

The Goodman's Blog

Chapter 112

June-July 2022

ALIYAH IN OUR 60's

FROM ARLINGTON HTS, IL

TO CAESAREA, ISRAEL

(Part 112)

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 – June-July 2022 - Part 112

Hundreds of Ukrainian Holocaust survivors have immigrated to Israel since Russia invaded their country two months ago. They are fleeing war as they did in WWII. Some have medical problems that require special medical transport planes. A specially outfitted plane carrying nine Holocaust survivor Ukrainian refugees landed in Israel Wednesday night just as the country was entering its Holocaust Remembrance Day. These survivors were far from the only ones to reach Israel from Ukraine since Russia invaded their country two months ago. According to Immigration and Absorption Ministry statistics, in total, some 500 Holocaust survivors are estimated to be among the more than 15,000 people from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus who have immigrated to Israel over the past two months.,

Russia launched its invasion of neighboring Ukraine on February 24, following months of heightened tensions. The fighting has left thousands dead in Ukraine and displaced millions of people, prompting the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. It is symbolic that they can migrate to Israel. During the Holocaust, they didn't have a place to run. Today, there is a strong Jewish home.

The head of IFCJ, Ayelet Shiloh Tamir, echoed Tamano-Shata's remarks, saying the survivors' arrival on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day "symbolized more than anything the essence of Zionism and the Jewish people's responsibility for one another."

The plane was met by ambulances to ferry the elderly and infirm passengers directly to hospitals and care facilities, or to the homes of family members in Israel. As each passenger disembarked, they were met with cheers and waves from a crowd of volunteers and government officials waiting beneath the plane, and they were given roses and small Israeli flags.

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

Israel's Bee-IO has found a way to make bee-free honey in the lab, removing the bee from industrialized honey production. This is important because the bees can work on their vital job of pollinating plants. This fake honey tastes like real honey. However, we like the honeycomb in the jars. This is a site describing the invention:

<https://nocamels.com/2022/04/bee-honey-cultivated-startup/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6uC8pEQKag>

The combined holidays of Ramadan, Easter and Passover created increased tension and there have been 13 Israeli deaths from these horrific terrorist attacks. Recently 3 fathers in Elda were attacked and killed by two young terrorists that bore an axe and a gun. This happened at the end of Independence Day and left 16 children without their fathers. The three victims were Yonatan Havakuk 44, a father of five, Boaz Gol, 40, also a father of five, and 35 year old Oren Ben Yiftah, a father of six from Lod. Seven other people were injured by the attackers.

It was reported by the police that Ben Yiftah had driven the two attackers into the city where they illegally worked. He had done this on ten different occasions. Apparently the two would call and Yiftah provided them with transportation. The two assailants have been captured alive.

As so often in the past, the reason given for these attacks is the "storming" of El-Aqsa Mosque by Jews and their desire to change the status quo. Prime Minister Bennett was interviewed by Christiane Amapour of CNN. She asked why Israeli police "storm" the El-Aqsa Mosque. He explained rocks and other objects being tossed down on worshippers at the Western Wall. He stated it was coming from inside the Mosque. There were many peaceful individuals engaged in prayer and they appeared relieved when the instigators were removed.

This behavior is being encouraged by Hamas leaders and the killings are celebrated by some Palestinians. The perpetrators and their families are rewarded through the "pay for slay" payments given to them in prison and to their families. Candy is distributed and streets and schools are named after these killers.

Throughout the last hundred years the status of the Temple on the Mount has been used frequently as a reason for attacks on Jews (and other Israelis).

Nadav Shragai of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs has outlined the manner of how Muslims themselves have changed the status quo on the Temple Mount:

The status quo on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, as formulated by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in 1967, no longer exists. In the 55 years since the Six-Day War, changes in the status quo have greatly improved the Muslims' hold on the Temple Mount.

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

Muslims have inaugurated four new mosques on the Temple Mount since 1967: the Dome of the Rock, which originally was not built as a mosque; the El-Marwani Mosque, located underground in Solomon's Stables; the "Ancient Al-Aqsa" Mosque, established in 1998 under the existing upper mosque; and the Gate of Mercy prayer area, set up and turned into a mosque in 2019.

The establishment of additional mosques on the mount stemmed from a new definition of the Temple Mount compound by the Muslims, who began to refer to all of the area as "Al-Aqsa" and to regard the entire mount as one great mosque. Until the Six-Day War, the compound as a whole was called "Al-Haram al-Sharif" (the Holy and Noble Place), and was defined differently from the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In the first decade after the Six-Day War, Jews were allowed to enter the mount through the Chain Gate and the Cotton Merchants' Gate, but today can only enter through the Mughrabi Gate. For two decades, Jews were allowed to visit for more hours of the day and at all parts of the mount, even the interior of the mosques. Today, Jews' visits to the mount are much more limited in time and in the areas permitted.

While displaying flags is prohibited on the Temple Mount, in practice, the only flag not displayed there is Israel's. Palestinian Authority, PLO, Hamas, and Hizb al-Tahrir flags can often be seen, while a small Israeli flag on the desk of an officer at the Temple Mount police station had to be removed following Muslim protest.

After a succession of changes to the status quo by the Muslim side, a change was also made on the Jewish side. For several years, on the eastern flank of the Temple Mount, with the permission and surveillance of the police, Jews have been praying in a "nondemonstrative" manner, without prayer shawls or prayer books.

The writer, a fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, is a veteran Israeli journalist.

Every year at Yom Haatzmaut, Barbara Sofer has in her column in the Jerusalem Post, "74 + 1 reasons I love Israel". I have picked a few of them to share with you:

More treasures in the earth. Eleven-year-old Liel Krutokop from Petah Tikva found a 2,000-year old coin in a Jerusalem sifting project. It was pure silver. As a reward for her find, an archaeologist came to Liel's school to teach the Israeli children about the minting of ancient coins.

The second Israeli to go into space, Eytan Stibbe, a former Israeli fighter pilot, took a miniature science lab and also a 0.5 square-millimeter silicon nano-chip of the Bible.

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

The rough-and-ready infantry soldiers of Golani Brigade saw a bride being photographed, joined hands and circle-danced around her.

The Israel Air Force provides downloadable printable designs for your sukkah to “make your sukkah fly.”

Attend any sports event on Hanukkah, and the game only starts after the fans and players chant the blessings on the candles. The same is true in restaurants.

This is one we love seeing because it involves our marine biologist son-in-law. Israeli scientists are among those trying to converse with sperm whales that have the largest brains - five times a human brain - in the animal kingdom.

The religious kidney donation organization Matnat Chaim has made Israel the No. 1 country in the world per capita for altruistic kidney donations.

According to the “World Happiness Report,” this year Israel has broken into the top 10 at #9, behind northern European countries like Finland, Denmark, Iceland and ahead of the US and England. No, we’re not Scandinavia, but we’re still happy.

Conde Nast Traveler recommends that travelers can boost their endorphins by visiting Israel and improve their health by eating Israeli food. Israel has the lowest diet-related deaths in the world.

The Israel Water Authority and Mekorot announced in February that they’ve stopped cloud seeding - begun in the 1950’s due to the high level of the Kinneret.

Among the four Israeli inventions mentioned this year in Time Magazine’s Best Inventions of 2021 changing the way we live, is OrCam Read, a handheld device that reads text for those who are sight-challenged and dyslexic.

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink - but not in Israel. Nearly 90 percent of our wastewater is recycled for agriculture - four times more than any other country in the world. Only 5% is discharged into the sea. Israeli companies are helping save water around the world, from Africa to California to India.

In Israel, we meet 80% of our water consumption requirements through desalination plants. We have found that the desalination process preserves the natural water system as we pump the desalinated water into our rivers.

Win-win with Israel: Fastest rollout of vaccination program, and a great pilot country for the pharma companies.

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

Israel managed to pull off the Miss Universe contest despite COVID-19, BDS and local naysayers.

Dog owners in Tel Aviv may have to provide DNA samples for their dogs to fight against negligent doggie-poop-collection by owners.

Hadassah Medical Organizations doctors and nurses were the first hospital staff in the world to rush to help in Ukraine.

Natan Sharansky: "When growing up in Russia, having 'Jewish' on your identity card was a hurdle. Now in Ukraine, it's a treasure because you have a place to go."

We are fortunate to enjoy many fantastic holidays in Israel besides the traditional holidays.

For example, Purim is nothing as it is in the states. It lasts for a few weeks and most shopkeepers, grocery store employees, banks, restaurants and just people on the street dress up and celebrate the hag for a couple weeks.

Right after Pesach, we have a crescendo of holidays from the Yom HaShoah Holocaust Rememberance Day when Israeli Jews and non Jews go from Yad Vashem to Poland and Auschswitz for the March of the Living. Then about one week later we have Yom Hazichron or Rememberance Day for the fallen and terrorist victims. Each name is scrolled on the local TV stations all day. Sirens wail in the morning and at night. Cars stop on the freeway as people stand next to their cars and the entire nation stops whatever they are doing to remember for two minutes. Stories are told about the victims' families on the news and it is very sad as almost everyone has lost someone to violence.

Then, as sunset ends that day, we begin the celebration of the founding of the State of Israel. It is stunning as there is a switch in moods from sadness to celebration. It is the State of Israel's 74th anniversary. There was a huge celebration at Mount Herzl which is on local TV as well as I24 news. It is non-political and thus the Prime Minister does not speak. It is a ceremony of lighting 12 torches which represent the twelve tribes of Israel. They are lit by people honored for their accomplishments in Israel.

The torchbearers were Maj. Gen. (res.) Yoram "Yaya" Yair, Yael Scherer, Lt. Col. (res.) Munir Madi, Elizaveta Sherstuk, Uri Banki, Judge Mika Banki, Idan Kleiman, Asael Shabo, Kalman Samuels, Dr. Simcha Gethon, Angel Alon, Lt. Hadar Cohen, Rita Yahan-Farouz (a famous Israeli singer known as "Rita" who was born in Iran) and the head of Israel's counter-terrorism unit. He was wearing a mask so no one would be able to identify him for the purpose of assassination.

The Bankis are the parents of Shira Banki, who was killed participating in the Jerusalem Pride March in 2015. Since her murder at the age of 15, the Bankis have worked to promote tolerance in Israel.

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

Yael Scherer is the survivor of sexual abuse who has used her case to promote the rights of victims of domestic abuse.

Maj. Gen. (res.) Yoram Yair, known as "Yaya," is a leading general and father of the late Capt. Shlomit Yair, who died in a plane crash with four fellow pilots while serving in the Israel Air Force.

He is also the chairman of both Yahad United for Israel's Soldiers, which assists underprivileged and lone soldiers, and Aharai, which helps prepare Israeli youth for military service.

Lt. Col. (res.) Munir Madi, a Druze man, formed "Kerem-El," which combines Jewish and Druze youth preparing together for service in the IDF, in the northern Israeli Druze town Daliyat al-Carmel.

Elizaveta Sherstuk, the head of the Hesed group in Ukraine's Sumy, represented Jews from abroad. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, she helped organize the rescue of hundreds of Ukrainian Jews.

Dancing occurs afterwards including "Hava Nagela". This is followed by fireworks and the singing of "Hatikvah". It seems to make sense to have the National Anthem sung at the end of events.

There was controversy regarding the fireworks as some municipalities such as Tel Aviv cancelled theirs due to concern about PTSD of soldiers in past wars and terrorist events.

The day of Yom haAtzmaut traditionally involves barbeques with friends and family. Around midday, there are flyovers by jet fighters and many other types of Israeli military airplanes. El Al the national airlines was supposed to participate. However, their mechanics went on strike and made that impossible last. The attached pictures were taken our friend Alan Stein from his balcony.



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



As of May 11th, the coalition may be on the edge of dissolution as such a bill is up for consideration in the Knesset. Abbas of the Knesset is expected not to leave the coalition but has a freeze on new members. Just as the article was in completion, it appears the current coalition will continue, for now.

It is not clear which side fired the bullet that killed Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh, who was also a US citizen. Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh was killed May 10th in the morning and another journalist was wounded during clashes between armed Palestinians and IDF troops in Jenin. The Palestinian Health Ministry said that Abu Akleh was struck by a bullet to the head while another journalist, Ali Samoudi, who works for the Jerusalem-based Quds newspaper, was in stable condition after being struck in the back.

The Palestinian Authority Health Ministry and Palestinian witnesses, including other journalists, charged that Israeli troops raiding the city fired the gunshots that killed Abu Akleh. The Israeli government claimed that armed Palestinians likely mistakenly shot and killed her.

Bennett claimed that Palestinians in Jenin could be heard during the raid "boasting, 'We hit a soldier, he's lying on the ground.'" The Foreign Ministry later circulated a video purportedly showing that moment.

But, Bennett continued, "no IDF soldier was injured, which increases the possibility that Palestinian terrorists were the ones who shot the journalist." Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz, also speculated she may have been killed by Palestinians.

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

Harvard's Crimson editorial page has come out with pro BDS attitude against Israel. This letter was sent to the Harvard Crimson on April 30, 2022 with the subject "Terribly Misguided Editorial." It was written to their editor from our friend:

Dear Editor:

The editorial in support of the BDS movement shows a tremendous amount of ignorance of the history and nature of both the conflict between the Palestinian Arabs and Israel and the BDS movement.

The founders and leaders of the BDS movement have made clear that, contrary to what was written in the editorial, their ultimate goal in the elimination of Israel. It's thus sadly ironic and perverse that the editorial appeared the day after Yom HaShoah. The Nazis tried to exterminate the Jewish people; the BDS movement is trying to exterminate the Jewish state. There is one basic reason why the Palestinian Arabs do not have their own state: they have kept spurning golden opportunities to establish it. Israel is not the problem; Israel has offered to give the Palestinian Arabs virtually all the disputed territory at least three times, in 2000, 2001 and again in 2008, only to have the Palestinian Arab leadership decide they preferred to continue the PLO's plan of stages.

Many Palestinian Arabs do want to live in peace in their own state. They need to take control of their fate by getting rid of the ones who have been repressing them for more than a quarter century: the corrupt, terror groups which are governing Gaza and Areas A and B of Judea and Samaria.

Supporting BDS doesn't help the Palestinian Arabs; it merely helps perpetuate the misery which has primarily been self-imposed and is today perpetuated by their leaders and the most extreme among them and which is abetted by "supporters" like the editorial board of the Harvard Crimson.

Sincerely,

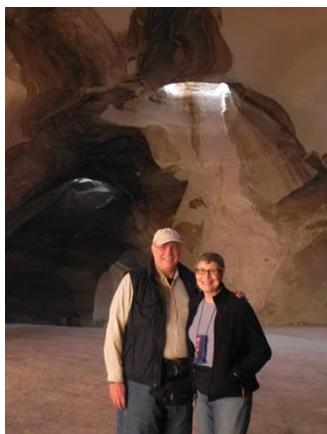
Alan Stein

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

What is alarming is the fact that a large number off leaders and decision making individuals have Harvard on their resume.

The start of summer will begin soon after this newsletter. We pray for peace and wish good health to all.

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 or if you just want to stay in touch with Howie and Suzanne, you can reach them at: HOWIEG@aol.com