

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

**LEARNING**  
*from the past.*  
**PLANNING**  
*for the future.*







**AFTER  
2,000 YEARS,**

*a new building is going up directly  
across from the Har HaBayit*

*(site of the First and Second Temples)*

# History

## IS BEING MADE IN JERUSALEM

It is said that even on their death march, in the dark days of the Holocaust, many Jews dreamt of being buried on Har Hazeitim, the site where the Moshiach (Messiah) will first arrive. For many centuries, it was the only view overlooking the Har Habayit. Jews would rent their clothing here in mourning over the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash.

The Mt. of Olives juts out into the Kidron Valley and the adjacent Jericho Way, "derech Yericho." On the left is Judaism's holiest site where the First and Second Temples (Beit Hamikdash) stood. The area, which is often referred to as the "Holy Basin," is the very foundation of the history of the Jewish people.

Now, nearly 2,000 years after the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash, will rise a new modern state of the art building with the entrance being a huge lobby overlooking the Har Habayit, triggering the emotions of Jews over the centuries. It is the first major public building in the area in nearly 2000 years. You are now in the new Visitor Education Center of Har Hazeitim. You ascend the stairs to beautiful gardens overlooking the burial site of 150,000 Jews, including the most prominent Jewish luminaries over 3000 years dating back to the Prophets. You take a seat in the magnificent amphitheater and take in the breathtaking view of Jerusalem and you are instantly embedded in Jewish history.

---

*The history of the Jewish People lies here...  
and so does its future.*





## *Holiest Site*

The holiness of Har Hazeitim dates back to the Beit Hamikdash when Har Hazeitim served its twin mountain, the Har Habayit, which it faces. Here the Kohanim (priests) prepared to do the avoda, oil from the olive trees was used to light the Menorah, the ashes for the Parah Ha'adumah (Red Heifer) were prepared, and it was the first mountain where emissaries announced the advent of a new month, Rosh Chodesh. A sacred place, the mountain is alluded to in the Book of Ezekiel (11:23) as a place where

“The glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city of Jerusalem.”

## *The Jewish Legends*

The notables interred on Har Hazeitim are part of an endless grid, including such legendary saints as the Ohr Hachaim, Ben Ish Chai, the Ramban, and Rav Ovadia of Bartneura. Also buried here are leading admorim (Chasidic leaders) of the twentieth century such as the Bais Yisroel and Lev Simcha of Ger, as well as revered Roshei Yeshiva Rav Moshe Mordechai Epstein and other heads of Yeshivas Slobodka/Chevron.

The cemetery includes many leading figures from Israel's War of Independence and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Henrietta Szold, founder of the Hadassah movement, as well as other distinguished individuals in Israel's history such as Nobel Prize Poet Laureate and writer Shai Agnon and the father of modern day Hebrew Eliezer ben Yehudah.

Notable amongst the post-1967 burials were a significant number of Holocaust survivors, Roshei Yeshiva and Chasidic leaders. In addition, other Jews of note on Har Hazeitim include the Holtzbergs who were murdered in a terrorist attack in Mumbai, India in 2008. The cemetery also includes a section with the remains of those originally interred in Gush Katif and many victims of terrorist events.

When Israeli troops captured East Jerusalem during the Six-Day War of 1967, it included Har Hazeitim. For 19 years (1948-1967), the cemetery was under the control of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the result was nothing short of catastrophic. The Jordanians destroyed 60,000 graves to build the Intercontinental Hotel (now the Seven Arches Hotel) and other infrastructure projects on the apex of the mountain. The rest of the cemetery also was systematically vandalized, graves uprooted, and tombstones overturned; this despite their pledge to protect these sites and to allow free access to Jews.

# *A National Disgrace*

## HISTORY OF NEGLECT AND ABUSE

In May 2010, on the eve of Israel's 62nd anniversary, the late State Controller Micha Lindenstrauss issued a stinging report on the neglect and abuse of one of Judaism's holiest sites, Har Hazeitim. He blamed successive Israeli governments for virtually neglecting the cemetery:

---

*“Repair work proceeds at a snail’s pace, maintenance standards are inadequate, security is sorely lacking and vandalism and criminal acts continue unabated, accentuating the danger that funds and labor at the site will go down the drain.”*

---

Despite its biting tone in what amounted to an indictment of a “national disgrace” that was allowed to continue, it received scant notice in the media, with the exception of the Jerusalem Post which in an editorial wondered if “Israel had abandoned the Mt. of Olives.” For most people with loved ones buried there, whether they live in Israel or abroad, the historic Har Hazeitim became an off-limits dangerous site in the midst of historic Jerusalem.

The cemetery became the dumping grounds for local contractors, a highway for residents seeking a shortcut, a passageway for donkeys, a soccer field for Arab youths, a major marketplace for drugs and contraband, and a pedestrian mall for Arab school children making their way to and from school. Garbage and refuse could be seen everywhere, roads were buckling and mourners and visitors feared for their safety.





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







— 2010 —

# THE ICHH IS ESTABLISHED

(INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HAR HAZEITIM)

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HAR HAZEITIM

The Lindenstrauss Report and the Jerusalem Post editorial shocked Avraham Lubinsky, a Brooklyn businessman whose parents are buried on Har Hazeitim. He mobilized Jewish leaders from throughout the Jewish spectrum, including Malcolm Hoenlein, Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. In 2010, the International Committee for Har Hazeitim (ICHH) was established. In subsequent years, the ICHH was expanded with a chapter in Israel and included participants from other parts of the world.

The International Committee for Har Hazeitim is a 501(c) (3) organization in the USA with applications pending in other countries. Its mission includes the following:

*The International Committee for Har Hazeitim was established to coordinate various activities to preserve the oldest and holiest cemetery of the Jewish nation on Har Hazeitim in Jerusalem following years of neglect, desecration and gross abuse. The ICHH is determined to preserve the cemetery as a central part of a United Jerusalem and as the national cemetery of the Jewish people.*



# ICHH Historic Accomplishments

After intensive lobbying by the ICHH, and working with the Israeli government and municipal authorities, the ICHH has succeeded in reversing the dismal state of the cemetery and restoring security, including the following accomplishments:



## RESTORATION

More than 20,000 graves destroyed over centuries and particularly those during the Jordanian rule (1948-1967) have been restored by the Government with 23,000 still remaining desecrated and in need of restoration.



## SECURITY CAMERAS

Nearly 176 cameras were installed in addition to a 24/7 Command Center.



## POLICE

A police substation with a full garrison of police officers and border patrol units was established.



## SANITATION

Thanks to the assistance of the Jerusalem municipality, sanitation services were restored to the cemetery. The area that had become a "dumping ground" for local residents was cleaned up.



## FENCING

To deny Arab vandals easy access to graves and mourners, a series of new fences were installed throughout the cemetery as part of its major upgrade. Narrow roads that snaked through the cemetery were closed to stop it from being used as a thoroughfare (shortcut) for local Arab residents, disturbing graves and visitors.



## KNESSET CAUCUS

In an historic development, the Knesset (Parliament) established a caucus of 67 members from across the political spectrum, the largest in Israel's history.

## Security Restored

Thanks to these efforts, security was restored on one of Israel's holiest sites. The number of visitors has increased dramatically from just under an average of 200 per day in 2015, to more than 2,500 in 2019. On some days, particularly those that marked the yahrzeits of such giants as the Ohr Hachaim, the admorim of Ger and Zhvil, or the Bartnura, as many as 150,000 people came, bringing new life to the ancient cemetery.



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

# The ICHH In-Action



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hosts a delegation of the ICHH*





*ICHH officials meeting with Deputy Mayor Eliezer Rochbeger (l-r Jeff Daube, Avraham Lubinsky, Deputy Mayor Rochberger and Harvey Schwartz)*



*Avraham Lubinsky with Mayor Moshe Lion*



*Avraham Lubinsky with Isaac (Bougie) Herzog, Chairman of the Jewish Agency*



*Police Commander "Niso" with Jeff Daube, ICHH*



*ICHH delegation meeting with senior police officials responsible for the security of Har Hazeitim*



*(L-R) Co-chairman of ICHH Menachem Lubinsky, Malcolm Hoenlein, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Minister of Housing and Construction, Yoav Galant, and MK Yoav ben Zur*



*ICHH delegation meeting with Chief Rabbis Yitzchak Yosef and Dovid Lau*





Mission Participants on Tour



ICHH Board members Dov Fishoff (left) and Dr. Paul Rosenstock (right) with MK Rabbi Yoav ben Zur, chairman of the Knesset Caucus on Har Hazeitim



President Reuven Rivlin meeting with the ICHH, headed by Menachem and Avraham Lubinsky



Former Mayor Nir Barkat Addressing the Mission



Mayor Moshe Lion meeting ICHH officials in his office (L-R) Harvey Schwartz, Chairman ICHH Israel Chapter, Menachem Lubinsky, Mayor Lion and Jeff Daube, Co-chairman ICHH Israel Chapter



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greets the large delegation of the International Committee for Har Hazeitim. Menachem Lubinsky thanking the Prime Minister for his support of the effort





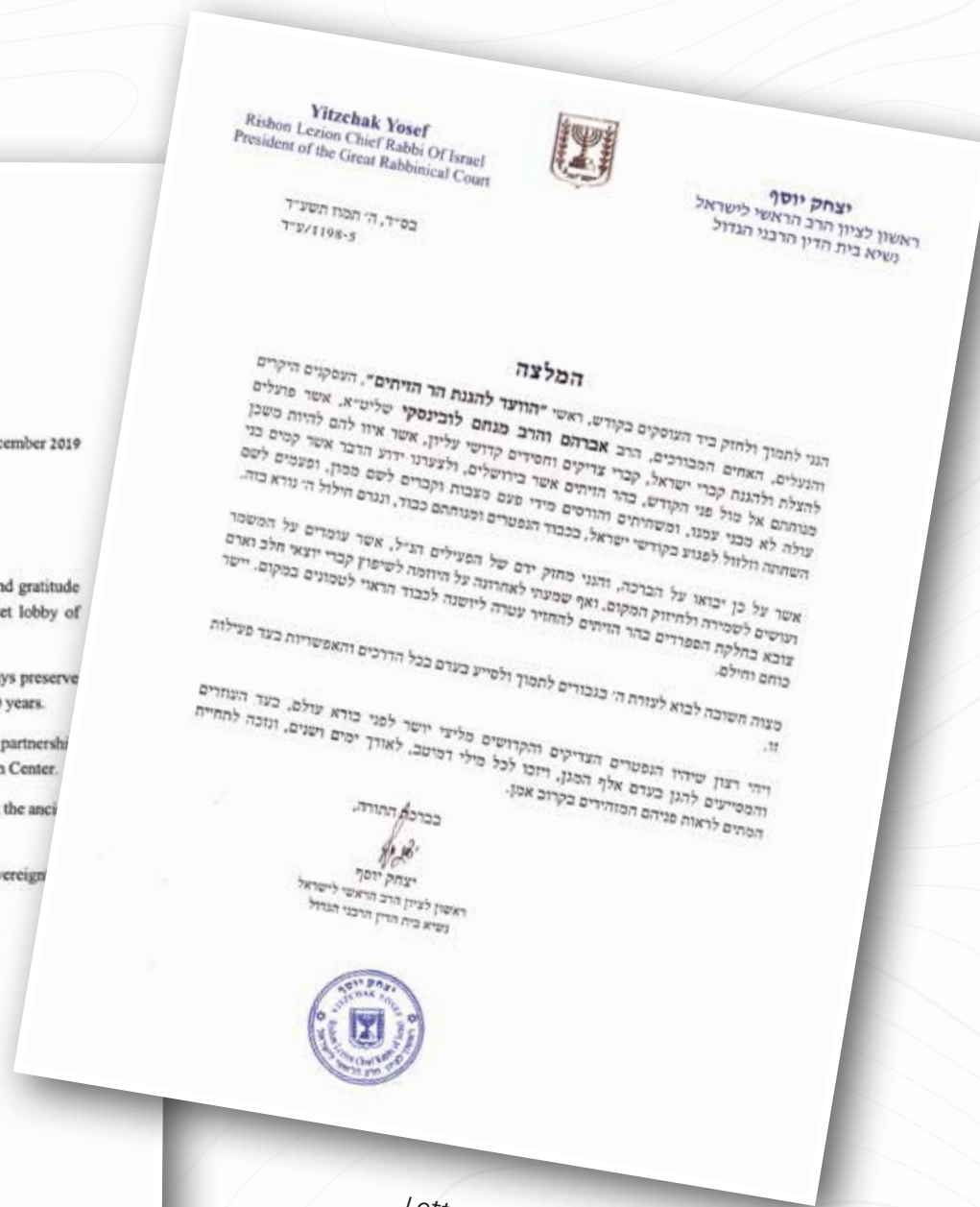
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
**HAR HAZEITIM**  
הוועד הבינלאומי להגנת הר הזיתים



Letter of support from MK Yoav ben Zur,  
Chairman of the Knesset Caucus on  
Har Hazeitim



Letter of support from Mayor Moshe Lion



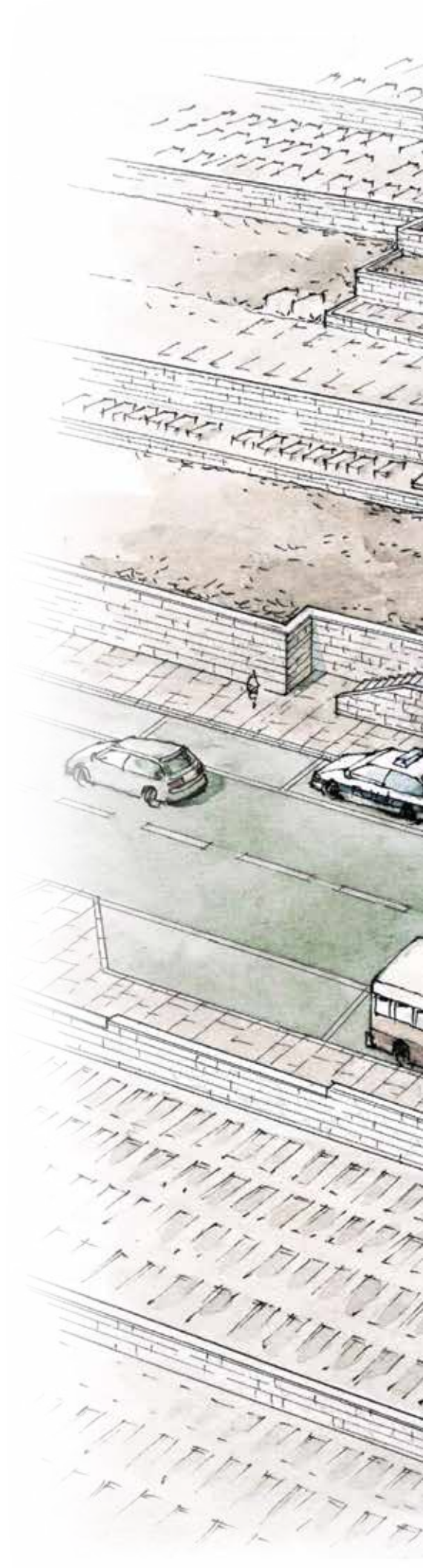
Letter of support to the ICHH from  
Chief Rabbi Yitzchak Yosef, the Rishon Letzion

# *A new major* **VISITORS EDUCATION CENTER**

**IS BEING BUILT ON HAR HAZEITIM  
(ALSO KNOWN AS HAR HAZEISIM—ASHKENAZIC  
PRONUNCIATION—OR AS THE MT. OF OLIVES)  
NEARLY 2,000 YEARS AFTER THE SECOND TEMPLE  
(BEIT HAMIKDASH) WAS DESTROYED IN 3831.**

---

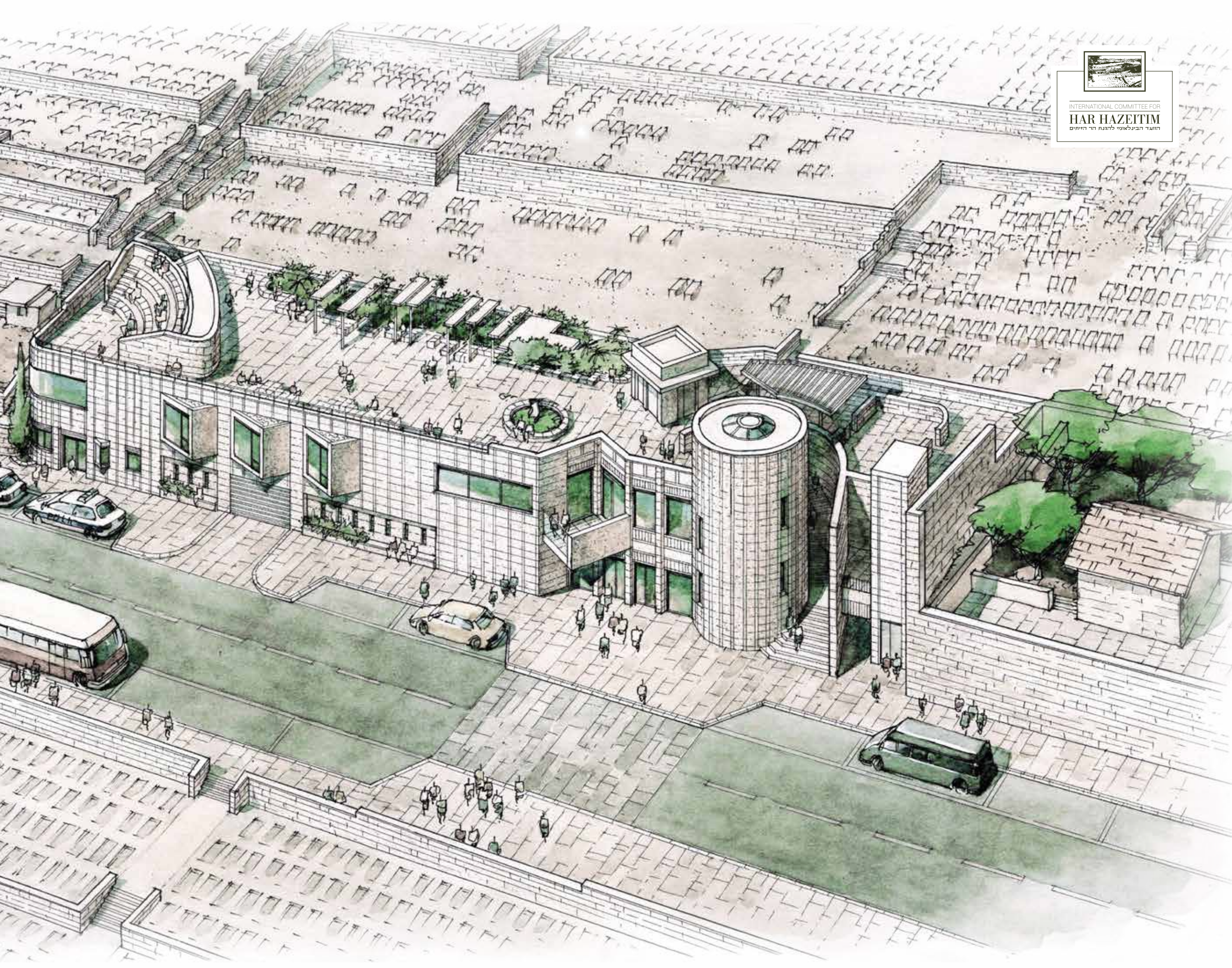
*The new magnificent Visitor Education Center will allow visitors to journey through almost 3,000 years of Jewish history dating back to the biblical prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. The emotions of being on such a site are gripping because the names of our nation's greatest legends suddenly come alive.*







INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
**HAR HAZEITIM**  
תומעו הבינלאומי להקנת הר הזיתים







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

# The Visitor Education Center

**GROUNDBREAKING 2020  
 OPENING 2021**



**The Visitor Education Center will be the signature project on Har Hazeitim:**

- Ushering a new area of security to Har Hazeitim and the entire area
- Reviving the historical sacredness of one of Judaism's holiest sites
- Reaffirming Jewish sovereignty on the oft-disputed area
- Educating Jews and others worldwide of the historic significance of the Mountain
- Attracting 1.5 million - 2 million tourists a year, bringing new life to the entire area

**The multi-purpose center will serve hundreds of thousands of visitors, including:**

- Families of loved ones buried on Har Hazeitim, including those looking for the burial site of their relatives
- Israeli tourists, including some 2.5 million Israelis who visit Jerusalem each year
- Jewish tourists from around the world seeking to learn more about the history of the hallowed mountain and the history of the Jewish people
- Students from schools throughout the country who will include the Center as part of their education on historic Jerusalem
- Members of the IDF, particularly new recruits as well as enlisted men who routinely visit East Jerusalem to appreciate the significance of ancient Jerusalem
- Foreign Tourists - For the first time non-Jewish tourists will gain an appreciation of the significance of Har Hazeitim to Jews whereas they previously coveted the Mt. of Olives as a site holy to Christians



# Inside the Visitor Education Center

Scheduled Opening 2021

## GROUND FLOOR

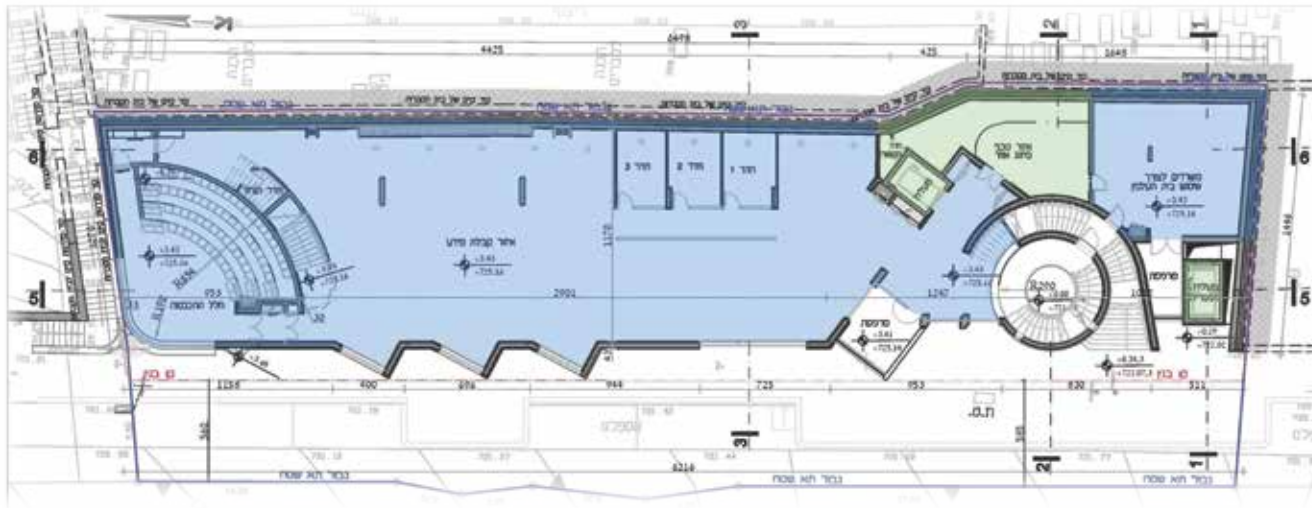
- Entrance and model/map of Har Hazeitim
- Video presentation on history of Har Hazeitim
- Restrooms
- Management Office
- Ticket Office
- Gift Shop
- Maintenance Room
- Cemetery Authority
- Sanitation Room
- Police Station: camera monitors, daily record, offices

## FIRST FLOOR

- Research Room: maps of Har Hazeitim and computers to assist in locating gravesites
- Library: books on Har Hazeitim
- Guidance: maps and print-outs of specific trails (i.e. historic, Gedolim, Israeli leaders, IDF) — to be staffed by experts
- Events and All-Purpose Room—Capacity 60 people—can also be used for minyanim
- Technology Room: audio, visuals and other equipment
- Family Room

## ROOFTOP

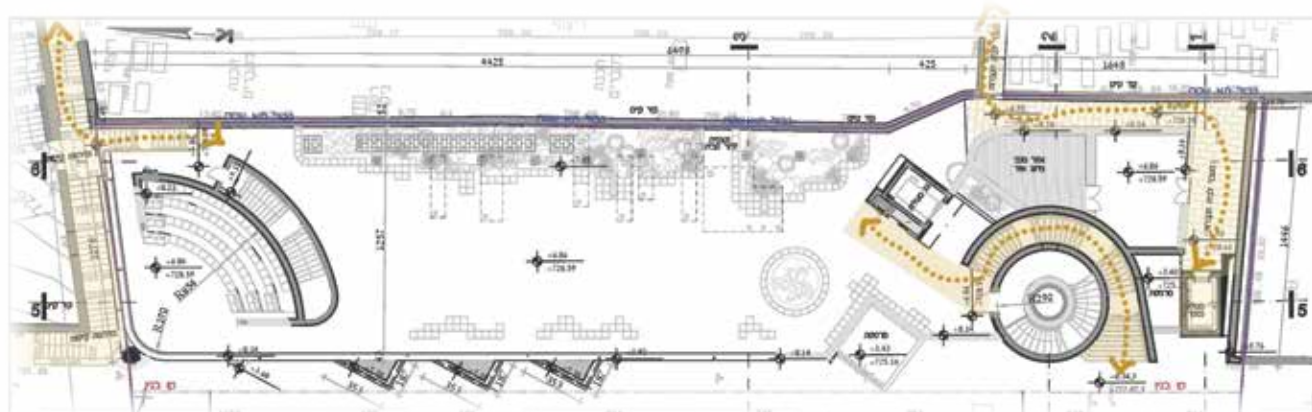
- Gardens and Sitting Area
- Cafe: light fare, soft drinks and snacks
- Amphitheater: for up to 100 people



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



ROOFTOP

# PARTNERS TO JERUSALEM'S HISTORY

GOAL: \$10 MILLION

As a full partner with the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Development Authority, and Israel's Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs, the ICHH is seeking to raise \$10 million for one of the most historic projects ever to be built in Jerusalem. Jews from around the world have the opportunity to become a partner in this monumental project that will stand as testimony to a generation of committed Jews and others to the sacredness and future of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem).

***Partners to Jerusalem's History will have the opportunity to perpetuate the memory of a loved one or noted figure by dedicating one of the many parts of this magnificent building. Your participation will be a statement to your family, the Israeli government and the Jewish community of your commitment and support to Jewish history and future in Jerusalem.***

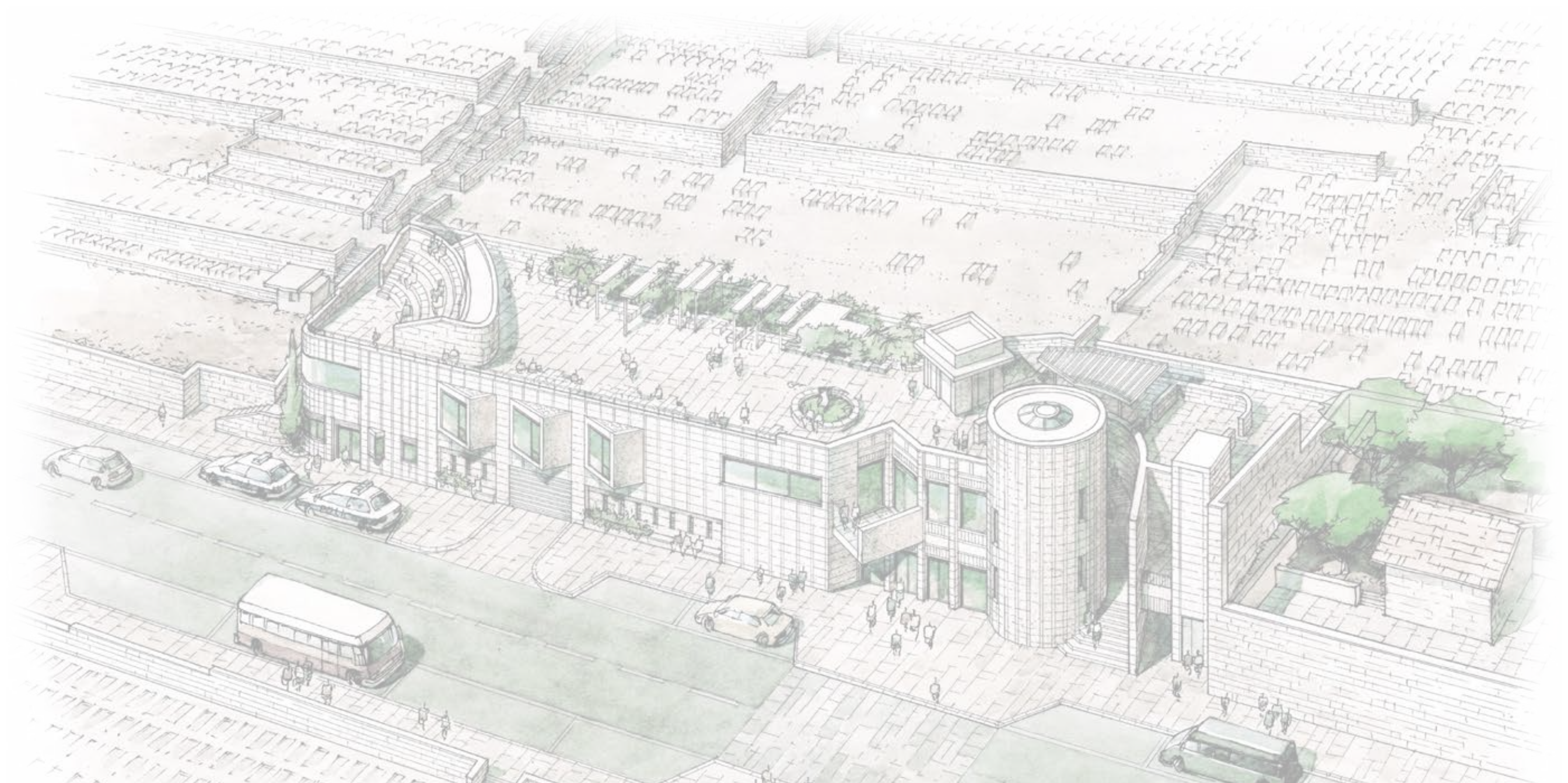
## THE INTEGRITY OF JERUSALEM

Just as every Jew was counted in the days of the Beit Hamikdash (First and Second Temples) so it is today as we reclaim one of our most sacred sites. Every Jew, (regardless of background) has a claim to Har Hazeitim and should be part of this historic preservation effort. If we are to secure its future, we will need the active support of Jews everywhere.

## 150,000 JEWS FINALLY GET A VOICE

And "united" means every Jew. So, please join this effort and become a friend and supporter. The consequences of apathy and inaction are simply unacceptable. By your involvement, no matter how large or small, you will give great honor, dignity and respect to the hundreds of thousands whose final resting place is the Mount of Olives. We can do no less for them. We can do no less for us.





INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR

**HAR HAZEITIM**

הוועד הבינלאומי להגנת הר הזיתים





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

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HAR HAZEITIM

1226 EAST 10TH STREET • BROOKLYN NY 11230  
718-854-4450 • HARHAZEISIM.ORG  
INFO@HARHAZEISIM.ORG