

The Goodman's Blog

Chapter 108

February 2022

ALIYAH IN OUR 60's FROM ARLINGTON HTS, IL TO CAESAREA, ISRAEL (Part 108)

SUZANNE & HOWIE GOODMAN



Howie and Suzanne Goodman were valued members at Beth Judea until they decided to make aliyah in 2009. The Goodmans have agreed to provide us with a blog on their experiences as new olim in Israel. Though we continue to miss the Goodmans, we can all look forward to reading about their adventures in Israel through their blog.

Aliyah in Our 60's –February 2022 - Part 108

Suzanne's birthday was celebrated this year in Eilat at the southern tip of Israel. For five days and four nights, we stayed at the Isrotel Hotel and attended the ClassiCameri Music Festival as we have three times before. It is a very nice mid-winter mini vacation.

We arrived in Eilat on December 15, and the actual concerts started the next evening. So we had time to take a taxi to the Eilat Bird Observatory. This has been added since the last time we attended the festival in 2019. We walked with another couple along the paths and used binoculars to spot a few cranes and other birds in the weeds and ponds. It was a beautiful sunny day, peaceful, and we highly recommend it as a place to go. We bought a bird book in their gift shop to help identify birds in Caesarea. Millions of birds migrate every year over Israel on their way from Europe to Africa.

The first night, our concert programs were delivered to our rooms. Due to some oversight, our group had not received them at arrival (another group did), so there was an apology gift of a bottle of gin and tonic from the hotel. This was a very surprising show of customer service that is seldom seen here.

Raanana Symphonette Orchestra has been the orchestra for the ClassiCameri for the last few years. This is an example of a concert: Mussagorsky Prelude to Khovanshchina - Dawn on Moscow River; Mozart Die Entführung aus dem Serail -- "Ich baue ganz;" Rossini Semiramide - "La Speranza piu soave;" Borodin Symphony No. 3 in A minor; Bellini Puritani - "A te, o caro"; and Delibes Lakme - "Prendre le dessin d'un bijou."

Several days around noon there were casual concerts at the Royal Beach Eilat where there are a cafe and shops. Shopping in Eilat is good, and there is not a VAT tax of 17 percent., so Suzanne had waited to purchase a swimsuit there. One of these concerts was Yehuda Elias, a singer doing velvety voice sings in Hebrew and Ladino. The other was the Kolan Ensemble, which is an eminent folklore group in Israel. Their repertoire is from Italy, Georgia, and Jewish tradition. Several of the singers have performed in concerts at our synagogue in Netanya.

Before the evening concerts, there is wine and a banquet of delicious pastries, cheeses, and appetizers laid out for concert goers in the lobby of the convention hall. The Isrotel Lagoon is an all-inclusive hotel with three full buffet meals each day, drinks in the bar, and free ice cream pops. It is very much like being on a cruise.

One late afternoon concert was a piano and cello concert with Nohar Eliaz. She is an amazingly poised young lady of 15 years old. The program included Grieg's Cello Sonata in A minor, Op. 36; Bach's Toccata for Organ in C Major, BWV. 564 - Adagio; Shumann's Fantasiestucke Op. 73; Altermann/Vilsneky's December; and David Popper's Hungarian Rhapsody for Cello and Piano. Nohar Eliaz started cello lessons at the age of 5 and began her studies at the Tel Aviv Academy of Music in 2017. When she was 9 years old, Yitzhak Perlman invited her to New York to train with a Julliard School of Music teacher. She has won many awards around the world and performs in Israel and abroad as a guest artist in renowned halls such as Lincoln Center, Barcelona Art Center, Carnegie Hall, and more. Her performance was a delight to watch and hear.

Our group celebrated Shabbat dinner at three big tables in the hotel dining room before attending the evening concerts. The hotel supplied the challahs and wine, and many tables around us were doing the prayers and singing.

The final concert featured a popular male singer, Miki Gavrielov with the best of Israeli songs. He sang many Arik Einstein songs. Most of the performers wore black subdued styles, suits or sparkly evening gowns. Miki Gavrielov strolled onto the stage with a pair of black jeans and black tee shirt with a white cat face painted on it. That was the perfect example of the disinterest that most Israelis have in being fashionable. His personality, voice, and singing talent were great, so ein bayah (no problem).

If you can arrange to have your trip to Israel at a time that can include this festival, we would highly recommend it. Eilat is a special place where the Miss Universe Pageant was held this year, and besides the concerts, there are other interesting places like the underwater observatory and opportunity to swim with the dolphins. In 2019, Sherry and Dan Weisberger joined us, and they would love to do it again.

Thank goodness the Ministerial Committee on Legislation voted January 2 to reject a bill proposed by the United Torah Judaism Meir Porush. The bill would give every family with at least four children a free dishwasher. Porush proposed the bill because there is a new tax on disposable dishes that took effect two months ago, and this is a hardship for the orthodox to be washing all those dishes. The committee did approve a bill that would permit parents a sick day from work when they take their children to be vaccinated for the coronavirus and another bill proposed by Sa'ar to expand legal assistance to sexual-abuse victims.

ALIYAH IN OUR 60's (continued from previous page)

If one has never observed a Knesset meeting, it is amazing. At times, there will be shouting, wagging fingers, and even attempts to walk towards the opposition leaders and verbally bully them. It is not unusual to observe MK's being ejected from the Knesset after several warnings.

In this instance, MKs and Knesset ushers had to intervene and move Prime Minister Bennett away from opposition seats. Legislators shouted "shame" and pounded on the benches. During the debate, questions also arose about unrecognized construction in ultra-Orthodox communities and also in the West Bank, where there are Jewish communities, such as hilltop outposts, that are not recognized.

Since the passage of the electricity bill, opposition to it claims that the bill awards illegal construction and throws away the concept of a planning policy and concept of land use.

Our daughter, Dr. Beverly Goodman-Tchernov is an underwater geo-archeologist. There are only about twelve people in the world in this specialized field. She has specialized in researching tsunamis and tries to make the public more aware of the likelihood of one happening in Israel as it has in the past because our proximity to the African fault line and being in the Great Rift Valley. She played a major role in the placing of signs along the coastline directing people to the best route to flee should there be a tsunami. Recently, she worked with Dr. Vasif Sahoglu and researchers at the University of Ankara in Turkey where they found the buried skeleton of a boy and a dog. Their research showed that this was the first actual skeleton found showing evidence of tsunamis that occurred 3600 years ago. Their paper was published by the National Academy of Sciences and will be in the January edition of National Geographic. There has been great excitement in the science field, and she is constantly being interviewed and was on several television shows. We are very proud parents. This is one of the links for further information:

<https://www.courthousenews.com/human-remains-recovered-from-ancient-volcanic-eruption/>

As in the last surge of Corona, there has been an increase of cases of the Omnicron strain. The infection rate is as bad as last October when it was the highest. Cases are much milder, and the mortality rate is low. On January 7, we had our fourth shot, which is being provided first to people over sixty. Our 13 year old and 9 year old grandsons have had two shots, since children are now being vaccinated. We visited a retirement home and were almost denied access because we didn't have the right documents besides the "green pass." Most restaurants and stores require proof of vaccination. We have the "green pass" on our phones. Our synagogue is open; however, services and lectures are being offered on Zoom, and we are taking advantage of this. The vaccination place was in the parking lot of a shopping center with appointments, and we were very impressed with the organization and speed with which we got our shots. The air flights are now open again in spite of the rising infection. We are wearing masks and trying to be careful. We hope the COVID strains reduce their appearances, and we can return to some near normalcy.



People waiting for COVID shots



In mid-December 2021, the Tehran Times published a map of targets Iran has to strike Israel if Israel should strike Iran. According to Israeli officials, however, the map of the alleged targets is inaccurate since some of them do not exist. It also includes cities in Palestinian Territories such as Jenin, Nablus, and Ramallah as well as Lebanon. Gaza will also be obliterated if they used their map as published.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, on January 3, 2022, stated he met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The purpose was to prevent a war with Gaza. Gantz also said he would do it again.

“The need to look after the safety of Israel’s citizens and the fight against Hamas is the main reason I met with Abbas last week,” he told his Blue and White Party Knesset faction. “It’s the reason that I will continue to meet with him and others with whom discourse benefits stability, security and our interests,” he added.

“As defense minister, my job is to make sure that the IDF is ready for war, but as a statesman, my job is to prevent that war,” Gantz said. “The one who is responsible for sending soldiers into battle is the one who is responsible for doing everything to prevent it,” he emphasized.

Gantz mocked the ministers who condemned the Abbas meeting at his Rosh Ha’ayin home. He was “disappointed” in them, he said, adding that they were guided by their political views rather than Israel’s security needs. “Behind closed doors they sound different,” Gantz said. “As far as I’m concerned, whenever politics clash with security, security must always prevail.” Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called the meeting “legitimate” but reiterated that he would never meet with Abbas. It appears the ministers in Israel work independently of the Prime Minister’s direction.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center recently came out with its top ten antisemitic events or people of 2021. The following are the “winners” of this less than desirable award: <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-690050>.

January and February are beautiful months in Israel. The rainy season is ending, temperatures are pleasant, trees and grass are bright green, and little yellow and red flowers are popping up along the roads. It is truly the time of Tu B’shevat, and we are thankful to live here. We hope you can visit soon.



Prime Minister Bennett lashing out. *The Jerusalem Post*



Grandson holding our rooster that had to be given away because he was cock a doodling in morning.

Suzanne and Howie



-The opinions expressed are those of the authors and may not represent those Congregation Beth Judea- ed.

We hope you enjoy this installment from the Goodmans, who have graciously agreed to blog for our congregation their experiences as Olim in Israel. If there are specific topics that you are interested in hearing about of if you just want to stay in touch with Howie and Suzanne, you can reach them at: HOWIEG@aol.com