

The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology

**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Jerusalem Campus**

*Activities of the 2007/8 Academic Year
and Goals for the Future*

Dr. David Ilan, Director

PERSONNEL CHANGES AND BUDGET

At present the NGSBA maintains seven salaried employees; down from nine employees two years ago. Five of those now employed receive their salaries from the operating budget; one of these (the administrative assistant) works part-time. Two employees are paid from research funds, one part-time and one full-time.

Over the past five years our yearly budget has been reduced from \$420,000 to \$180,000—a 67% cut. This has not been easy, yet at the same time our scholarly output and outreach work has more than tripled.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Tel Dan. Almost all of the chapters for the third final report *Dan III, The Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Age Levels*, have been submitted and editing is near completion. The manuscript is in the process of being submitted to the printer for a cost estimate. The status of *Dan IV* (The Iron Age I levels = Israelite Settlement) remains unchanged—near completion but still requiring final plans and some material culture illustrations. Our most ambitious publications will be the three volumes *Dan V-VII* (the Israelite High Place, the Iron Age Gate, the Domestic Quarters and material culture): Having finished the Aroer volume, Yifat Thareni-Sussely is transitioning over to the Iron Age (Israelite-Aramaean) material from Tel Dan. In addition, a Ph.d student from Johns Hopkins, Andrew Davis, and a former expedition member, Ross Voss, are now working on the High Place (both David and Voss are on grants).

Tel Aroer. A manuscript of the final report is finished and most of the editing is done. A few architectural plans and artifact drawings remain to be completed. The final Aroer report, a very large volume, will go to press by the end of this year.

The pace of high-quality object illustration and architectural drawing has proven to be a major bottleneck. We have started using an additional object illustrator to speed things up.

Articles:

Rachel Ben Dov

- (with A.S.M. Martin) Egyptian and Egyptian-Style Pottery at Tel Dan. Egypt and Levant 17 (2007): 191-203.

Yuval Gadot:

- Aphek in the Sharon and the Philistine Northern Frontier. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 341: 21-36 (2006).
- (together with Y. Farhi and T. Kimhi), Past and Present at Givat Sher. *The "Nitzanei Hafira" Project: a summary of the first two seasons 2004-2005*. Modiin (2006)
- Megiddo and the International Road: the Results of the Survey at Wadi `Ara. Finkelstein, I., Halpern, B. & Ussishkin, D. (Eds.). *Megiddo IV*. Tel-Aviv University, Nadler Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series. (2006).
- (together with Martin, M, and Blockman, N.) The Stratigraphy of Area K: The Results of 1998-2002 Seasons of excavations. In: Finkelstein, I., Halpern, B. &

Ussishkin, D. (Eds.). *Megiddo IV*. Tel-Aviv University, Nadler Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series. (2006).

- (together with Yasur-Landau, A.) Beyond the finds: Reconstructing Life in in the Courtyard Building of Level K4. In: Finkelstein, I., Halpern, B. & Ussishkin, D. (Eds.). *Megiddo IV*. Tel-Aviv University, Nadler Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series. (2006).
- (together with Yasur-Landau, A. and Ilan, D.) The Middle Bronze III and Late Bronze I Pottery from Areas F and N. In: Finkelstein, I., Halpern, B. & Ussishkin, D. (Eds.). *Megiddo IV*. Tel-Aviv University, Nadler Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series. (2006)
- Continuity and Change: A view on the Transition between the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age from Israel's Central Coastal Plain. *Kathedra* 127 (2007): 5-24. (Hebrew with English Summary).
- (with Lipschits, O., Omeing, M. and Vanderhoof, D.) Four new Yehud stamp impressions found in the renewed excavations at Ramat Rahel. *Tel-Aviv* 34 (2007): 74-88.
- (with Silberman-Cytrin, K. and Dadelhe, T.) Khan el-Hilu Lod excavations 2007 (to appear in *Hadashot Arkelogyiot* 2008 (internet edition)
- Co-editor: *Modi'in Conference III: Abstracts*. (2006) and *Proceedings of Modi'in Conference II* (2007).

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- (together with Yasur-Landau, A. and Gadot, Y.) The Middle Bronze III and Late Bronze I Pottery from Areas F and N. In: Finkelstein, I., Halpern, B. & Ussishkin, D. (Eds.). *Megiddo IV*. Tel-Aviv University, Nadler Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series. (2006).
- (together with Yorke M. Rowan), The Meaning of Ritual Diversity in the Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant, pp. 249-254 in *Cult in Context: Reconsidering Ritual in Archaeology*, edited by David A Barrowclough and Caroline Malone, Oxford: Oxbow Books (2007).
- The Socioeconomic Implications of Grain Storage in Early Iron Age Canaan: The Case of Tel Dan. In: Fantalkin, A. and Yasur-Landau, A. (eds.) *The Children of Israel: Archaeological Studies in Honor of Israel Finkelstein*. Leiden: Brill (in press).
- (together with Yorke M. Rowan) The Subterranean Landscape of the Southern Levant During the Chalcolithic Period in *Journeys into the Dark Zone: A Cross Cultural Perspective on Caves as Sacred Spaces*. Holley Moyes (ed.), University Press of Colorado (in press).

Yifat Thareani-Sussely

- (with N. Na'aman). Empire and Pottery Emulation: Assyrian Palace Ware and Pottery Assemblages from the Southern Levant. *Tel-Aviv* 33: 61-82 (in press).
- Desert Outsiders: Extra-Mural Neighborhoods in the Iron Age Negev. In: Fantalkin, A. and Yasur-Landau, A. (eds.) *The Children of Israel: Archaeological Studies in Honor of Israel Finkelstein*. Leiden: Brill (in press).
- The Inn on the "Solitary Hill of Wells": A New Site Narrative for Kuntillet 'Ajrud. *Tel-Aviv* (forthcoming).

- In His Majesty's service: Local Elites and the Pax Assyrica in the Negev at the End of the Iron Age. *Eretz Israel* (Ephraim Stern Volume, in press).

CONFERENCES

David Ilan

- April 2007, The Religion of Ancient Israel. Baltimore Hebrew University. *A Pilgrimage to Iron Age Tel Dan*.
- (with Yorke Rowan), November 2007, American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, San Diego. *The Judean Desert as a Chalcolithic Necropolis*.
- (with Yuval Gadot), April 2008, *Archaeology as Social Action: the case of Givat Sher, Dan and Lod*. The Annual Archaeological Meeting, Jerusalem

Yuval Gadot

- March 2007, *Israel's Central Coastal Plain in the Late Bronze and Iron Ages*. The Symposium of the Department of Maritime Civilizations, Haifa University.
- March 2007, *Community-Based Archaeology in Israel: the case of Lod and Modiin*. The Departmental Seminar of the Archaeology Department, Haifa University.
- (with Oded Lipshits) American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2007. *The Ramat Rahel Excavations 2005-2006 Seasons*.
- Modi'in Conference IV, Modi'in. December 2007, *Horvat Sher: Four Years of Excavation*.
- (with David Ilan) April 2008, *Archaeology as Social Action: the case of Givat Sher, Dan and Lod*. The Annual Archaeological Meeting, Jerusalem

Yifat Thareani-Sussely

- November 2007. American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, San Diego, Session organized (with Dr. Michael Jasmin): *The Incense Trade Route*, and paper delivered: *The Spirit of Clay. Edomite Pottery and Social Awareness in Iron Age Negev*
- March 2007. Yad Ben Tzvi, Jerusalem, *The Anatomy of a Caravan City: Aroer on the Road to Arabia* (Hebrew).
- May 2007. European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting Yifat Thareani-Sussely (by invitation): *When Empire Meets a Desert: The "Pax-Assyriaca" in the Iron Age Negev*.

LECTURING

David Ilan, Yuval Gadot, Yifat Thareani-Sussely and Rahel Ben Dov have delivered approximately 35 individual lectures at virtually all the universities in Israel, universities in the USA (including UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, Johns Hopkins, Mississippi State, American University, Baltimore Hebrew University, HUC Cincinnati, USC, Penn State) and at Reform congregations, both in Israel and the USA.

FIELDWORK

- **Modi'in Community Archaeology Project.** This project, begun in 2004, continues to be a great success; once again more than 2000 people excavated at the site, under the banner of the Hebrew Union College, the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel and the Modi'in Municipality. The excavation took place in the three weeks

before Pesach, two weeks in August 2007 and one week before Pesach 2008. The students of the Nitzanim Elementary School, 250 yeshiva high school students, kids from the Jerusalem Center for the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Youth and the citizens of Modiin participated.

- **Tel Dan.** No excavations were carried out in 2007. Our precipitous departure in July 2006 (due to the second Lebanon War) forced us to leave a number of things undone. In July 2008 we will continue small-scale excavations to solve problems that are hindering the publication process. HUC Cincinnati grad students, lead by Dr. Nili Fox and Dr. Jason Kalman, make up the core of our staff. Professor-lead groups will join us from Rhodes College, Tennessee, Wesleyan College, Indiana and McGill University, Montreal. We have adopted the Modiin Community Project as a model and people, particularly kids, from local kibbutzim and moshavim will come to work with us. Moreover, we host a group of Jewish and Arab middle and high school students from the Galilee for a week, a week of learning how archaeology resonates in both our peoples' historical narrative.
- **Lod Community Archaeology Project.** (see below in Outreach)
- **Contract Archaeology.** We have provided academic oversight for Y.G. Archaeology Ltd., an archaeological contractor. Excavations include: Yesodot, Eshtaol, Tel Arad, Beisamoun and Givat Eden. So far these have been small projects, bringing us a small commission (for a total of approximately \$15,000). This may be a model for increasing future income.

HONORS AND GRANTS

- David Ilan was the Zemsky Visiting Professor in the Jewish Studies and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Departments of Johns Hopkins University for the fall semester of 2006-7. He has remained at Hopkins as scholar-in-residence for the spring semester.
- Yifat Thareani-Sussely: White-Levy Grant for Archaeological Publications, Harvard University (together with David Ilan, \$54,000); Glass-Balaban Grant for PhD Candidate Excellence, Tel-Aviv University (\$10,000).

ARCHIVAL

- *Computerizing our data bases and image archives.* We have finished scanning our black and white photos (this was done by Tomer, a mentally challenged teenager whom we sponsored). They now need to be cropped and catalogued. Levana Tsefania, our administrator, is cataloguing both black and white and color images in a searchable index (using Filemaker Pro). We hope to make this available, perhaps on the Web, to scholars, our movement's community and to interested lay people.
- The staff is now compiling our other data bases (locus lists, small finds, etc.)—an essential step in maximizing our data retrieval and research capabilities.

INSIDE THE HUC JERUSALEM COMMUNITY

- David Ilan taught an elective course on Archaeology and the Bible. The year before he co-taught with Yossi Leshem another elective course: *Ancient Hebrew*

Inscriptions in their Historical Context for the FYI program. Next year he will co-teach the core course: *Ancient Israel* for the First Year in Israel (FYI) program.

- The FYI students were taken on a field trip to Tel Dan by David Ilan, Yuval Gadot and Yifat Thareani-Sussely.
- David Ilan, Yuval Gadot, Gila Cook and Yifat Thareani-Sussely all lectured to the staff and faculty of HUC Jerusalem in the “Etnachta” series.
- Malka HersHKovitz (researcher emeritus) contributed her annual Hanukah lecture, *Oil Lamps in Antiquity*, to all the Hebrew classes.
- Dalia Pakman, curator of the Skirball Museum, guiding a number of student groups in the Skirball Museum.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- **Fellner Lecture Series.** In this monthly Hebrew language series local scholars present new research and discoveries. We continue to average 90-100 attendees. This year’s fieldtrip visited the Judean Desert Monasteries, Qumran and Ein Gedi.
- **Lod Community Archaeology Project.** After encountering numerous obstacles (see last year’s report) we have connected with the Genesis, part of Israel Archaeological Group, associated with Tel Aviv University and directed by Dr. Alon Shavit. The IAG has a contract with the Israel Government Tourism Authority to develop and restore Lod’s archaeological and historical heritage. We directed last year’s community archaeology project at Khan el Hilu, an Ottoman caravanserai and we will expand the program this year to include more schools and more neighborhood factions. This work is carried out with separate funding in conjunction with the Karev Educational Project.
- **Work with the Scouts of Shfar’am and Kiryat Tivon and students of the Kabul Regional High School.** They will be joining us for one week this season at Tel Dan (see above) in a program that examines competing historical narratives and emphasizes Jewish Arab coexistence. The weakened dollar has forced us to reduce the length of the program from two weeks to one.
- See Givat Sher in Fieldwork (above)
- **NGSBA website.** We have supplied large quantities of content to the website development team in LA, but the project is now on hold, due to lack of budget.
- **Skirball Museum.** Museum visitation by individuals and groups has increased this year, together with the increase of tourism in general. The sign at the campus’ street entrance needs to be changed--this would bring about an increase in awareness and visitors. No work has been done to change the museum display. This a major project for the future.
- **HUC Graduate School Summer Program** in Biblical Archaeology and Modern Hebrew. Organized by the NGSBA and Dr. Nili Fox of HUC Cincinnati, this summer’s session will be our fifth. We will return to Tel Dan this year, this time with many more outside students and volunteers (approximately 50 are registered so far).
- **Opportunities for the mentally handicapped:** We continue our association with the young people of the Jerusalem Youth Rehabilitation Center, taking them on field trips and excavations (to Givat Sher, the Skirball Museum and the Skirball Archaeological Center). Tomer, a young man from the Center worked 5 days a

week at the NGSBA. He scanned our black and white field photos and saved them in a catalogue-friendly format. Tomer's salary was paid by the National Insurance Authority.

- **Opportunities for the gifted students:** Yuval Gadot lectured at the Ophek School for the Gifted and Talented and the students excavated at Givat Sher in December 2007.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

While we will continue to invest in fieldwork, research and outreach, our priority remains publication of past commitments. We must find the formula to make this more efficient. Two of our three remaining veteran staff will be retiring in the next 2 years. More of the publication burden will be transferred to the younger staff (Levana Tsfania and Yifat Thareani-Sussely; Gadot will be leaving at the end of the year). We will continue to contract out individual projects to other scholars and specialists (this has been a successful tactic so far).

New projects will be instigated only when new funding for those projects has been achieved. This will enable us to continue to produce scholarly work and carry out *tikun olam*-oriented projects, without compromising our budget. With the help of the development office, we will continue to use the past to build a better future.