

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update January 31, 2019*** ***(25<sup>th</sup> Shvat, 5779)***

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of a book titled 'THE HOOD OF HIS GARMENT' with the subtitle 'TOUCHING THE POWER IN GOD'S WORD'. The cover features a close-up of a hand holding a white fabric with blue and gold stripes. On the right, a white prayer shawl (tallit) with blue and gold stripes and tassels is displayed.

## ***For the Yachad Report Newsletter For February 2019***

***EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MARKS INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST DAY:*** The European Union Parliament marked International Holocaust Day on Sunday 27 Jan. 2019, and emphasized the continuing importance of the vigilant fight against anti-Semitism in Europe. "The message of the parliament is clear," said President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, speaking at the ceremony, "there is no place for hatred and anti-Semitism in Europe." Tajani said that the parliament must act in light of a recently published survey showing that a majority of Europeans do not believe anti-Semitism is a major problem in Europe, despite the rise in anti-Semitic attacks and rhetoric. Chairman of the Jewish Agency Isaac Herzog also reacted to the survey, saying "30% of Europeans do not know anything about the Holocaust. This is clearly a threat." The survey found that more than four in ten Europeans (42%) were aware that there is a law against Holocaust denial in their country while more than a third were not aware of such a law, and close to a quarter didn't know. Approximately 25% of respondents understood that issues such as anti-Semitic violence, Holocaust denial and the desecration of Jewish cemeteries are "very important," but they were unable to elaborate on their views due to lack of knowledge on the matter. Close to 60% of interviewees said they could not expound on the matter because they believed there were no problems in this aspect of their country. Meanwhile, "over half of Europeans (54%) believe that the conflicts in the Middle East have an influence on the way Jewish people are perceived in their country," the survey stated. "A majority share this opinion in 13 member states, mainly in Northern and Western Europe." (J.Post) Intercede against the alarming growth of anti-Semitism in Europe. Pray for in-depth education in schools about the Holocaust and the unceasing persecution of the Jewish people throughout the centuries. May comfort and protection be upon Global Jewish communities and God's shielding from fear.

***THE HOLOCAUST:*** The "Holocaust" refers to the period from 30 January, 1933, when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, to 8 May 1945, the end of the war in Europe. Millions of Jewish men, women and children were murdered by Hitler and his brutal cohorts during this time. While it is impossible to ascertain

the exact number of Jewish victims six million is the round figure. Auschwitz concentration camp was a network of concentration and death camps built and operated by the Third Reich in Polish areas annexed by Nazi Germany during World War II. Buchenwald was a German Nazi concentration camp established near Weimar, Germany, in July 1937, one of the first and largest of the concentration camps on German soil. It was in holes such as these that Jewish victims were starved, tortured, subjected to slave labor, beatings, inhumane medical experiments and murdered in gas chambers by the millions. Elderly Holocaust survivors in Israel suffer mental and physical torments to this day. Their children in many cases bear traumatic scars as a result of being raised by such emotionally and physically shattered parents. (JNN) Pray for provision, healing and the peace of God to be with the now elderly and often impoverished victims of the Holocaust, and their children.

***HERZOG SAYS HE IS 'EXTREMELY DISTRAUGHT' BY CORBYN'S ANTI-SEMITIC BEHAVIOR:***

Jewish Agency for Israel chairman Isaac Herzog told Israeli media sources that he was “extremely distraught” to witness the anti-Semitic sentiments plaguing the British Labour Party and coming from its leader, Jeremy Corbyn. “I’m extremely distraught,” he said. “Labour in England is a sister party of the Labor in Israel where I come from,” said the former MK. “The fact that there is a kind of indifferent attitude to anti-Semitism and its definition, and to the story of the Holocaust, is very troubling.” In 2016, Corbyn refused an invitation from Herzog – then leader of the Labor party – to visit Israel and tour the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum. Last year, the Israeli Labor party officially cut ties with its British counterpart over its handling of anti-Semitism within the party. The Jewish Agency chairman said this week that the State of Israel must work with organizations around Europe and the world to thwart Holocaust denial, boost Shoah education and counter anti-Semitism. “This is an international effort. It’s not a standalone effort,” he said. “We have to uproot the plague that’s raising its ugly head and therefore it has to be coordinated efforts. I’m worried. I’m disturbed by political elements in Europe – from the extreme right to the extreme left – that are using anti-Semitism to gain their own political profits at the expense of human values and at the expense of Jews.”

***BRITISH SPIRITUAL LEADERS URGE UNITY ON HOLOCAUST DAY:***

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the Chief Rabbi of Britain, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, and Imam Qari Asim, Chair of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board, signed a joint letter calling on people to come together and create a better future on the occasion of International Holocaust Memorial Day 2019, which was marked on Sunday 27 Jan. 2019. “This Holocaust Memorial Day we, the undersigned, are uniting and calling on people of all faiths and backgrounds to come together, reflect, and create a better future for us all. Now, more than ever, with the threat of identity-based prejudice and hostility facing people in the UK and around the world, we must find common bonds and renew our commitment to respect one another and be compassionate,” they wrote. “Holocaust Memorial Day is seeing hundreds of thousands of people attend events to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

“Prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. Right now, across the world, many people are at risk of persecution because of their identity. Despite the world saying ‘never again’ after the Holocaust, genocide and mass killings have taken place again and again. We must be vigilant, show solidarity with people in desperate situations and use our voices to call for action,” wrote the spiritual leaders. International Holocaust Memorial Day is an international memorial day on 27 Jan. commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during World War II. The day was designated by the UN General Assembly on 1 Nov. 2005. (INN) According to a poll released on Sunday, 27 Jan. 2019 some 2.6 million British people think the Holocaust is a myth. In other words, five percent of British adults do not believe millions of Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazis.

***MERKEL: IT'S UNACCEPTABLE THAT JEWS ARE UNDER ATTACK IN GERMANY:***

German Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned anti-Semitism in an interview with Israel's Kan television channel and said that her country's law enforcement is doing everything it could to fight the phenomenon. During the

interview, Merkel was asked about what she was doing to fight anti-Semitism such as the kind that occurred in the eastern city of Chemnitz this past summer, where a large neo-Nazi march was held. "We are doing everything in our power to fight these acts," Merkel responded. "The authorities will, of course, continue to investigate everything that is needed." Merkel said that following the aforementioned protests, "there was also a large civil movement that made it clear that we do not want it in our country and we will stand against it. I believe, it is also important that there are many people who clearly demonstrate courage and zero tolerance for anti-Semitism. It is fundamentally unacceptable that all Jewish institutions need to worry." Regarding Germany's role in commemorating the Holocaust, Merkel said that "Nazism and the Holocaust that followed are part of our history, and therefore we are committed to preserving its memory in order to prevent the recurrence of such terrible things in the future."

***STEINITZ COMPARES IRAN TO NAZI GERMANY, BLASTS EUROPE FOR STANDING ASIDE:*** Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz declared last weekend that "Iran is like Nazi Germany," and said the world had not learned the lessons of the Holocaust in light of the threat Iran poses to the Jewish state. Steinitz made his comments at Israel's official ceremony marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. "Iran speaks about destroying the Jewish state and tries to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and modern Europe sits on the sidelines and doesn't do a thing to prevent it," Steinitz said at a ceremony in the presence of some 60 ambassadors. He also denounced Iran's efforts to entrench itself in Syria to create a base from which to threaten and attack Israel, saying that although other parts of the world have forgotten the lessons of history, "We have learned the lesson, and therefore are fighting Iran, and we will not let it turn Syria into a military base." Russian Ambassador to Israel, Anatoly Viktorov, was also present at the ceremony and gave an address in which he said that "everyone remembers the millions of Jews who were cruelly killed by the Nazis in ghettos and camps," and that Russia and President Vladimir Putin were committed to fighting Holocaust denial.

***IDF SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT HEADS TO BRAZIL AFTER DAM COLLAPSE:*** 130 IDF soldiers have left Israel for the area of the collapsed dam in Brazil. The delegation includes engineering experts, doctors, search and rescue teams, firefighters, and soldiers from the Israeli Navy's underwater missions unit. Search and rescue teams are equipped with advanced means of cellular location, underwater radars, and drones. The IDF said that their primary duty will be to search for survivors of last weekend's dam collapse, which sent a massive torrent of mud over the complex where 300 employees of the dam were working. At least 58 people have lost their lives due to the tragedy and hundreds are missing. Within hours of arriving at the site in Brazil, an Israeli aid team located and recovered several bodies from the thick sludge. "The scope of the disaster is huge," said a leader of one of Israel's teams. (i24News) Pray many lives will be rescued and saved through the dedicated volunteer teams that have been sent to assist Brazil in the tragic aftermath of this collapsed dam.

***WE'LL HAVE A CURE FOR CANCER WITHIN A YEAR, SCIENTIST CLAIM:*** A team of Israeli scientists claim they will likely develop a cure for cancer in the next year, media sources reported on Mon. 28 Jan. 2019. The new treatment is being developed by Accelerated Evolution Biotechnologies under the leadership of CEO Dr. Ilan Morad, according to the report. "We believe we will offer in a year's time a complete cure for cancer," said Dan Aridor, chairman of the company's board. "Our cancer cure will be effective from day one, will last a duration of a few weeks and will have no or minimal side-effects at a much lower cost than most other treatments on the market." The treatment, called MuTaTo, will use a combination of cancer-targeting peptides and a toxin that will specifically kill cancer cells. The treatment will eventually be personalized and a specific cocktail of the drugs will be given to patients based on their type of cancer, said Morad.

***ISRAEL PREPS HISTORIC MISSION TO LAND ON THE MOON:*** The exclusive list of countries that have landed spacecraft on the Moon is set to get a new addition this year. In Feb. 2019 Israel's Beresheet

spacecraft will launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. Beresheet, which is the Hebrew word for “beginning,” is expected to land on the lunar surface about two months later. Only three countries – the USA, the Soviet Union and China have made successful ‘soft landings’ on the lunar surface. Beresheet was transported from Ben Gurion airport in Israel to Orlando International Airport in Florida and from there to Cape Canaveral. The launch is targeted for no earlier than mid-February 2019. After its two-month journey, the probe will land within Mare Serenitatis in the Moon’s northern hemisphere. In addition to its science mission, Beresheet will also take a time capsule to the Moon. Consisting of three disks, the time capsule data includes symbols such as the Israeli flag and the country’s national anthem, “Hatikvah.” Dictionaries in 27 languages are also on the disks, along with the Bible and a children’s book inspired by the mission. Beresheet and its time capsule will remain on the lunar surface indefinitely. The upcoming launch and the lunar landing about two months later will be the culmination of eight years of hard work and dedication.

***ISRAEL’S STARTUP, REFUNDIT, WINS FIRST PLACE IN UN COMPETITION:*** Refundit, an Israeli startup which revolutionizes the field of tax-free shopping for tourists, won the first place prize in the World Tourism Organization travel-tech competition on Thur. 24 Jan. 2019. The global travel-tech competition, held for the first time, by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in partnership with Globalia, the leading tourism group in Spain and Latin America, sought innovative startups capable of transforming the way people travel and experience tourism. A total of 2,771 companies from 132 countries submitted their candidacy for the competition. Four of the ten finalists were Israeli. Refundit is an Israeli startup which revolutionizes the field of tax-free shopping, making the process easier and more efficient - with no lines or paperwork, saving tourists time and money. The UNWTO's competition promised the winner will have the opportunity to carry out a pilot project with the Globalia Group and the finalists will have access to the leading actors in the world tourism sector

***ISRAEL’S ECONOMY IS STRONG:*** Israel's gross domestic product has been rising at an average annual rate of 3.69% since 2000, inflation has been 1.57%, and unemployment has fallen to 3.6%. The nation of 8.4 million people has outperformed European stalwarts since 2009. Israel's GDP growth of 69% since then is more than 17 times what Austria managed and almost three times what Switzerland mustered. Among the 36 developed economies that make up the OECD, Israel will be the 4th fastest growing (tied with Chile) this year with 3.6%, behind Slovakia, Poland, and Slovenia.

***\$4.6 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO GO TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:*** Jewish Federations of North America will be distributing \$4.6 million in federal money appropriated by Congress to aid Holocaust survivors. The funds will be distributed from the organization’s Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care to 43 direct service agencies and six Jewish federations. Combined with matching grants, the funding will result in \$6.7 million in programming for Holocaust survivor services. About one in three of the more than 100,000 Holocaust survivors in the United States lives in poverty, according to JFNA.

***‘JEWS ARE ONCE AGAIN UNSAFE ON THE STREETS OF EUROPE’:*** At an event last week at the European Parliament in Brussels, Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog stated, “We can no longer ignore the fact that Jews are once again unsafe in the streets of Europe.” Addressing the European Jewish Congress and leaders from across Europe, Chairman Herzog spoke of the alarming rise in anti-Semitism throughout Europe: “As it pertains to anti-Semitism, we are facing among the darkest periods of Jewish history in Europe, in recent times. There are far too many examples to cite. While we respect the efforts of the governments to combat anti-Semitism, we see the urgency of this matter reflected in recent surveys and in actions taken on both extremes of the political spectrum that are employing anti-Semitism as a political vehicle. This must be stopped.” He stated that anti-Semitism in Europe is not limited by economic, religious nor geographic boundaries, going on to remark that: “When 90% of European Jews say anti-Semitism has increased in their home country, we understand we are dealing with a plague.” Chairman Herzog further said: “I’m proud to be

here today as a soldier of the Jewish people, as Chairman of The Jewish Agency to honor the memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Shoah." Chairman Herzog called on Europe to unite in a renewed fight against anti-Semitism, saying the lessons of the Holocaust must be taught from generation to generation. "This is the highest tribute we can give those whose memory we gather to honor today. May their memory be a blessing."

***IRISH BILL ADVANCES TO CRIMINALIZE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY WITH ISRAEL:*** The Irish parliament advanced a bill on Thur. 24 Jan. 2019 that would prohibit commercial activity connected to areas that were outside Israel's pre-1967 territory. The final tally of its first reading in the Irish lower parliamentary house, the Dáil, was 78-45, with three abstentions. If enacted, it would make Ireland the first European Union nation to criminalize doing business beyond the pre-1967 lines, including eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Violators could be subject to a fine of \$285,000 or five years in prison. Fianna Fáil politician Niall Collins, who proposed the measure to the Dáil, labeled it as "a modest bill that seeks to uphold international law." However, Israel saw it as anything but, as the government summoned Irish Ambassador to Israel Alison Kelly and warned her that "the hypocritical and anti-Semitic legislation will have severe ramifications on Israel-Ireland relations and Ireland's standing in the region should the legislation be promoted," and that "it would be better if Ireland confronted dictatorships and terrorist organizations rather than Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East," according to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Instead of Ireland condemning Syria for slaughtering hundreds of thousands of civilians, Turkey for the occupation of northern Cyprus and the terrorist organizations for murdering thousands of Israelis, it attacks Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East," said Israeli PM Netanyahu. "What a disgrace."

***THOUSANDS OF GAZANS RIOT ALONG BORDER FENCE:*** The violent riots along the Gaza border continued on Friday, 25 Jan. 2019 as the IDF deployed in large numbers after Hamas threatened to "immediately retaliate" to an Israeli "aggression". The IDF said that 10,000 rioters gathered at a number of locations along the border fence, throwing grenades and rocks at IDF soldiers and at the fence. In addition, two grenades were thrown at an army vehicle in northern Gaza. Several explosions were observed in the Gaza Strip during the riots, in which a number of Palestinian Arabs were injured, according to the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. IDF soldiers responded by riot dispersal means and firing in accordance with the rules of engagement. One of the rioters was reportedly shot dead by Israeli fire. The border riots have been occurring every week since 30 March 2018. Meanwhile, in Judea and Samaria, IDF troops fired at three Arabs who threw rocks at Israeli vehicles traveling on Highway 60 north of Ofra. The three suspects received medical treatment at the scene by IDF forces. One of them died of his injuries and another was wounded. The incident is under investigation. (Arutz-7) Pray for the wisdom and strategy of all of Israel's government and military leaders as they deal with unrelenting antagonists, terrorist murderers and weekly riots piloted by Hamas. Intercede for the protection of IDF soldiers serving on the Gaza border.

***IRAN CONTINUES WITH ITS NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES UNABATED:*** Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi has said that Iran will continue with its activities at the heavy water plant in Arak. Salehi said that Iran did not fill in the core of the reactor with cement in accordance with the nuclear deal and claimed last week that images showing that Iran had sealed the core were photo-shopped. Salehi said he was "thankful to Allah for the way in which the discussions relating to the technical aspects of the nuclear talks were conducted, as they left so many breaches in the agreement that Iran was able to exploit." "Iran has lost nothing as a result of signing the agreement. We have preserved our capabilities in the field of enrichment. We are continuing to manufacture new centrifuges. We are doing everything we need to do."

***REPUBLICAN REPS. INTRODUCE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITISM:*** Republican Reps. Lee Zeldin, Elise Stefanik and Ted Budd introduced a resolution on Wed. 23 Jan. 2019 to condemn the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment in politics. The resolution specifically called out Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, the leaders of the Women's March, as well as Democratic Reps. Rashida Tlaib

and Ilhan Omar who have expressed their support for the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement. The BDS movement calls for companies and groups to protest and penalize the state of Israel over its [so-called poor] treatment of the Palestinian people. Many of those who are in opposition to the movement label it as anti-Semitic because they are only targeting one country to be penalized and not any other. Congresswoman Tlaib was also asked in the resolution to explain her relationship with Abbas Hamideh, a man who was at her swearing-in ceremony and has previously expressed his belief that Israel does not have the right to exist. "From using the oldest anti-Semitic tricks in the book to rejecting Israel's very right to exist, blatant anti-Jewish, anti-Israel hate is growing and normalizing the discrimination against the Jewish people this world vowed it would never accept again," Zeldin stated in a press release. "Congress must immediately and unequivocally denounce this hatred in the United States and around the world, standing in solidarity against racism and discrimination in any form."

***ISRAEL NAMED FIFTH MOST INNOVATIVE ECONOMY IN THE WORLD:*** *Israel* has been named as the fifth most innovative economy in the world, according to the 2019 Bloomberg Innovation Index. Last year, Israel was ranked in 10th place but this year jumped to fifth place as a result of better patent registration. The Start-Up Nation came just ahead of Singapore, which ranked in sixth place, while the USA only made it to eighth place after falling to 11th place last year. Japan fell to ninth place after being pushed out of sixth place by Singapore. Bloomberg placed South Korea in first place for the sixth year running since the inception of the index in 2012, due to new investments in key technologies and a regulatory plan for encouraging startups. Germany advanced to second place due to investment in production and research by many of its industrial giants, such as Volkswagen, Daimler and Bosch. Third and fourth places were taken by Finland and Switzerland, respectively. The world's second largest economy, China, only reached 16th place on the listing, while the UK lost to China for the first time, falling to 18th place. Among 2019's lowest ranked economies were Tunisia, South Africa and Ukraine, which fell out of the top 50. Following the publication of the rankings, PM Benjamin Netanyahu tweeted his elation. "Israel is number five on the new list – five places higher than we were ranked last year," he said. "Israel is a rising global power."

***AT \$110 BILLION, ISRAELI EXPORTS WORLDWIDE MARK RECORD PERFORMANCE IN 2018:*** Exports to Asia grew by 20 percent in 2018, reaching \$10 billion, while exports to the EU held steady at \$16 billion, and exports to the United States amounted to \$11 billion. Economy and Industry Minister Eli Cohen said the government's exports goals are to cross the \$120 billion mark by 2020. According to a report by the Economy and Industry Ministry and the Israel Export Institute, the increase in Israeli exports exceeds the growth seen in global trade. The data shows that the goods and services sector was the strongest performer in 2018: the export of high-tech services noted a 14% increase and a record \$51 billion, while the export of electronic and chemical goods rose by 3%, reaching \$60 billion. IEI CEO Gadi Arieli said that "2019 is likely to see significant challenges for exports given the projected slowdown in global economic activity over the USA-China trade war." Cohen noted that "the international arena poses complex and difficult challenges for Israeli exporters, and I am pleased that the ministry's various aid programs are helping exporters to cope with international markets."

***NATURAL GAS FIELDS GIVES ISRAEL A REGIONAL POLITICAL BOOST:*** A decade after discovering natural gas fields off its Mediterranean coast, Israel is feeling a geopolitical boost, building bridges with its neighbors even without significant progress being made toward peace with the Palestinians. Last week's inclusion of Israel into the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum in Cairo marked the first time Arab countries accepted Israel into such a regional alliance. "I think this is the most significant economic cooperation between Egypt and Israel since the signing of the peace treaty 40 years ago," said Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz. "The discovery of significant gas fields in the eastern Mediterranean has also political value because it brings all of us together to cooperate with each other." Israel already delivers gas to the Palestinians and to Jordan, and will begin exporting gas to Egypt in 2019.

**ISRAAID LAUNCHING NEW AID INITIATIVE TO TRAIN MEDICAL, MENTAL-HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:** The disaster-relief nongovernmental organization IsraAID has embarked on a new, international initiative to train doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers and mental-health professionals to respond to disasters. The IsraAID Humanitarian Professionals Network (IPHN) was launched mid-January 2019 in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. “IsraAID draws on Israeli social innovation and expertise to benefit people in need around the world,” said Seth Davis, executive director of organization’s branch in the United States. “We are now leveraging our organization’s unique capabilities to train professionals in the United States interested in developing life-saving skills and joining humanitarian relief missions globally, hand in hand with professionals from Israel. The network will equip skilled individuals in hands-on disaster relief experience and provide enhanced capacity if local disaster were to strike,” added Davis. Current IsraAID missions have provided assistance in multiple disasters including the November 2018 wildfires in California; violence in Uganda; cyclones in Vanuatu; and refugee crises in Greece, Kenya and Bangladesh. “IsraAID will make Los Angeles more secure by leveraging their unique expertise in disaster response to train professionals in our community,” said Los Angeles council member Paul Koretz. “I look forward to partnering with IsraAID to help them roll out their IHPN program in California.”

**TECHNION STUDENTS DEVELOP ALGAE-BASED FALAFEL TO BATTLE PROTEIN HUNGER:** Ecologically friendly and nutritious microalgae that used to be a daily food source for the Aztecs in central Mexico could be making its way to Western tables in the form of a new kind of protein-rich falafel, the delicious Middle Eastern deep-fried chickpea balls. Graduate students at the Biotechnology and Food Engineering Faculty at Israel’s Technion-Israel Institute of Technology have developed what they call the Algalafel, a new kind of falafel that enriches the traditional ingredients with spirulina — a biomass of blue-green algae which in its dried form contains about 60% protein and is seen as a solution for food insecurity and malnutrition. The students won first prize in the EIT Food Project (European Knowledge and Innovation Community) as part of an innovative microalgae product development competition, held last month at the Technion. EIT Food is a pan-European consortium that focuses on promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the food sector. “It tasted very good, almost identical to regular falafel,” said Prof. Yoav Livney, the project leader.

**WOW! ANCIENT CAVE FOUND UNDERNEATH PLAYGROUND IN GERMAN COLONY:** An underground cave with an ancient water cistern was accidentally discovered this week during renovation work on a playground in Jerusalem’s German Colony neighborhood. The cave was found in a public garden on Rachel Imenu Street, across from the Erlui Yeshiva. The cave is about 225 square meters, with a 40 meter-long cistern believed to be about 1500 years old, from the Byzantine period. In light of the findings, the antiquities may be incorporated into the new design for the park. (Jerusalem Life) Wow is right! You never know what you’re going to find while digging in Israel: One might unearth an ancient village while repairing a road, or a breathtaking natural wonder when breaking ground for a new building, or an abandoned treasure hidden in a Crusader wall, even a piece of ancient chard while taking a walk and glancing underneath a bush. One thing is for sure, Israel is never boring and God keeps even the smallest promises regarding His land: “I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”

**MEOW! JERUSALEM MAYOR PROVIDES ANNUAL BUDGET FOR CAT FOOD:** Jerusalem mayor Moshe Lion this week said he has decided to build feeding stations for stray cats in Jerusalem and fill them with food at the cost of 100,000 NIS per year. Jerusalem recently changed its garbage disposal system and began using containers that are buried in the ground, this led to thousands of complaints from worried residents who noticed that street cats are unable to get into the garbage to find food as they used to. The feeding stations will be built in neighborhoods where the new, earth-buried garbage cans are placed and cat-lovers will be encouraged to feed cats in the designed stations. The monthly estimate is that city hall will use 210 food bags a month and 2,500 bags per year. Next week the city of Jerusalem will hold a special event for

cat lovers who currently feed street cats at their own expense to explain the new move and how they can be reimbursed for their feeding efforts.



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