



"The desert (Arava) shall...blossom as the rose." Isaiah 35:1

## BLOSSOMING ROSE

### EMAIL UPDATE

### **A BABY WILL BE BORN AT TAMAR PARK**

Yes, it's true, Kate is pregnant!! Darick, the proud father-to-be made the announcement in our weekly committee meeting. Be the first to congratulate her in person when we throw her a baby shower while we are there with the Founder's tour in February.

### **THE MONTHLY BIBLICAL TAMAR PARK MANAGER'S REPORT**

Shalom!

It has been quite a while since we have checked in with you and a whole lot has happened here in the desert. We have seen the coming and going of many groups this season and all the people who have visited this unique place have left a piece of their heart here. We have the privilege as managers to share with almost everyone that has come and wish that we had even more time to get to know them in depth. Some of the most memorable moments for us were the times shared around the fire in the newly decorated Sukkah. It is a great new gathering place full of warmth and comfort.



We want to thank all of the volunteers that stayed on here even if it were a few days. Maxine Smith was very instrumental in the Sukkah as she sewed all of the covers for the pillows and bolsters. She has also been inspired to make curtains for the caravans as the weather has given our old ones quite a worn look. The Bensons and Crusans are always an unbelievable blessing as their talents and know-how are constantly in play here. The tractor which has run smoothly since their last adventure here was due for a tune up and needed new hydraulic seals. Those boys had that rig apart and repaired within days. And their wives, along with Amy, succeeded to paint the interior of two caravans in less than a week, and with the help of Victoria scraped the paint off the exterior of another caravan!



In reality we could fill pages and pages of an update with all of you who have given time and effort here over the past weeks. Each one of you is greatly appreciated and has left a mark of love here!

Currently, we have five remaining long-term volunteers who are getting a taste of what daily life is like on a National Park in the desert. We are involved in many projects and have many creative ideas for the development of the park. The bomb shelter is now cleaned out completely and will be designed to represent the independence of Israel in 1948 to the days that the Israeli Army was stationed here in the 60's. Darick is currently brainstorming for the welding of a few metal soldiers that will stand at different spots on the park. And we have moved a small building in place to greet visitors and share both information about the site and give them a refreshing cup of cold water for their journey. Just like in the ancient days when this place was an oasis in the harsh desert, it is still an oasis where water and shelter and friendship can be found!

We are excited with the progress and as we continue to greet groups and daily visitors, we want to ask for your thoughts, prayer, and support. And as our beloved volunteer Jim Crumley would shout: **“Y'all come back now, ya hear!”**

Happy Holidays!  
Your family in the desert,  
Darick and Kate



### **February Founder's Tour date changed**

The new date for the February tour is **February 27-March 9, 2012**. Tour dates are seldom changed after they are set months in advance because of the need to make hotel reservations and purchase airline tickets. Our decision to change the dates of the February tour was the result of a request from another organization to team up with Blossoming Rose. Their group was too small to have an independent tour and so they asked to be included with our February group. (The lady who made the request knew about Blossoming Rose and she had met some of our friends.) They had one small problem, however; several of their people already had scheduled their time off work and could not change. Our people were more flexible and so it appears to be working out well for everyone.

There is still room to go with us and enjoy some warm Mediterranean days in Israel. You can click on to [www.blossomingrose.org](http://www.blossomingrose.org) for more information and register on-line. We would love to have you join us.

## Letter from a happy tour participant

Hi DeWayne,

I am so grateful for the trip to Israel in November. Thank you so much for all the memorable stops, the information you shared on the bus, and the help you gave all along the way. I'm sure you must get tired of all the hindrances that occur with a group, but you held up very well and never lost your sense of humor - not that it showed. I will never forget all the amazing sights and sounds of that great land. Tamar is a very beautiful place. I know why you go back.

Karmen and I met some wonderful people with whom I hope we can keep in contact. I consider it a privilege to have gone to Israel with you. I thank God for you and your love for Israel. (Only wish I could tell Zula.)

Karen Z.

## Upcoming Conference in Israel

This prodigious Conference, to be held in Eilat, is for the purpose of sharing information about archaeological discoveries in Yemen, made by Prof. Andrea Lemaire from the Sorbonne University, Paris, France, who translated writings dating nearly 3,000 years ago. These ancient writings state that there was trade between the people of Yemen and Sheba and the Israelite cities of Judea. Speakers at the Conference will address the possibility that this trade, during the kingship of Solomon, could confirm the Biblical story of the Queen of Sheba visiting Solomon.

The two speakers whom some of you might know are Prof. (Dr.) Yigal Israel from the Israel Antiquities Authority and Mr. Larry J. Borntreger, representing Blossoming Rose and Biblical Tamar Park.

Admission is free for this two day Conference scheduled for January 25 and 26.

The agenda follows:



BEN-ZVI INSTITUTE

Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Ben-Shalom Center for the Study of the Jews of Yemen

Centre de Recherche Français à Jérusalem (CRFJ)

Ben-Gurion University, Eilat Campus

Icomos – Israel

**The Route from Yemen to Judea via Eilat and the Negev -  
A Bridge between Peoples and Cultures in Ancient Time**

Eilat, Israel, January 25-26, 2012

Hilton Queen of Sheba Hotel Eilat , Topaz Hall

**Conference Program**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2012**

11:00-12:00 – Reception

12:00–12:30 - Greetings

**Chairperson - Dr Uzi Avner** (Ben-Gurion University, Eilat Campus)

**Mr. Meir Yitzhak Halevi**, Mayor of Eilat

**Prof. Miri Amit**, Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus, Dean

**Mr. Gideon Koren**, Chairman of Icomos-Israel

**Prof. Yosef Tobi**, Ben-Shalom Center for the Study of the Jews of Yemen

12:30–14:00 – Session One: **Queen of Sheba's Journey and the Sabaic Inscription**

**Chairperson – Prof. Yosef Tobi** (The University of Haifa)

**Prof. André Lemaire** (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, Paris)

The 'Queen' of Sheba and the Trade between South Arabia and Judea

**Prof. Christian Robin** (CNRS, Paris)

The Queen of Sheba: The View from the South

14:00–15:00 Lunch break

15:00–16:30 – Session Two: **The Negev, Edom and Eilat Gulf in Biblical Time**

**Chairperson - Prof. Shmuel Ahituv** (Ben Gurion University)

**Prof. Avi Faust** (Bar-Ilan University)

The Negev in Biblical Time

**Prof. Henrique Broins** (Ben Gurion University)

The Negev Highlands in the Biblical Time in light of Carbon 14 Dating

**Dr. Erez Ben Yosef** (Tel Aviv University)

Edom in Biblical Time

**Prof. Haim. Ben David** (Emek Hayarden College)

## The Journey of Queen of Sheba

16:30–17:00 – Coffee break

17:00–18:30 – Session Three: **Eilat and the Trade Routes in the Red Sea**

**Chairperson – Dr. Daniel Weinstub** (Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus)

**Prof. Ehud Galili** (Authority of Antiquities)

Sailing in the Red Sea in Ancient Time

**Prof. Shimshon Bar Yehoshua** (Volcani Center, Agriculture Research Administration, Bet Dagan)

The Culture of Persimmon in the Past and Nowadays

**Prof. Y. Tobi** (University of Haifa)

The Role of the Jews in the Trade between Yemen and Eretz Israel

## Thursday, January 26, 2012

08:30–09:30 – Session Four: **Trade Routes between Eretz Israel and Yemen in Ancient Time**

**Chairperson – Prof. Zeev Meshel** (Tel Aviv University)

**Dr. Uzi Avner** (Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus)

Eilat and Ezion Gaver in Biblical Time

**Prof. Yigal Israel** (Authority of Antiquities)

The 'Arava Route in Biblical Time in light of Ein Hazeva Excavations

09:30–11:30 – Session Five: **Development of Tourism in the Arava**

**Dr. A. Tzabari** (Yoseftal Hospital, Eilat) – Open Discussion

**Moderator – Avi Shoket** (Chairman of Cultural Routes Committee, Icomos, Israel)

**Dr. Uzi Avner** (Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus)

**David Mingelgreen** (Vice President Israel Government Tourist Corporation)

**Udi Gat** (Hevel Eilat Regional Council, Head).

**Yoav Igra** (Igra Group, President)

**Larry J. Bortrager** (Blossoming Rose, Tamar Archaeological Park)

**Representatives Tourist Organisations Negev – Arava .**

**Giora Soler** (The Galil Ma'aravi College, Preservation Dept.)

**Dr. Amir Shani** (Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus)

**A. Mizrahi**, Office Tourism, Eilat

13:00 – Excursion to the Southern □ Arava, guided by Benny Gamli'eli

#### **Academic Committee**

**Dr. Uzi Avner**, Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus

**Prof. Shemuel Ahituv**, Ben Gurion University

**Prof. Meir Gruber**, Ben Gurion University

**Prof. Yosef Tobi**, University of Haifa

**Mr. Avi Shoket**, Head of of Cultures Committee, Icomos, Israel

**Dr. Avinoam Tzabari**, Head of Ob&Gyn Yoseftal Hospital, Eilat

**Dr. Daniel Weinstub**, Ben Gurion University, Eilat Campus

### **A MIRACLE: Three months in the Holy Land at Tamar**

(This is a brief summary of what Amy Magnusson wrote to us while she was in Israel)

The first time I came to Israel, I knew that I had to come back again someday. Just being in the Holy Land gives me so much more peace and a better connection to the Source.

I had just graduated from Texas A&M University and, being a recent graduate, I had no funds whatsoever. Yet, I had a desire to come to Israel and to stay at Tamar, but I knew it was not likely to happen in a natural or normal way.

The cost of staying at Tamar would be about \$1000, which was \$1000 that I flat out didn't have. Just after discussing this with Dr. Coxon, a good friend of mine, Larry Borntager, casually slipped \$500 into my hand. When I asked him about it, he mentioned that he had planned to use that money elsewhere but it was not needed, and had hoped he would find another meaningful place to use it.

As I talked to another dear friend and roommate, Leorah, about the miracle that just happened, she said she wanted to give me \$200. Within the span of about ten minutes, I had \$700 that I hadn't even dreamed of having. Amazingly, another man, Glen, who was accompanied by his wife on this trip, told me before we even made it to Tamar that he would like to sponsor me weekly if I wanted to stay at Tamar as a volunteer.

One evening while at Tamar, Dr. Coxon told the tour group about my willingness to stay on at Tamar a volunteer. Within one or two days, I had enough money to stay for two months. I have never received an amount like this in my life before from people, and especially not within a three-day period!

On the last night before the group departed for the airport, Dr. Tabor mentioned that he could sponsor me for another month if I wanted to stay through January. That would

bring my stay in Israel to a total of three months. Three months at Tamar was a dream-come-true.

### **Year-end Contributions Needed**

Our annual fundraising letter was mailed just before Thanksgiving and we are deeply grateful for the response, both in gifts and future commitments. These contributions make it possible for us to continue to do our work and fulfill the mission that has been placed on our hearts.

We promised in our November newsletter to send a “wish list” of small projects that need to be done at the Park, but we decided to send that list to a select few who had requested it and, for now, focus our attention on general support. We could certainly use more help and more pledges for 2012, if you are able to consider this. We hope that you can help, if you haven't already. If you have, we thank you so much.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!