



## DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OU ISRAEL  
ABERMAN@OUISTRAEL.ORG

One of the beautiful things you will sometimes see in Israel is a car driving by that's all decorated for a bride and groom. It's always a wonderful feeling, because *Baruch Hashem*, another Jewish home is being built. But then you realize there's another car driving toward the very same wedding: the mother and father of the bride. And another car carrying the groom's parents. Their cars aren't decorated—their vehicle might be driving literally right next to you but because there's no sign on it, you have no idea that the person sitting inside is about to walk their child down to the *chuppah*. They might not be as visibly ecstatic as the bride or groom, but there is an incredible sense of happiness inside them. You're looking at the person and you have no idea about the emotions happening inside.

To a certain degree, I find myself experiencing a similar feeling on certain days of the Jewish year. One of those days is coming up this week: *Yom Yerushalayim*. I was not born in 1967. I was born only nine years later. But every year on *Yom Yerushalayim*, and for that

matter whenever I go to the Old City, I try to think about the emotions that Motta Gur and the paratroopers were going through when they broke through the Lions' Gate, came into the Old City, placed an Israeli flag on the Temple Mount, and said those words: *Har HaBayit beyadeinu* - the Temple Mount is in our hands. Some of the most powerful words in modern Jewish history.

Every year I ask myself: what were the emotions running through Motta Gur's heart and mind, as well as the other paratroopers there, when they said it? How can we try to relive those emotions, that feeling, that excitement? Sadly, I feel the Jewish people do not embrace *Yom Yerushalayim* as much as we should. Yes, the streets of Yerushalayim on *Yom Yerushalayim* fill up with hundreds of thousands of people coming from all over the country. (This year, much of the celebration will take place the night before, since *Yom Yerushalayim* falls on Friday.) But unfortunately, when you find yourself talking to people outside of Yerushalayim, outside of specific circles in the State of Israel, and especially outside of Israel, you don't have the feeling that you're talking to somebody who understands and appreciates *Yom Yerushalayim*.

But Yerushalayim is at the root of our religious identities. There's the famous song that we all know, the one we've sung in NCSY and every other youth group and *yeshiva* for decades: *Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh*. Ultimately, it captures the idea that there's a piece of Yerushalayim inside the heart of every single Jew in the world. There is no other city

May the Torah learning in this issue  
be in loving memory of  
our dear mother, grandmother,  
and great-grandmother

Ann Wasserman Silverberg a"h

חנה בת חיים ע"ה

On her 24<sup>th</sup> yarzeit, 19<sup>th</sup> Iyar

*Malka & Avraham Shrybman  
and her family in Israel  
and America*

about which every Jew can say, "There is a piece of me that is connected to this place."

There are wonderful cities across *Eretz Yisrael*: Chevron, Tiveria, Tzfat, and many other great ones. But you cannot tell me that every Jew in the world has a connection to any of those cities like they do to Yerushalayim.

Every *shul* around the world faces Yerushalayim. Every *davening* that we have is focused on Yerushalayim. "*Vetechezenah eineinu beshuvcha leTziyon*," let our eyes see the return to Yerushalayim. "*VeliYerushalayim ircha berachamim tashuv*," return to Yerushalayim, Your city. These are *tefillot* that we say every single day, three times a day, again and again and again. It is ultimately what every Jew around the world is yearning for.

I remember as a kid growing up in Staten Island. I went to school at RJJ. There was a choir called *Tzvil V'Zemer* that came out with a song, "The Little Bird is Calling," about a little bird that wishes to return. And where is home? "The nest is Yerushalayim, where we yearn to be once more." I remember singing it as a young child and really yearning to be in Yerushalayim, really feeling that I was that little bird dying to come home. And *Baruch Hashem*, we were able to make it back to Yerushalayim. On our first day in Israel, my family made sure to go to Yerushalayim, to live and feel what this incredible city is all about.

But we take it for granted. I take it for granted, because I wasn't there when Motta Gur announced those immortal words. I wasn't there when suddenly we were able to walk to all sides of Yerushalayim. I was born into



a Yerushalayim that was already unified, already ours. It is difficult to imagine a reality without it. But we all must recognize what it is we have and not allow ourselves the luxury of taking it for granted.

This is why, even though it is 59 years after the reunification of Yerushalayim, if we continue celebrating *Yom Yerushalayim* and continue thanking *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* for this miracle called Yerushalayim, again and again and again, then we won't take it for granted, and we'll be able to truly rejoice in Yerushalayim.

Whether we decide to sit at home in Beit

**Condolences to  
Jonathan Inker and family  
on the passing of his father**

**Morris ז"ו**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Shemesh, Ma'ale Adumim, Zichron Ya'akov, or Nahariya, and watch the beautiful ceremony and gathering that happens every year at Yeshivat Merkaz HaRav, usually broadcast live on Arutz Sheva, or we decide to come to the *Rikud Degalim* in Yerushalayim, or we decide to put pictures of Yerushalayim all over our homes on *Yom Yerushalayim*, whatever we decide to do, let us make sure that Yerushalayim is not something we take for granted. *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* has brought us back here after 2,000 years of exile. Let us make sure we show Him the great appreciation we have for bringing us back to Yerushalayim, to this gem of a city that every Jew should feel a part of and know that a piece of it is within them.

There is no better way to inspire our loved ones, descendants, neighbors, and friends—and to show how important Yom Yerushalayim is to us—than to share how we will be celebrating. One of the things we make sure to do every single year at the OU, along with the Yerushalayim Municipality, is to gather on the Teyelet (the Haas Promenade in Armon Hanatziv) for a beautiful *davening*, overlooking *Har HaBayit*. We look forward to doing this again this year on Friday morning, May 15th, at 7:30 AM. I hope you will join us for an inspiring *Tfilah Chagigit*, for the singing that rises to the heavens and tells *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* that we refuse to take this gift for granted. Together, we will daven for a true *Yerushalayim HaBenuya*—a rebuilt and whole

Yerushalayim—with the advent of *Mashiach Tzidkenu, bimheira beyameinu*.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Rabbi Avi Berman  
Executive Director, OU Israel  
aberman@ouisrael.org

## Dr Natan Silver

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Shaare Zedek  
026666174

In Loving Memory of  
**Michel Bouchotte z"l**  
on his 10<sup>th</sup> yartzeit  
from his Daughter



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054-216-0087 • brothersmovingisrael@gmail.com