

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT BECHUKOTAI

31 MAY – 1 JUNE | 24 IYAR

## Yom Yerushalayim



**ANNA  
COLEMAN**

Head of Operations,  
Tribe

During the Six Day War in 1967, Jews around the world rejoiced and wept when they heard that Jerusalem, the historic Jewish capital, had been reclaimed and “*Har habayit beyadenu*” (the Temple Mount was in our hands). To mark this momentous occasion, each year on the 28th Iyar, Jews celebrate Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day).

Jerusalem plays a central role in Judaism. We face Jerusalem when we pray; we remember Jerusalem at our happiest times (at weddings) and our saddest times (in mourning). At the climax of the Pesach Seder and at the end of Yom Kippur we chant *L’shana Haba b’Yerushalayim!* (next year in Jerusalem). What is it about Jerusalem that is so significant to us? What is it about this city we connect

with so strongly?

Psalm 122 says that Jerusalem is a city that connects itself to the Jewish people. Since making Aliyah, I see this connection first hand, from the religious neighbourhood of Meah Shearim to the bustling Machane Yehuda market, and everything in between. All different types of Jews engage with Jerusalem. One could look at these differences as being divisive, or more powerfully, look at the similarities that bind us all in our connection to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is a place of holiness. In Shemot 25:8, God says, “Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them” and it is the Kotel (Western Wall) and Temple Mount where Jews, and many others, feel most strongly connected to God as this is where the *Shechinah* (God’s Divine presence) rests. Day or night, there are Jews standing by the Kotel in prayer, seeking God.


Jerusalem is a place of central importance to all the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Islam and

Christianity. We hope and pray that this mutual connection will bring understanding and peaceful co-existence to the diverse groups who live there.


I was privileged to spend my gap year living in the Old City of Jerusalem. As I walked through the ancient streets each day, I was awed to see places I learnt about since childhood, not mere history but living, breathing reality. I am still amazed by its contrasts as a city that is both ancient and at the same time stands as a modern metropolis.

Yom Yerushalayim is a time to celebrate all that is special, diverse and wonderful about the capital of the State of Israel. It is also a time to remember those who gave their lives and those who continue to protect us, so that we as Jews can freely walk the streets of Jerusalem, pray at the Kotel and experience all the wonders Jerusalem has to offer. This year more than ever let us choose to be united as Jews, focus on what binds us together and continue to face Jerusalem and pray for peace.


## Can you crack the code?

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2	5	8	3
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 Two numbers are correct but wrongly placed
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1	7	2	9
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 Two numbers are correct and well placed
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3	4	9	1
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 Nothing is correct
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7	5	7	5
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 Three numbers are correct but wrongly placed
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6	8	0	8
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 Nothing is correct
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5	9	1	7
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 Two numbers are correct and well placed



Answer: 5727 (The Hebrew year of the reunification of Jerusalem, corresponding to the English year 1967).