

SUNDAY, JULY 15: MODERN ISRAEL IN AN ANCIENT LAND

- **KARMIEL**
- **PROTALIX**
- **MOONA, A SPACE FOR CHANGE**
- **PEKI'IN DRUZE VILLAGE**
- **THE PARENTS CIRCLE- FAMILY FORUM**

Karmiel

Karmiel (Hebrew: כַּרְמִיֶּל, *lit.* "God's vineyards") is a city in northern Israel. Established in 1964 as a development town, Karmiel is located in the Beit HaKerem Valley which divides upper and lower Galilee. The city is located south of the Acre-Safed road, 32 kilometres (20 mi) from Safed and 20 kilometres (12 mi) from Acre. Karmiel has a population of 44,100,^[1] although its municipality claims to have reached 50,000.^[2]

History

Karmiel was one of the first cities in Israel to be established according to an urban master plan.^[3] It was built as part of the Central Galilee Development Project. Work began in 1963, and the official inauguration ceremony took place in October 1964.^[4] The first 16 families moved in at that time. A tender for the construction of Karmiel's main roads was issued in 1963, and Mekorot built a water pipe network connecting Karmiel, Rameh, Sha'ab and other nearby villages.^[5] In 1981, Karmiel was awarded the Beautiful Israel prize and the Kaplan Prize for Management and Services. Karmiel achieved city status on November 20, 1986. The first mayor was Baruch Venger, followed by Adi Eldar, who has remained in this position until today. Some 18,000 new immigrants settled in Karmiel between 1990 and 2002.^[6] In 1956, about 1,275 acres (5.16 km²) of land in the Israeli Arab villages of Deir al-Asad, Bi'ina and Nahf were declared "closed areas" by Israeli authorities. This area, near the main road between Acre and Safed, had been an important marble quarrying site. In 1961, the Israeli authorities expropriated the land to build Karmiel. The villagers offered "equally good land" in the area, but when Moshe Sneh (Maki) and Yusef Khamis (Mapam) brought the case to the Knesset on behalf of the villagers, the Knesset established that there was no such land.^[7] According to the Haredi newspaper She'arim, about 10 square kilometres (3.9 sq mi) (394 lots) were confiscated by a court order on 4 March 1963, at the request of the Israel Development Authority. However, the land was rocky, uninhabited and unfit for agriculture.^[8] In 1964, when local Arabs applied for permission to move into the town, Minister of Housing Yosef Almoji replied that "Karmiel was not built to solve the problems for the people

in the surrounding area.^[19] In February 1965, 400 protesters marched from Tel Aviv to protest against "discrimination of a group of our citizens". Representatives went to a local police station, informing the police that they were staying in the area without permission. Eventually the perceived leaders were arrested and tried before a military tribunal.^[10] During the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Hezbollah fired 180 Katyusha rockets into Karmiel and the neighboring villages, leading to casualties and damage to buildings, roads, and cars.^[11]

Geography



View of Karmiel

Karmiel is located on the Acre–Safed road, on the northern edge of the Lower Galilee. It lies in Emek Beit HaKerem and its elevation is 330 m (1,082.68 ft).^[12] The Hilazon Stream passes slightly to the south of Karmiel.^[12] Its tributaries, the Shezor and Shagor Streams pass through Karmiel on the east and north, respectively.^[13] Karmiel sits on the Shagor mountain range, which stretches from Mount Hazon in the east (584 m (1,916.01 ft), next to Maghar) to Mount Gilon in the west (367 m (1,204.07 ft), at Gilon).^[14] Western Karmiel was built on the Karmi (362 m) and Makosh (315 m) mountains.^[15] Work on a new railway line linking Haifa and Karmiel is expected to begin in 2011.

Demographics

As of 2007, the city encompasses an area of about 24,000 dunams (24 km²) with a population of about 50,000 residents approximately 40% of whom are immigrants from 75 countries. The city also receives significant internal migration of Haredi families. Since 1990, 16,000 immigrants have arrived in Karmiel, the majority of whom are from the Former Soviet Union. According to the national master plan, by 2020 Karmiel will have a population of approximately 120,000 residents. Since 1980, six new neighborhoods have been developed and populated, and a technical college has been serving the community since 1989.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Protalix Biotherapeutics

Protalix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development, production and commercialization of recombinant therapeutic proteins produced by our proprietary ProCellEx® plant cell-based protein expression system. Our pipeline consists of proprietary, potentially clinically superior versions of recombinant therapeutic proteins that target established pharmaceutical markets.

Protalix was founded by Dr. Yoseph Shaaltiel and began as a greenhouse company in Israel's northern town of Kiryat Shmona, in 1993. The first manufacturing facility was constructed in May 2004 in Carmiel in the Western Galilee, which was later expanded and upgraded at the end of 2009 in preparation for the commercial production of Elelyso® and production of pipeline candidates for clinical trials.

Protalix is proud to be the first company to gain FDA approval for a plant cell culture expressed protein. Elelyso® (taliglucerase alfa for injection) is Protalix's first drug product produced by its proprietary ProCellEx® protein expression system, and was approved for marketing by the FDA in May 2012, followed soon after by approval by ANVISA in Brazil, Israel's Ministry of Health, and other regulatory authorities around the world. Protalix's ProCellEx® platform has the ability to manufacture complex proteins, antibodies, and vaccines and has the ability to orally deliver certain therapeutic proteins as demonstrated in animal models.

<http://protalix.com/about/>

Moona, A Space for Change

<https://app.emaze.com/@AOIRQQWLQ/moona---space-for-change-iaf#1>

Peki'in

Not to be confused with Pekin.

Peki'in (alternatively **Peqi'in**) (Hebrew: פְּקִיעִין) or **Buqei'a** (Arabic: البقعة), is a Druze town with local council status in Israel's Northern District. It is located eight kilometres east of Ma'alot-Tarshiha in the Upper Galilee. In December 2012 the population was reportedly 5,435.^[2]

A tradition of the Jewish community says they lived there continuously from the Second Temple period through the 20th century.^{[3][4]}

History

Objects such as potsherds of the Chalcolithic period were found in the village, and a burial site close by, making a 100 dunams (25 acres) settlement a possibility.^[5]

The village *Baca* in Josephus' *The Jewish War*^[6] is thought to be Peki'in.^{[7][8][9]} According to Josephus it marked the border between the kingdom of Herod Agrippa II, and Tyre.

A bundle of Jewish traditions is associated with a certain Peki'in often, appearing in writing under the names *Baka*, *Paka* and *Peki'in*, which gave rise to the theory that a Jewish community lived there continuously from the Second Temple period. According to the Talmud, Rabbi Joshua ben Hananiah run a Beth Midrash, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son Rabbi Elazar ben Shimon, hid in a cave from the Romans for 13 years,^{[10][11]} and Shimon bar Yochai went on to teach at the city. However, there is evidence that the identification of Rabbinic Peki'in with Peki'in-Buqei'a is of Ottoman time,^[12] and other sites in the vicinity of Rehovot have also been suggested. The first writing where the name *Peki'in* undoubtedly refers to this village is from a 1765 Hebrew travel book.^[citation needed]

In the Crusader era, Peki'in was known under the name of *Bokehel*.^[13] Together with several other villages in the area, it was part of the lordship of St. George, one of the largest in the Acre area. In the 12th century it was held by Henry de Milly, after his death it was inherited by his three daughters.^{[14][15]}

Henry de Milly's third and youngest daughter, Agnes of Milly, married Joscelin III. In 1220 their daughter Beatrix de Courtenay and her husband Otto von Botenlauben, Count of Henneberg, sold their land, including "one third of the fief of St. George", and "one third of the village of *Bokehel*", to the Teutonic Knights.^[16] During this era the village was connected by a road to Castellum Regis.^[17]

Ottoman period



Jews of Peki'in, c. 1930

Incorporated into the Ottoman Empire in 1517 with the rest of Palestine, Peki'in appeared in the 1596 tax registers as being in the *Nahiya* of Akka of the *Liwa* of Safad. It had a population of 77 households and 7 bachelors who were all Muslims, in addition to 79 Jewish households. The villagers paid taxes on occasional revenues, goats and/or beehives, a press for olives or grapes, and *jjizya*.^[18] A tax on silk spinning (*dulab harir*), which was levied in 1555 on six villages surrounding Mount Meron, rated highest in Peki'in.^[19] A silk industry is

also attested by an account from 1602,^[20] and by several old mulberry trees in the village.

Jewish population was recorded at 33 households in 1525, and experienced a rise, drop, stabilization and another rise before 1596.^[21] It is said some Kohanitic families immigrated from Kafr 'Inan, possibly in the late 16th century.^[22] The Almani family probably came from the village Alma.^[23]

In 1875, French explorer Victor Guérin visited the village and described it as: "The population at present number 600—Druzes, United Greeks, Schismatic Greeks, and a few Jewish families, who pretend to descend from the ancient inhabitants of the country. Every year in the summer several hundreds of Jews come here from Tiberias to pass the hot season. Most of these Jews came originally from Europe, and are happy in finding here the last indigenous scions of the ancient national stock. ... At Bukeiah, thanks to the two springs which issue from the hill-side, they cultivate on the slopes and almost to the bottom of the valley delicious gardens, watered by numerous streams. Here grow, on different terraces, kept up by great walls, probably ancient, fruit-trees of all kinds, such as citrons, oranges, pomegranates, figs, quinces, and mulberries. The vine flourishes marvelously, as is shown by the enormous trunks. The United Greeks have a little church, which I found shut; the Schismatic Greeks also have one which has replaced a much more ancient Christian sanctuary. Only a few cut stones and the trunk of a column remain of it. The Jews worship in a synagogue of modern date."^[24]

In 1881, the Palestine Exploration Fund's *Survey of Western Palestine* described it as "A good village, built of stone, containing a chapel and a synagogue. There are about 100 Moslems, 100 Christians, 100 Druzes, and 100 Jews. It is situated on the slope of a fine hill, with gardens, figs, olives, pomegranates, and arable land.

There is a good spring in the village, and two springs near. This is the only place where Jews cultivate the ground. They say it has descended to them from their fathers from time immemorial."^[25]

British Mandate era

In a census conducted in 1922 by the British Mandate authorities, Al Buqai'a had a population of 652; 70 Muslims, 63 Jews, 215 Christians and 304 Druse.^[26] Of the Christians, 167 were Orthodox and 48 were Greek Catholic (Melchite).^[27] In the 1931 census, El Buqei'a had a total population of 799; 71 Muslims, 52 Jews, 264 Christians and 412 Druse, in a total of 190 houses.^[28]

In 1936, Arab riots forced the Jews of Peki'in to leave their homes for safer parts of the country; only a few of them later returned.^[3]

In 1945 the population was 990, all Arabs, owning 10,276 dunams, while Jews owned 189 dunams, and 3,731 was publicly owned, according to an official land and population survey.^[29] Of this, 1,598 were allocated for plantations and irrigable land, 3,424 for cereals,^[30] while 40 dunams were classified as built-up areas.^[31]



Druze women of Peki'in, 2011

In July 2006, Peki'in was hit by Katyusha rockets launched by Hezbollah, causing significant damage to homes and orchards.^[32]

In October 2007, riots broke out after the installation of a cellular antenna due to concerns that such antennas have been linked to an increase in cancer. Riot police fired bullets and gas grenades, which further angered the residents, who burned down the house of a Jewish family living in the village.^[33] In December 2007, the last Jewish family left the town after their car was torched.^[34] Only Margalit Zinati, a descendant of a Mustarabim family, has remained there to keep alive the memory of the town's vanishing Jewish heritage.^[3]

In 2011, the Israeli government approved an aid program of NIS 680 million (\$184M) for housing, education and tourism upgrades in Peki'in and other Druze communities in northern Israel.^[35]

Education and culture

The Druze Youth Movement in Israel, a movement with 19 branches around the country and a membership of 12,000, has its headquarters in Peki'in. The founder of the movement is Hamad Amar, an Israeli Druze member of the Knesset from Shfaram, who established it to pass on Druze heritage to the younger generation while developing a sense of national Israeli pride.^[36]

Tourism

According to Galib Kheir, head of the town's tourism department, about 60,000 tourists visit Peki'in each year. The tourist trade supports local restaurants and specialty shops. The town also has a hotel and youth hostel.^[citation needed]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Parents Circle Families Forum

The Parents Circle - Families Forum (PCFF) is a joint Palestinian Israeli organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost a close family member as a result of the prolonged conflict. Joint activities have shown that the reconciliation between individuals and nations is possible and it is this insight that they are trying to pass on to both sides of the conflict. Moreover, the PCFF has concluded that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings and the media, to spread these ideas .

The PCFF was established in 1995 - by Mr. Yitzhak Frankental and several bereaved Israeli families. In 1998 the first meetings were held with a group of Palestinians families from Gaza who identified with the call to prevent further bereavement through dialogue, tolerance, peace and reconciliation. The connection with the group in Gaza was cut off as a result of the second Intifada.

From 2000 the PCFF expanded to include Palestinian families from both the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These new members have substantially influenced the activities of the PCFF and shaped the character and functioning of the organization

The Parents Circle - Families Forum is registered as an association and is managed jointly by the professional staff, Israelis and Palestinians working in two offices: the Palestinian Office is Beit Jala and the Israeli Office is in Ramat Ef'al, Tel Aviv.

Although the PCFF has no stated position on the political solution of the conflict, most of its members agree that the solution must be based on free negotiations between the leadership of both sides to ensure basic human rights, the establishment of two states for two peoples, and the signing of a peace treaty.

The historic reconciliation between the two nations is a necessary condition for obtaining a sustainable peace treaty.

<http://theparentscircle.com/Content.aspx?ID=2#.WU-rc5LyuUk>

ORT Braude College of Engineering

ORT Braude College (OBC) was established in Karmiel with the goal of developing an academic center that would teach the different engineering fields and simultaneously work in cooperation with industry.

The College's geographic location is a direct response to national and regional needs: it serves as an academic, technological and scientific center for the Galilee, increases the accessibility to higher education in the north of the country and contributes to the range and enrichment of Karmiel's educational system.

The College is an integral partner in the Galilee's development and promotion of the region's hi--tech industries. The College's goal—to broaden the accessibility of higher education—is guided by several principles:

- To maintain high academic standards
- To accept students from diverse backgrounds
- To assist the students by providing academic, social, financial, psychological, sociological and medical support.
- To promote excellence among the teaching faculty

- To establish and operate state-of-the-art laboratories and other facilities on campus
- To provide students with a personal and friendly learning and living environment
- To engage in an open and ongoing dialogue with industry

The College's policy is to provide students with advanced, up-to-date engineering knowledge in sought after careers. The College is continually developing new study programs, in step with the country's economic and industrial development.

ORT Braude College confers a Bachelor of Sciences (B.Sc.) degree in the following fields:

- Applied Mathematics
- Biotechnology Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Industrial Engineering and Management
- Information Systems Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Optical Engineering (New Program)

ORT Braude College confers a Masters of Sciences (M.Sc.) degree in the following fields:

- Biotechnology
- Software Engineering
- Systems Engineering
- Industrial Engineering and Management

Aside from degrees in engineering, the college offers other educational programs.

- Pre-Academic Studies
- Practical Engineering
- Continuing Education
- Youth Center for Science Enrichment
- Teacher Certification in Science and Technology

The College offers practical engineers the opportunity to continue studying towards a B.Sc. engineering degree.

ORT Braude College students specialize in their selected fields and upon graduation are employed by top ranking industries.

OBC faculty conducts research and development in diverse fields. The College's R&D company, "Ofek Eshkolot R&D Ltd.," was established to promote practical R&D and to commercialize the intellectual property developed by ORT Braude's scientists and researchers.

Outstanding students who study at ORT Braude College can opt to enroll in the College's specially designed Excellence Program which features advanced level courses and individual supervision. The students are also required to conduct a research project.

ORT Braude College builds direct ties with industry across the country and brings world-renown experts to conferences, seminars and workshops that are held on campus.

<http://www.braude.ac.il/english/>