

# The Goodman's Blog

## Chapter 97

February 2021

# ALIYAH IN OUR 60's FROM ARLINGTON HTS, IL TO CAESEREA, ISRAEL (Part 97)

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 2021- Part 97

More than fifteen percent of Israelis had received their first Corona 19 vaccination by January 10, 2021. We got ours on January 3. Now we will go back on January 17 for the booster shot and then will get our green passport cards. Meanwhile, there was a tightening of the restrictions in our third lockdown. Only special education children are still in school and we are not to venture more than one kilometer from home except for authorized business. The number of positive cases of the virus is increasing and there is a mutated form of the virus from the UK that has been found here. So, we are trying to maintain distance and always wear our masks in public to do all we can to make this go away. This lock down will be for at least 2 more weeks.

The administration of the vaccinations here has been extremely well organized. This is due to the fact that everyone needs to belong to a health plan, so each health plan administers the vaccine to its members. We called our Kupat Holim (Macabi), for an appointment, and after being on hold for over 50 minutes, an English speaking individual gave us times and dates for our first shot and also an appointment for our second shot 21 days later.

We had to travel to Sammy Ofer Soccer Stadium parking lot 4 in Haifa . It is about 35 minutes from our home. Our appointments were at 20:28 and 20:32 hrs. We arrived early and went to P4. There we were greeted by a worker; we showed our SMS and were directed to drive to an open tent.



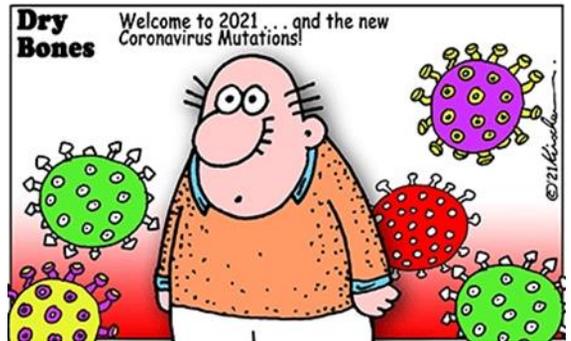
*Picture of tents and drive through for COVID-19*



A health worker in the tent, who happened to be an Israeli Arab, took our card and asked if we had any flu vaccinations in the last week or had any allergies. We were also asked if we had been in contact with anyone with Corona.

We were then asked which arm we wanted the vaccination in and stuck our arms out the window as they walked around the car giving the shots. We never left our vehicle. We were then told to drive through the forward opening in the tent and park our car where we waited about fifteen minutes to see if we had any reaction. We then drove home. It was very organized and efficient. The first individuals being given the Pfizer vaccine were individuals sixty and older as well as most health care providers. Next will be the teachers and those in education system.

As has been true with this pandemic, nothing stays the same. After the initial success of phase 1, there now seems to be issues if there are enough shots remaining to continue to the next phase. Most of the major HMO's have stopped accepting appointments for a couple of weeks. Some doctors have recommended delaying the second shot while providing the first to more people. Whether that delay of the second shot would prove unwise, we have not been told. Even if Israel continues at the current rate, March would be the earliest that all nine million plus residents would be inoculated.



Israel is now in the third lockdown for the pandemic. Travel is currently prohibited except for medical, essential business, pharmaceutical, and food shopping. We were stopped at a roadblock as we returned from receiving our shots. The police asked why we were traveling, and we showed them our SMS appointment. They were stopping all vehicles traveling southbound out of Haifa on the major highway 2. Howie is the only one driving now because Suzanne's driver's license has expired. The license is good for 5 years, and license renewal requires an eye test and doctors form completed. These requirements were met in July and mailed to the driver's license bureau in July. Normally this could be solved by going to the license bureau office; however, that is closed for pandemic. After becoming frustrated by the phone messages (Hebrew) and non-answers, the project was turned over to a Hebrew speaking friend. Her last conversation with them was that they did not receive the reports sent in July and they may extend the time. Since our driving is very limited, only 6,000 kilometers in 11 months, it isn't really a problem. It is just an inconvenience.

During this third lockdown all the restaurants are closed except for delivery. Shopping malls and stores are closed along with beauty shops. National parks are closed. Schools are closed except for special education. There is grocery store delivery. We have needed plumbing and electrical repairs during the shutdown, and the repair person as well as we wore masks. The restrictions are being enforced in public with fairly high fines.

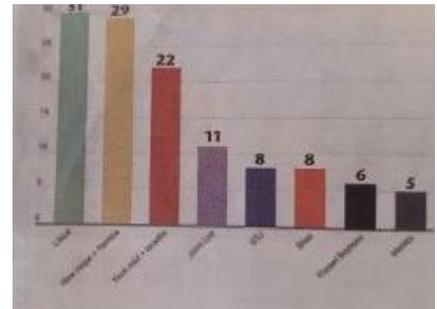
Fourth elections in four years sounds incredible but true. Again, there has never been a party in Israel that has won a majority through the election process.

On January 7, 2021, an Israel election poll was taken. Surprise, surprise, there are a number of newly created parties. If "New Hope" (Sa'ar's new party merged with Yamuna), and "Yesh Atid" with Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai party would present an alternative to Netanyahu's Likud Party.

If both of those mergers occurred, Likud would win 31 seats, New Hope-Yamuna 29, Yesh Atid-Israelis 22, the Joint List 11, Shas and United Torah Judaism 8 each, Yisrael Bettendorf (Lieberman 6, and Meretz 5.)

Without these mergers, Likud would win 28 seats, New Hope 18, Yesh Atid 14, Yamuna 13, Joint List 10, Shas 8, UTJ 7, Yisrael Beytenu 7, IsraELI Party 6, Meretz 5, and Blue and White 4.

It appears in these scenarios that Blue and White would not exceed the 3.25% threshold. That means that Benny Gantz would be out. This is the man who would have become prime minister in the summer of 2021 under the recently dispersed Knesset. He was hurt because of his campaign promise not to form a government with Netanyahu- which he did. On January 7, 2021, Gantz said that the rumor of Blue and White and Yamina running together was "bubbemeises". Gantz also stated that Lapid, Yesh Atid's leader, "hates people." Gantz later said he was sorry if Lapid was offended by what he had said.



*Jerusalem Post Polling*

For the first time that we can recall in 11 years and many elections, Likud is talking about running an Israeli Arab on their list. Some of the other parties are also considering this. The traditional party for the Israeli Arabs is the Joint List Party. This party consists of Communists and many other left wing ideologies. Whether any of this would allow a 61 seat coalition is anybody's guess. Mergers and new parties can still happen. Perhaps the March 1 article will shed some clarity to the situation, but that is very doubtful.

By the way, President Abbas is going into the 17th year of a four year term!

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

Since the tourist business has disappeared, three Jerusalem-based travel professionals have developed a virtual treadmill program called Running Around Jerusalem (RAJ). The free 30-minute YouTube videos allow anyone exercising on a treadmill to simulate running through Jerusalem. Two running "buddies" explain the sites.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/amid-covid-19-virtual-treadmill-brings-jerusalem-to-runners-worldwide-653148>

Almost everyone has had a pandemic birthday or anniversary. Suzanne's birthday was December 15, and it was special in spite of the corona rules. The first party date had to be rescheduled because the weather report said it was going to rain. December is a rainy month, but when it isn't raining, the weather is great. Our daughter, Beverly, who is an archeologist, volunteered to do a guided tour along the sea.

On December 20, a dozen of Suzanne's friends in Caesarea were invited to do a hike and picnic lunch. It met all the corona restrictions.



*Birthday group on Mediterranean*



*Birthday Hiking toward the old city of Caesarea*

We met mid-morning near the ancient aqueducts on the beach near our house. Beverly is an underwater geological research scientist whose research has shown proof that the destruction of the harbor in Caesarea was caused by tsunamis. She meets and guides National Geographic groups for their tours in the harbor. We hiked along the shore between the aqueducts and the port as she pointed out the remains of the ancient city north of the port. The yellow field flowers were blooming, the grass was green, warm breezes blew from the sea, and we rejoiced in the feeling of freedom. It was a beautiful birthday in that we all have missed being together and it brought us together not just virtually.



*Beverly near Eilat before shutdown.*

Vertical farming gives the ability to grow and to harvest produce all year, anywhere in the world. It requires 98% less water than traditional farming and is free of pests and soil-contamination threats. As the supply of rich arable farmland is dwindling in the world vertical farming is a solution.

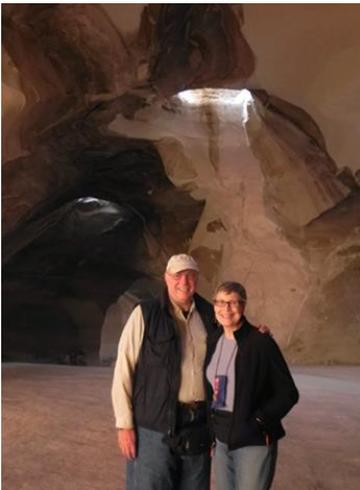
Ramy Levy, a large Israeli grocery chain, has contracted with Vertical Field to provide vertical farms to each of the supermarket branches in the coming year. The crops will be grown vertically within a bed of nutrient rich soil on greenhouse walls using technology that minimizes water consumption. The farms will be maintained by local farmers. Crops such as lettuce, basil, parsley, kale, and mint grow well vertically. COVID-19 has made us more aware of the need to have foods grown locally and with minimal human handling and transportation.

Vertical Field has designed urban farms to be located in indoor and outdoor spaces at supermarkets, restaurants, rooftops, and shopping malls.

The peace agreement between UAE and Israel has created great excitement. Recently there was a practical joke in Tel Aviv. Three fancy sports cars pulled up in front of Dan Panorama Hotel near the sea and three Arab men got out dressed in full elaborate Arab garb. People around them began to get excited, greeted them and posed with them for pictures. The Arab men were actually Israeli Arabs from an Arab village out having fun!

We hope you are staying well, laughing, and managing to survive this difficult time.

*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](mailto:HOWIEG@aol.com)*