

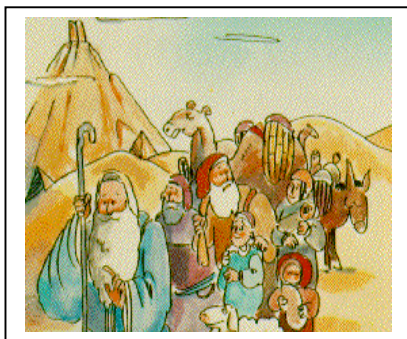
NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS



האיגוד הקרדיולוגי בישראל
ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY



Editor's Note: Welcome to the Spring 2010 issue of the FIHS Newsletter. In this issue we will review the happenings at the just concluded meeting of the American College of Cardiology, which included a very successful Dinner as well as a joint ACC-Israel Heart Society Symposium.

We will have our President's Message from Jeff Goldberger MD and a review of our efforts for Israeli fellows over the past year. We will be highlighting the Hadassah Hospital (Jerusalem) cardiology program. Finally, we will have a featured research article from an Israeli institution.

Remember, this Newsletter and Society belong to the membership. We received a heartwarming response (pun

intended) at the Meetings and look forward to enhancing this Society and the connections that we hope to foster between Israeli and non-Israeli cardiologists and their institutions. Please feel free to email us with questions, answers, comments, criticisms, or just to tell us to keep working harder!

Our immediate goal is to try to grow our membership and participation to include any and all cardiologists and fellows that would be interested in supporting this bridging relationship. If you know of any cardiologists or cardiology fellows who we can contact, please email me (my address is on every page hyperlinked). May we continue to grow in size as well as in deeds in the future!



Editor: Jack Stroh MD, FACC, FACP, FSCAI can be reached at jackstroh@usa.net. FIHS is on the web at <http://friendsihs.org/index.html>.

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Looking for Cardiologists and Fellows to join in our mission!

Annual membership can be paid through the FIHS website at: <http://www.friendsihs.org/index.html> or by mailing a check made out to the Friends of the Israel Heart Society to:

FIHS

c/o Debbie Burg

8626 Central Park

Skokie, IL 60076

Devastation in Haiti- Israel is there to help! Although not entirely a Cardiology endeavor, the recent disastrous earthquake in Haiti which led to such incalculable loss of life was a chance to show the world Israeli Medicine's world-class ability to quickly mobilize emergency medical services anywhere in the world. In case you missed it, here is the url for a CNN report which highlights this incredible show of strength and compassion-

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/?/video/world/2010/01/18/dnt.cohen.haiti.patients.dying.cnn>

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Message from the President

2010 has started with a flurry of activity! Before we put 2009 behind us, I want to thank our officers and board members for their help and support in promoting the missions of the organization:

Founding President

Douglas Zipes, M.D.

Vice-President

Eugene Braunwald, M.D.

David Rosenbaum, M.D.

Financial Secretary

Sam Goldstein, M.D.

Membership

Michael Wolk, M.D.

Greg Schwartz, M.D.

Charles Love, M.D.

Steven Borzak, M.D.

Stanley Nattel, M.D.

Fellowships

Amir Lerman, M.D.

Communications

Giora Weisz, M.D. (internet)

Jack Stroh, M.D. (newsletter)

President Israel Heart Society (IHS)

Gad Keren, M.D.

Secretary General IHS

Doron Zahger, M.D.

Liaison from IHS

Morton Lebowitz, M.D.

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Board Members

Joseph Alpert, M.D.
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Arthur Moss, M.D.
Morton Mower, M.D.
Alan Rabinowitz, M.D.
Richard Popp, M.D.
Melvin Scheinman, M.D.
George VanHare, M.D.

In 2009, we were the beneficiaries of our new newsletter – thanks to all who have contributed and especially Jack Stroh, the editor. Our website has been a tremendous source of information and coordination – special thanks to Giora Weisz and Josh Hartman. We have reinitiated support for fellows from Israel to attend the AHA and ACC meetings. Four US fellows were sponsored as part of a case competition to attend the 10th International Dead Sea Symposium on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Device Therapy, via educational grants from Medtronic, St. Jude, and Biotronik. We appreciate all the support from Amir Lerman and the Fellowships committee. In 2009, we also had the opportunity to help counteract a number of attempted academic

boycotts of Israeli physicians and/or institutions.

The successful growth of this organization requires only one thing – your support! We need you to help us grow the membership – there are still many potential supporters who are not yet aware of the Friends of the Israel Heart Society. Please serve as our ambassadors so that we can continue to develop joint programs of mutual benefit with the Israel Heart Society. Please feel free to contact me at j-goldberger@northwestern.edu if you would like to get more involved.

Best wishes for a successful 2010,

Jeffrey Goldberger
President, FIHS



Pictured from left to right are **Mel Scheinman, MD** – member of the Fellowships committee for FIHS and judge for the International Dead Sea Symposium Case Competition, Awardees **Mohammad M. Ansari, MD**, **Michael R. Weber, MD**, and **Keila Lopez, MD MPH** (not pictured - Michael J. Mazzini), and **Jeffrey Goldberger, MD** – President of the FIHS and judge for the International Dead Sea Symposium Case Competition.

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OF THE ISRAEL HEART SOCIETY

Annual FIHS Reception at ACC

We had a very successful reception at the recent ACC meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. After a meeting of the Board, there was a well attended reception featuring a buffet as well as homegrown entertainment! See the pictures below.



Dr. Stanley Hillis. and the Boys in the Band



Drs. Doug Zipes, Gad Keren, and Eugene Braunwald



Dr. Jeffrey Goldberger, President FIHS, addressing the Reception



Dr. Michal Tendra, Dr. Michael Wolk and his wife Abby

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SPRING 2010- ניסן תש"ע

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Drs. Jeffrey Goldberger, Basil Lewis, and Jack Stroh

new innovative treatments in Cardiology. These included the use of alginates in treating AMI and CHF and an engineered cardiac patch to reconstruct a damaged heart. The session was co-chaired by Drs. Douglas Zipes and Gad Keren.



FIHS Board Meeting at ACC



Dr. Efrat Mazor-Dray receives a travel fellowship award from Drs. Jeffrey Goldberger and Doug Zipes



This is a thank you letter from Efrat Mazor-Dray MD, cardiology fellow at Soroka University Medical Center in Beer-Sheva, Israel, on winning a FIHS travel award to the recent ACC meeting. She can be reached at 972-8-6400418 or via email at efratmazor@hotmail.com.

Dear Friends of the Israel Heart Society,

Editor: Jack Stroh MD, FACC, FACP, FSCAI can be reached at jackstroh@usa.net. FIHS is on the web at <http://friendsihs.org/index.html>.

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Thank you for the Travel Fellowship Award to attend the American College of cardiology (ACC) 59th Annual Scientific Session and the i2 Summit, which was held this March, in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

Efrat Mazor-Dray MD



This program offered me needs-based educational programming including the comprehensive review of current established practice patterns as well as state-of-the-art updates in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease in areas such as valvular disease, interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, pulmonary hypertension, STEMI and co-morbidities.

Upcoming Meetings in Israel

57th Annual Conference of the Israel Heart Society/Israel Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery in association with the European Society of Cardiology, American College of Cardiology, and European Heart Rhythm Association

**April 14-15, 2010,
David Intercontinental Hotel and Convention Center, Tel Aviv, Israel**

Guest speakers:

Steen Dalby Kristensen, MD, FESC
Vice President European Society of Cardiology (ESC)
Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

Alec Vahanian, MD, PhD, FESC
Director of the Cardiology Department, Bichat University Hospital, Paris, France

Robert A. Harrington, MD, FACC, FAHA
Duke University Medical Center Durham, NC, USA

Robert O. Bonow, MD, FACC, FAHA
Immediate past-President of the American Heart Association (AHA)
Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL, USA
<http://www.israelheart.com/>



In attending the conference I gained knowledge of the optimal cardiovascular care, disease prevention and improvement in overall patient's outcomes. Furthermore I am sure that it will help me to foster the translation of evidence based cardiovascular science and interventional concept and techniques into daily clinical practice.

Thank you again for the opportunity and great experience. I think that every fellow should attend this Scientific Session at least once during his fellowship in order to become a better cardiologist.

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**ICI Meeting 2010-Innovations in
Cardiovascular Interventions
Tel Aviv, Israel
December 5-7, 2010**

drozenberg@paragon-conventions.com



**Emergency and Disaster
Preparedness Course 2010 in
conjunction with the Israel
Health Ministry and the IDF
Medical Corps**

November 6-11, 2010

www.apfmed.org/apf.php?c=emergencydisaster



**The Heart Institute of Hadassah
Medical Center, Jerusalem**



Jerusalem is often called the “heart” of Israel, and at Hadassah Medical Center Heart Institute, we take special pride in

caring for the “heart.” For our staff, treating the hearts of Jerusalem residents, her visitors, and people throughout Israel is an all-consuming mission. In Israel as in other Western nations, cardiovascular disease is the single most common cause of death and disability, and heart disease is even more prevalent within the Arab population.

Staffed by 31 cardiologists, The Heart Institute receives around 8,000 outpatient visits a year and performs annually around 20,000 electrocardiograms, 4,000 echocardiograms, 2,600 cardiac catheterizations, 1,000 stress tests and 500 electrophysiological procedures.



Acute Cardiac Care: One of Israel’s first Intensive Cardiac Care Centers, the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit annually treats some 1,200 patients with acute and complex heart conditions, such as complicated myocardial infarctions and cardiogenic shock. Advances in technology and pharmacology are utilized on a daily basis in our busy intensive care unit, managed by a devoted team of doctors,

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nurses and therapists. We have recently expanded our inpatient facilities, opening an intermediate care cardiology ward, with advanced telemetry and expert nursing care. We pride ourselves on the level of care and individual attention received by patients on the cardiac service. There is a very active consultation service, with the majority of consultations performed by the most senior of cardiologists. The structure of our consultation service allows for open communication between the Cardiology Department and the Internal Medicine, Intensive Care and Surgical services.



Interventional Cardiology:

Hadassah's Cardiac Catheterization Suite is one of the most technologically advanced facilities in Israel and among the most advanced in the world. In its three cardiac catheterization laboratories approximately 2,500 patients are treated each year. In each unit the integrated boom

brings equipment to the bedside in seconds; the digitalized diagnostic machines have a resolution that is 60 to 70 percent better than that of the old ones and their speed decreases the time that patients are exposed to X-rays. The state-of-the art digital equipment enables definitive diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery and heart valve diseases and often offers an alternative to open-heart surgery.

In keeping with the cutting edge technology at Hadassah, The Hadassah Heart Institute has been certified to perform percutaneous implantations of replacement aortic valves in patients who are not eligible for surgical valve replacement. This major advance in medical care for the aging population is a harbinger of a whole new area in interventional cardiology, and we are at the forefront. To date we have successfully performed 26 of these exciting new procedures, with great success. We are in the planning stages of similar procedures for mitral valve disease.

The interventional cardiologists participate in many leading international studies aimed at advancing medical knowledge and improving techniques and devices. Hadassah cardiologists are also working in conjunction with Hadasit, the technology

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transfer company of the Hadassah Medical Organization, on several new devices that originated within the department.

In the nearby high-technology interactive seminar room, cardiologists from throughout the country, cardiovascular technologists, cardiac nurses, technicians and medical students come to observe live procedures; this educational experience is aided by video and digital information broadcasted directly from the cath labs. Operators and observers can study, evaluate, discuss and exchange information.



Electrophysiology: Next door to the interventional cardiology laboratories is the electrophysiology suite. Varied and complex EPS procedures such as ablation, pacemaker implantation, defibrillator implantation, pacing diagnostics,

cardio-inversion, bi-chamber pacemaker implantation and specialized ablations using the highly advanced Carto System are performed routinely. Over 300 patients annually undergo pacemaker or defibrillator implantation, and some 600 undergo other procedures. Hadassah electrophysiologists participate in multiple trials of new pacing devices and new features, giving our patients access to top of the line therapy. The first pacemaker clinic in Israel was established at Hadassah, and in our clinic, physicians see each and every patient. The electrophysiology team is eagerly awaiting the move to the new hospital building, where their facilities will more than double in size.

Heart Failure & Heart Muscle Diseases Center: In 2007 this unit was inaugurated as a center of excellence in heart failure prevention, diagnosis, treatment and research. The aging of the population and the prolongation of the lives of cardiac patients by advances in pharmacology and interventional cardiology has led to a very significant increase in the number of patients suffering from heart failure. One of the major innovations of the Hadassah Heart Failure Center is the focus on bridging the gap from the "ivory tower" of hospital-based care to the family

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physicians providing the day to day outpatient care in the community. The Hadassah Heart Failure Center has reached out to each of the Health Management Organizations (Kupat Holim) in Jerusalem, setting up specialty clinics and providing educational programs for community physicians. There are more than 9000 patients with heart failure in Jerusalem, and the Heart Failure Center is committed to bringing the advances in technology and pharmacology to every sector of the Jerusalem patient population. The program includes ambulatory clinics, Day Treatment Programs with IV-infusion capabilities that allow the sickest of patients to receive the intravenous agents that keep them out of the hospital, home care programs with physician and nurse home visits, and advanced telemedicine that allows for monitoring at home. Hospitalized patients are enrolled in the Heart Failure Program, and benefit from a multidisciplinary education, diagnostic and management approach.

The physicians at Hadassah have a special interest in Heart Muscle Diseases, with a nationally-known referral center. The center coordinates evaluations including genetic testing, echocardiographic, CT and MR imaging, and specialized stress testing to diagnose and assess a multitude of genetic and acquired

cardiomyopathies. Specialized treatments such as Transcatheter Ablation of Septal Hypertrophy, pacemakers and surgery are coordinated by the multi-disciplinary team.

The **Heart Transplantation Unit** is also an integral part of the center, allowing us to significantly extend the life span of end-stage heart failure patients. Hadassah has an active transplant program, with multiple patients awaiting transplant both in and out of the hospital. Recently Hadassah has expanded its armamentarium to incorporate the use of mechanical devices as a bridge to transplant and for destination therapy.

Pediatric Cardiology: In this unit, unborn fetuses, newborn infants and children with congenital heart defects or specific acquired heart diseases are treated. It has a genetics section to counsel parents, fetal and pediatric echocardiography facilities and a pediatric cardiac catheterization laboratory.

Echocardiography: Over the years echocardiography has become the cornerstone of diagnosis in cardiac diseases. Echocardiographic examinations are performed to evaluate the structure and shape as well as the function of the heart muscle, the heart valves and large vessels. Highly advanced techniques such as tissue Doppler, 2D

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strain and 3D echocardiography are routinely used, and have also been introduced into research and clinical programs. Hadassah is a leading center in the development and clinical use of strain technology, with multiple research efforts both with industry and with multiple other echocardiography centers in Israel. At the Heart Institute some 6,000 electrocardiograms are performed annually in adults, children and fetuses.

Education: The Heart Institute is at the forefront of the educational program of the medical students and clinical fellows of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School. This past year, as in previous years, the instructors of The Heart Institute received the highest scores in the students' evaluations. In addition to the Israeli physicians doing residency in cardiology and internal medicine, the center also hosts cardiology fellows-in-training from other countries, currently Turkey, Bulgaria and Bosnia. Our graduates become ambassadors of Israel when they return to their native countries.

Research: In order to meet the demands of modern medical treatment and to be able to provide patients with the best care possible, it is crucial to be at the frontline of today's medical research. New modalities, such as individually tailored drugs, devices and ultimately gene therapy will make a major difference in combating heart disease. In Hadassah's

Cardiovascular Research Center scientists collaborate actively with their colleagues from other Departments in the Medical Center as well as with researchers from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, the Dental School, and the School of Pharmacology. Over the years the researchers have been awarded some of the most prestigious grants, including grants from the Israel Academy of Science, the Israel General Trustee, Binational Science Foundation and the NIH. Currently 22 basic science research projects are in progress in the center. Among the subjects under investigation, we are looking into endogenous cardiac stem cells growing from left atrial appendage explants, inflammatory mechanisms in vascular thrombosis and atherosclerosis, the mechanisms underlying aortic valve atherosclerosis and calcification; myocardial remodeling induced by myocardial infarction and mitral regurgitation, and myocardial gene therapy. A substantial number of original articles describing the results of the center's research projects have been published in leading scientific journals.

In the **Clinical Research Unit** over 20 clinical trials are underway as single center and multi center studies. These trials various fields of cardiology such as heart failure, interventional cardiology, acute coronary care and electrophysiology. Several multicenter trials, such as the SICTO Study, an international study of treatment of chronic total occlusion with drug-eluting

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stents, were initiated and led by Hadassah cardiologists. Patients who participate in these trials receive close follow-up to ensure their well-being. The Clinical Research Unit of the Hadassah Heart Institute, approved by the FDA, enjoys a very high reputation all over the world and is considered one of the best of its kind.

In keeping with the Hadassah Mission, the Hadassah Heart Institute strives for excellence in the three major medical fields of clinical care, education and research. As a national tertiary referral center, it provides cardiovascular services ranging from outpatient diagnosis and follow-up to advanced diagnostic and interventional procedures. The spirit of innovation and ingenuity pervades the atmosphere at Hadassah, where pushing the envelope is part of the daily routine.

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lotan@hadassah.org.il

Acute Cardiac Care: Dr. Arthur Pollak
arthurpk@gmail.com

Interventional Cardiology: Prof. Haim Danenberg
haimd@ekmd.huji.ac.il

Electrophysiology: Dr. Shimon Rosenheck
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Heart Failure: Prof. Andre Keren
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Pediatric Cardiology: Prof. Azaria Rein
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Echocardiography: Prof. Dan Gilon
gilond@cc.huji.ac.il

Research: Dr. Ronen Beeri
rbeeri@hadassah.org.il



***** **Featured Research**

Neighborhood Socioeconomic Context and Long-Term Survival After Myocardial Infarction

Yariv Gerber, Yael Benyamini, Uri Goldbourt, Yaacov Drory and for the Israel Study Group on First Acute Myocardial Infarction

Background—Neighborhood of residence has been suggested to affect cardiovascular risk above and beyond personal socioeconomic status (SES). However, such data are currently lacking for patients with myocardial infarction (MI). We examined all-cause and cardiac mortality according to neighborhood SES in a cohort of MI patients.

Methods and Results—Consecutive patients ≥ 65 years of age discharged from 8 hospitals in central Israel after incident MI in 1992 to 1993 were followed up through 2005. Individual data were obtained at study entry, including education, income, and employment.

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Neighborhood SES was estimated through a composite census-derived index developed by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics. During follow-up, 326 deaths occurred in 1179 patients. Patients residing in disadvantaged neighborhoods had higher mortality rates, with 13-year survival estimates of 61%, 74%, and 82% in increasing tertiles ($P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$). After adjustment for socio-demographic variables, traditional risk factors, MI severity indexes, and individual SES measures, the hazard ratios for death associated with neighborhood SES were 1.47 (95% confidence interval, 1.05 to 2.06) in the lower and 1.19 (95% confidence interval, 0.86 to 1.63) in the middle tertiles compared with the upper tertile ($P_{\text{trend}} < 0.02$). The respective hazard ratios were even stronger for cardiac death (1.63; 95% confidence interval, 1.09 to 2.25; and 1.41; 95% confidence interval, 0.96 to 2.07). In the final models, neighborhood context and several individual SES measures were concurrently associated with all-cause and cardiac mortality.

Conclusions—Neighborhood SES is strongly associated with long-term survival after MI. The association is partly, but not entirely, attributable to individual SES and clinical characteristics. These data support a multidimensional relationship between SES and MI outcome. (*Circulation*. 2010;121:375-383.)

From the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, School of Public Health (Y.G., U.G.) and Department of Rehabilitation (Y.D.), Sackler Medical School, and Bob Shapell School of Social Work (Y.B.), Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel. yarivg@post.tau.ac.il

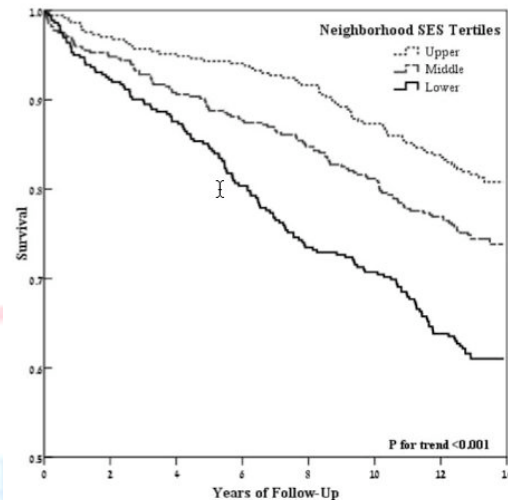


Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier survival curves for neighborhood socioeconomic tertiles (based on 326 deaths occurring in 1179 incident MI patients).

That's all for this issue. Remember, for us to succeed we need active members willing to take the lead in creating a bond between Israeli cardiology and her sisters abroad. Please help! Join us in our task!

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Join FIHS



Membership dues are \$50/year. Dues alone are insufficient to allow us to meet our operating expenses and therefore we also request contributions. Those contributing more than \$250 will become special members of the association.

Contributions will be announced at our upcoming reception according to the following classifications.

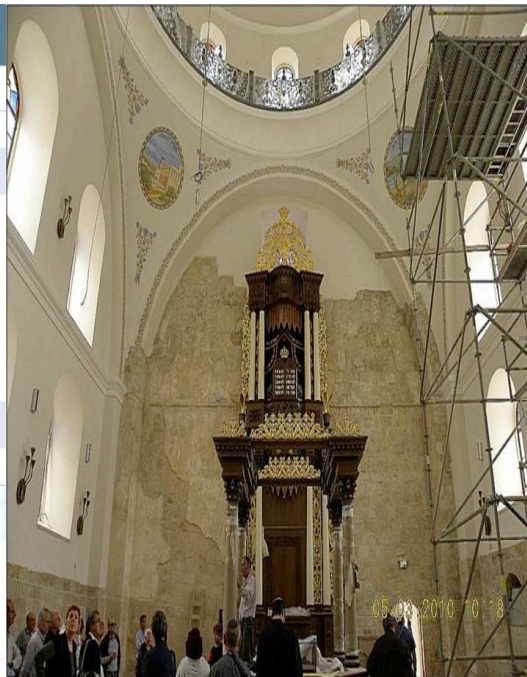
\$250 silver member

\$500 gold member

\$1,000 platinum members

\$5,000 president's club

<http://www.friendsihs.org/Register.html>



Newly rebuilt Churva synagogue in Old City of Jerusalem. White walls and ceiling rebuilt on the original base (stonework) of the synagogue which was destroyed after the 1948 War of Independence.

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