

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HAR HAZEITIM

ICHH is the only organization focused on the safety and security of Har Hazeitim. Working in conjunction with the Israeli government and the Jerusalem municipality we are Am Yisroel's representative on behalf of this makom kodesh.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
**HAR HAZEITIM**  
הוועד הבינלאומי להגנת הר הזיתים

## HAR HAZEITIM BRIEFS December 2018

### ICHH JOINS IN CHANUKAH FESTIVITIES ON HAR HAZEITIM

The ICHH will co-host a huge Chanukah event on the last day of Chanukah, December 10th, atop Har Hazeitim, near the Seven Arches Hotel (FORMERLY Intercontinental Hotel). The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. in the huge heated tent that will be constructed, with special programming about the holy significance of the mountain. In the evening session, Israel's leading singing stars Yishai Ribbo and Natan Goshen will perform. Minister of Culture Miri Regev is scheduled to extend greetings. The ICHH is joined by the Ministry of Culture and the Council of Cemeteries in Jerusalem in sponsoring the events. The Chanukah event marks the continued improvement of security on Har Hazeitim, with only minor incidents being reported.



Menachem Lubinsky, Malcolm Hoenlein,  
MK Yoav Galant, MK Rabbi Yoav Ben-Tzur



### MAYOR-ELECT LION PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR HAR HAZEITIM: ICHH REPRESENTATIVE IN ISRAEL TO BE KEY ADVISOR

Mayor-Elect Moshe Lion is no stranger to Har Hazeitim. As Deputy Mayor, he addressed an ICHH event on Har Hazeitim in 2015 and had warm praise for the efforts of the ICHH to restore security on the 3000-year old cemetery. Mr. Lion has also appointed Yanky Bichler, consultant to the ICHH since 2013, as one of his key advisors, assuring that Har Hazeitim will remain front and center of the agenda of the new municipal administration. The ICHH leadership is scheduled to meet with the new Mayor in early December.

### NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ON HAR HAZEITIM IN SHARP DECLINE; ICHH LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE SECURITY

For the third consecutive year, there have been few incidents of desecrated graves and only a handful of reported incidents, according to police officials. This has resulted to a sharp increase in the number of visitors to the cemetery, many for the first time in many years. Police officials say that as many as 2,500 people visit daily, compared to only 10% of that just five years ago. Despite these improvements, the ICHH is pushing for additional cameras on access roads, more security on the A-Tor Road, preserving the desecrated Sambuski Section, restoration of some 45,000 graves, and additional lighting in many areas.

### KNESSET YOM IYUN ON HAR HAZEITIM BEING PLANNED FOR EARLY 2019

The Knesset will dedicate a day to the study on the history and importance of Har Hazeitim, it was announced by MK Rabbi Yoav ben Zur, the head of the Knesset Caucus on Har Hazeitim after receiving the blessing of the Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein. While a specific date has not yet been announced, MK Ben Zur said that it will involve special sessions and seminars in several Knesset committees including Jerusalem, Interior and Tourism. The purpose is to give national recognition to the restoration and preservation efforts. Representatives of the ICHH will address the sessions as will academic scholars, Torah leaders, and leading figures in the Government.

## ICHH CONTINUES EFFORTS TO BUILD NEW VISITOR CENTER

The ICHH continues to make strides in the planned construction of a new Visitor Center just outside the walls of Har Hazeitim. The planned center is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors, further enhancing the security of Har Hazeitim. In addition, the Israeli police will also use a part of the building as their new headquarters while keeping the current sub-station on Har Hazeitim. As a joint project of the Israel Government, Jerusalem Municipality and the ICHH, the Center will be an important symbol in the interest of Jews worldwide to protect, preserve and develop the historic mountain. The project was approved by the Regional Planning Council. The ICHH, assisted by the Jerusalem Foundation, will mount an intensive fundraising campaign to help defray the cost of building the Center.



## YITZCHOK GLUCK ASSUMES ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Yitzchok Gluck has joined the ICHH as Director of Development with a specific goal of maintaining contact with the families of those buried on Har Hazeitim. Mr. Gluck will also establish an information base on Americans who have loved ones buried on Har Hazeitim, so that our representatives can pay special attention to those burial sites. He can be reached at [yg@icphh.org](mailto:yg@icphh.org), 718-506-1616.

## MK Gafni to ICHH: Knesset Allo- cates Additional ₪900,000 for Security on Har Hazeitim

On November 27, the Knesset approved an additional allocation of ₪900,000 for security on Har Hazeitim. The Knesset action accedes to the requests of MK Moshe Gafni (Yahadut Hatorah), chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee. The new funds will be channeled through the Ministry of Religion, which provides additional private security personnel on Har Hazeitim. Mr. Gafni informed the ICHH that he has periodically responded to the requests of the International Committee for Har Hazeitim (ICHH) and that he was pleased to add an additional layer of security to the much improved security situation in the holy cemetery.



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