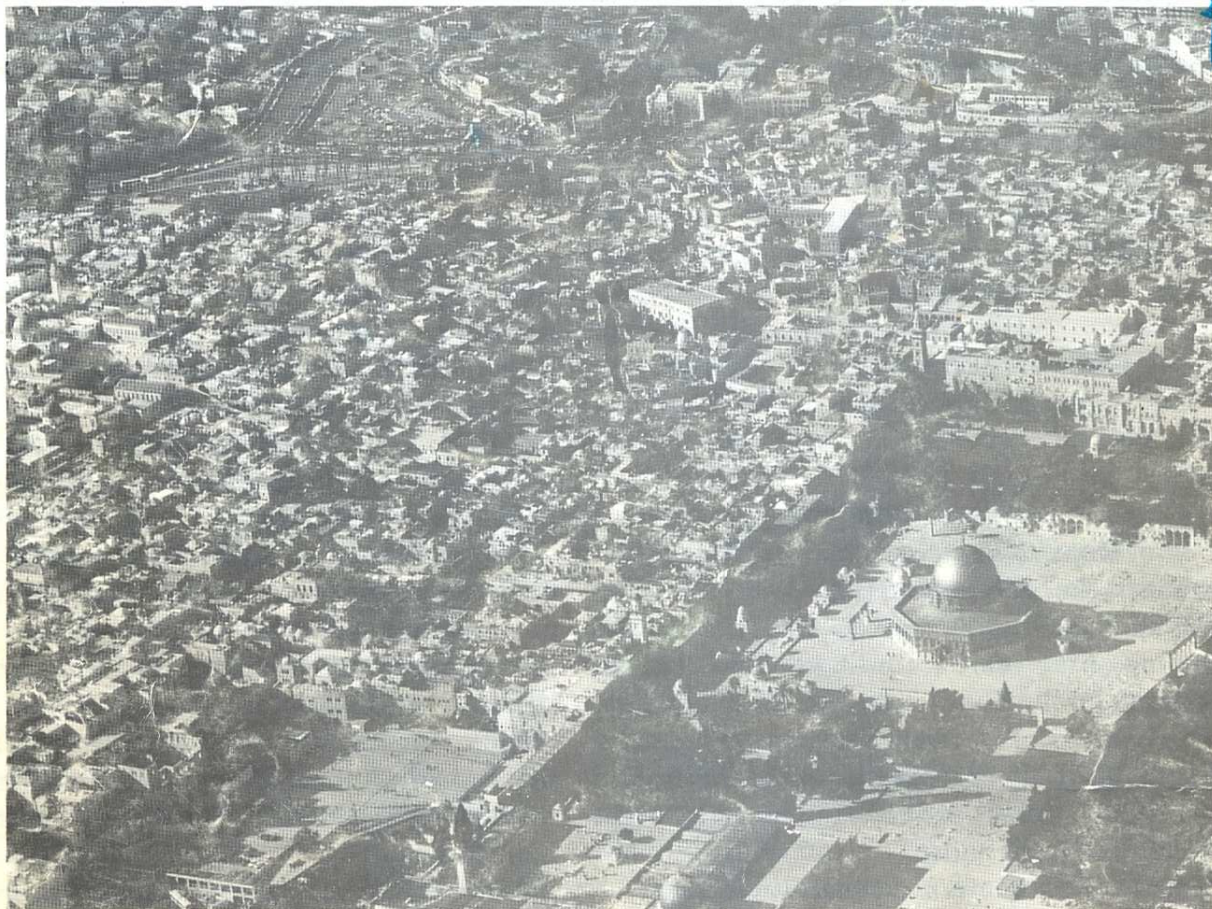
Bride and groom Lilah and Eitan Maman were in the middle of their wedding when the first barrage hit. "We were just at the start. It was awful and I feel terrible," Eitan told reporters. "We had arrived at the reception hall a few minutes before [the rockets fell]. When we got to the canopy the barrage hit [nearby] and everybody started to run around."

"People fell over, I was just shocked," Eitan said. "I just didn't know what was happening. It was the worst shock of my life. Everything [the wedding] was destroyed."

Several of the guests had to be treated for shock by Magen David Adom paramedics and staff at Safed's Rebecca Seiff Hospital's front-line emergency ward in Kiryat Shmona.

Several cars and at least one truck were badly damaged in the rocket attacks.

*"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)*



An aerial view of the Temple area and part of the Old City of Jerusalem.



Marchers preparing for the parade which is held in Jerusalem during The Feast of Tabernacles.