

Creating a Nation. Prof. Paul Liptz

The Yemenite Jews: Returning Home.

Park Ave Synagogue. Wednesday July 29 2020

1. When time stops in the Kerem.

Michal Shmulovich, Times of Israel March 2012.

1) There is a neighborhood in Tel Aviv in which time stands still. When you walk down its winding alleyways, you can almost picture how life used to be, before modern times. An unmistakable nostalgia floats on the breeze, gently whispering about generations past. That neighborhood is Kerem Hateimanim — the Yemeni vineyard — or simply, the Kerem... Built in the late 19th century by Yemeni immigrants, the Kerem actually predates the city of Tel Aviv...And you can see that many of the residents are descendants of the Kerem's original inhabitants. Residents greet each other with a common, neighborly familiarity...

2) It's not just that the food has the lure of home cooking; local restaurant owners actually make you feel that you're sitting in their very own home kitchen. They'll insist that you eat while it's hot and rush to refill your plate like a worrisome grandmother. Zion and Medina are two of the most famous eateries...Jachnun, a traditional Yemeni dish, is rolled dough cooked into a puff pastry and brushed with a special butter. It is typically served with a fresh tomato dip, schug, and a boiled egg — and Yemenis eat it for breakfast.

2. 17 Yemenite Jews secretly airlifted to Israel to end the 'historic mission'.

Ilan Ben Zion Times of Israel 21 March 2016.

1) "The Jewish Agency brought a group of some of the last remaining Yemenite Jews to Israel in a covert operation, hailing the end of a decades-long "historic mission" to "rescue" the Jews of the country...The 17 members of the dwindling community were flown in following a year-long secret operation involving the Jewish Agency for Israel and the US State Department.

2) The group comprised the final batch of approximately 200 Yemenite Jews brought to Israel by the Jewish Agency in recent years, the organization said..."The group from Raydah included the community's rabbi, who brought a Torah scroll believed to be between 500 and 600 years old...

3) Approximately 50 Jews now remain in Yemen, with 40 living in Sanaa in a compound adjacent to the American Embassy. Despite the ongoing civil war, they refuse to leave the country."

3. Yemenite families of disappeared children file class-action lawsuit.
Times of Israel. 5 October 2018.

1) "Dozens of families of Yemenite Jews who say their children were taken from them by Israeli authorities in the 1950s are filing a class-action lawsuit demanding millions seeks to force the state to accept responsibility for at least 69 infants known to have disappeared from public institutions such as hospitals and day care centers.

2) Some 49,000 Yemeni Jews were brought to the nascent State of Israel in Operation Magic Carpet in 1949-50. Since the 1950s, more than 1,000 families — mostly immigrants from Yemen, but also dozens from the Balkans, North Africa, and other Middle Eastern countries — have alleged their children were kidnapped from Israeli hospitals and put up for adoption, sometimes abroad, in what is known as the Yemenite children affair. .

3) The lawsuit by scholars and seemingly refuted by three state commissions that examined the affair and concluded that most of the children had died, yet the case has kept resurfacing, not least because most of the families were not given their children's bodies or informed of their burial places.

4) The claims also come against a background of neglect and marginalization with which many Muslim-world Jewish immigrants were greeted when they arrived in an Israel controlled at the time by an Ashkenazi Jewish elite. Families have also noted that many of the children's death certificates were riddled with errors, and most of the missing children were sent army draft notices to their original families 18 years after their alleged deaths. There have also been sporadic cases of adopted children who were able to confirm, through DNA tests, that they were from Yemenite families who were told they had died".

Bibliography.

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Jewish Experience, 2014 – *the inner essence of their society and challenges on leaving their original homes.*

*Herbert Lewis, After the Eagles Landed. The Yemenites in Israel, 1989 – *day to day realities from 1949 and later.*

*Yehuda Nini, The Jews of the Yemen, 1800-1914, 1991 – *an invaluable work on earlier periods.*

*Ester Muchawsky-Schnapper, The Yemenites. Two Thousand Years of Jewish Culture, 2000 – *a coffee table book produced by the Israel Museum which concentrates on traditional clothing.*

YouTube.

*Yemen Music of the Yemenite Jews, Creator and Executive Producer Dr. Tzipora Jochsberger, Spielberg Jewish Film archive, 28 minutes – *an excellent cultural exposure.*