

The Goodman's Blog

Chapter 116

November 2022

ALIYAH IN OUR 60's FROM ARLINGTON HTS, IL TO CAESEREA, ISRAEL (Part 116)

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 – November 2022 - Part 116

The hot summer temperatures are waning, and we got a little sprinkle of refreshing rain. We are past the month of holidays and enjoying a little “non *chag* time.”

In the upcoming Israeli election, one of the major issues is inflation and the struggling economy. We can't believe how much we spend on groceries. And the cost to fill up a full tank of gas in Israel is among the highest in the world. It is approximately twice the cost of the high cost of gas in the United States. Americans are complaining about paying \$5 per gallon and we are paying over \$9 per gallon. Israel's Electricity Authority recently announced a 9.6% price increase. There is a fixed price for bread; however, that had to be increased because of bakeries struggling with flour shortages due to the war in Ukraine.

In spite of the high cost of living, the number of immigrants is increasing. Some 60,000 new immigrants arrived in Israel this year, compared to 28,500 last year and 19,700 the year before. More than 31,000 Russian and Ukrainian immigrants came since the start of the war. The absorption of newcomers is something Israel has done innumerable times. Mass influxes of immigrants are nothing new; only the causes of those bursts of immigration change.

It is hard to believe that because Iran wants to destroy Israel, that there was a rally for people of Iran in Tel Aviv, the heart of Israel. In October, there were about 100 Israelis (mostly women) who came together to support women in Iran who are fighting the regime following the brutal death of 22-year old Mahsa Amini last month at the hands of the so-called morality police. There were

posters saying, "Women, Life, Liberty". This is in protest for women in Iran who are kidnapped, tortured, and murdered because they are not wearing their hijab correctly. The rally sent an important message to the regime in Iran, stated the mayor of Tel Aviv. "We are not against the people of Iran, we're against the cruel regime of Iran which kills women and denies them freedom," she said. "We are dreaming of the day when Iran can join its neighbors in the Abraham Accords and make peace with Israel."

After almost three years of planning, we were finally able to take a cruise with our daughter, son-in-law, and two Israeli grandkids between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Royal Caribbean first planned to have cruises out of Haifa in 2020 and we made reservations. However, due to the pandemic, it was cancelled by the cruise line. So when they opened up cruises again we made our reservations over a year ago for the five day cruise to Cypress, Rhodes, and Santorini.

When we were to sail on September 28, the cruise line did not require vaccinations but asked for a history if one had been vaccinated and would not allow anyone on the ship unless they had a negative test within 24 or 48 hours of the sailing date depending on the type of test. Since we were taking the cruise between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, this became a challenge. The testing facilities were mostly closed for the holiday. On September 27, after going to services, the night before the cruise we were able to find an Aid testing place that opened a half hour after the chag. It was in a drug store in Tel Aviv which was a forty minute drive from our home. We got there along with a long line of people waiting for the test. The ship holds around 2,000 passengers and they were mostly coming from Israel. So we imagined that there were going to be at least 500 at the testing point because they all faced the same testing site closed situation. Our family members all passed the test, so we drove home and finished our packing.

Another challenge that we faced is that Howie started peritoneal dialysis three months ago, which is the treatment done at home. This was the first time that we had tried to travel with the equipment and doing it away from home. The first night on the cruise we had a very lovely dinner in the dining room, went to the show and returned to our cabin to do the treatment before bedtime. Panic set in when we discovered that we had neglected to pack a small but necessary part of the equipment. We called the medical staff on the ship, and they didn't have it. Our daughter immediately started making calls to the hospital near the port in Limassol, Cyprus which was to be our first stop. Howie missed the treatment that night, which is sometimes allowed, and when we docked in the morning we took a taxi to the hospital. The staff there was amazing. They even called in a top nephrology doctor to consult with us. They do not use the Baxter equipment that we have but made adaptations to make what we had doable. We had also called our doctor in Israel who had agreed to the plan. So it was a scare that we might have to fly back early from our five day cruise and in the future we will have a new checklist to be sure that we have needed equipment.

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The cruise was a good vacation for the whole family, and we love going out of Haifa instead of traveling to a start port outside the country. A cruise out of Haifa might be something that you consider doing if you are coming to Israel. You could easily take a cruise as we did to the Greek Isles and return to Israel.

Driving cars on Yom Kippur is still legal, however out of religious observance or respect for the tone of the holiday, nearly all Israelis restrain from driving unless it is an emergency. The empty roads and streets become a playground for children and families to walk and ride bikes. Riders mostly consist of children. The Jewish People Policy Institute determined that 43% of Israeli children ride bikes on Yom Kippur. There is something almost post-apocalyptic about the streets on Yom Kippur. It is very strange to be out when everything is closed and there are no cars on the street. Before we made aliyah and moved to Israel, we were with our daughter's family in Eilat for the holidays. The small Masorti synagogue was too far to walk in the hot weather, so we rode our bikes to shul for services on Yom Kippur. When we rode home after services, it was quite dangerous on the street with all the kids on bikes. Bike riding in Israel on Yom Kippur is almost considered a Yom Kippur tradition.

It will only be a few days before the Israeli election when this is received. As usual, predicting results is difficult. The information mentioned in this article will be from October 10, 2022. Therefore much could have changed.

Perhaps one important source is asking our cab driver on the way to a cruise. He is going with Blue and White, which is headed by Benny Gantz. This does not mean Gantz's Party will succeed and win 61 seats. However, if they receive enough seats, they may broker a deal that would have Gantz as Prime Minister. According to a poll by Panel Politics for *Ma'ariv*- Hebrew Newspaper, Likud, headed by Netanyahu, has a Right wing block of 61 seats. This is two more than in an identical poll a week before this one. The center left group would have 55 seats. That means they lost 2 seats.



Swimming in Rhodes, Greece



Alon and Erez completed Padi certification in Cyprus



Our swim exercise class saluting the new year

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Here is the complete rundown of the poll results:

Likud 32 seats

Yesh Atid 23 seats

Religious Zionism 14 seats

National Unity 12 seats

Shas 8 seats

United Torah 7 seats

Yisrael Beytenu 6 seats

Labor and Meretz 5 seats

Hadash and Raaam 4 seats

The poll's margin of error + or - 3.7%

There is a possibility of military operations by Hezbollah in Lebanon. With the help of the United States, a deal is being put together between Lebanon and Israel regarding economic boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea. There are huge gas deposits in the sea. It appeared a deal was imminent until Prime Minister Lapid rejected changes that had been proposed by Lebanon. With Israel's refusal to accept new demands, Hezbollah is threatening military action.

Controversy has occurred since Lapid and President Abbas spoke at the United Nations General Assembly. Lapid spoke of peace and the two state solution. Abbas spoke of an Israel that refuses to negotiate with the Palestinians. It is forgotten that Prime Minister Barack's offer was about 98% of what they wanted. Arafat was fearful that if he agreed, he would be assassinated. Prime Minister Omert also offered a generous solution and was turned down.

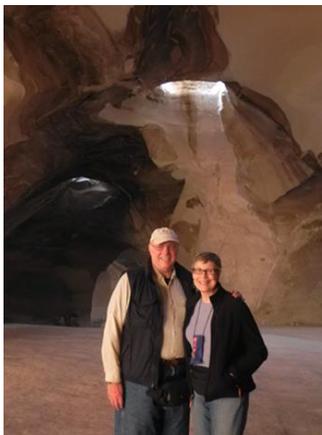
The two state solution did not appear in UN Security Council Resolution 242, Resolution 338 or in the Oslo Accords. In October of 1995, Prime Minister Rabin outlined a total peace settlement with the Palestinians. A two state solution was not mentioned. His backing of statehood was lukewarm.

The Palestinian Arabs tried to set up a mini state in the Gaza Strip but never received wider backing. It remained under Egyptian occupation until the Six Day War.

The Abraham Accords is a truly positive step which shows that it benefits both Israel and Arab countries to work together.

School will start in earnest in November. There are many vacation days at the start of the year with the holidays. Schools are even closed a week for Sukkot. We hope you enjoyed the holidays and wish you and your family a happy year.

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