

“ I will bring them to My sacred mount,
and let them rejoice in My house of prayer
For My house shall be called
A House of Prayer for All People. ”

– Isaiah 56,7

Building THE CENTER OF HOPE



This is Jerusalem

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband... The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.”

– Revelations 21

The City...

That more than any other city in the world has inspired the religious imagination of humanity for thousands of years.

That remains at the forefront of global attention.

Whose name means peace, a peace that remains a vision awaiting fulfillment.

Jerusalem is the only holy city and site of pilgrimage shared by Christians, Muslims and Jews. The ancient stones are imbued with history, the streets infused with sanctity. It is the city imagined by the Biblical prophets as the spiritual center for all of humanity. Torn today between a heavenly ideal and the challenges of earthly reality, it is destined to become the well-spring of peace.

When peace will come to Jerusalem, peace will come to the whole world.



THE CENTER OF HOPE

House Of Prayer and Education

HOPE DRAWS from an ancient Biblical vision, spelled out by Isaiah, a vision of harmony and unity in the divine presence: “**My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.**”

HOPE SEEKS to translate this vision into a reality of sharing prayer for peace by Muslims, Christians, Jews and others, praying in their respective spaces, under one roof.

HOPE IS an educational complex that seeks to set new standards in interfaith relations and sharing of wisdom, through a broad range of educational activities and cultural interactions.

HOPE IS a place of communal encounter for scholars, religious leaders, pilgrims, spiritual seekers and the community at large. The Center of HOPE will be a safe space, belonging fully to participating faiths.

HOPE IS a community of communities, a welcome for pilgrims, a home for all.

The **House Of Prayer and Education** is a means of training hearts and minds to openness to the other and to the ultimate Other, a symbol and model for interfaith relations, and an invitation to jointly express in prayer the deepest aspirations of humanity and, above all, **the aspiration for peace...in Jerusalem and the entire world.**



Photo: Eitan Simanor



Mission of HOPE

Through prayer, education and cultural sharing, The Center of HOPE seeks to bring about transformation in the lives of participants, increased understanding and appreciation among members of different faith traditions and a meaningful contribution to processes of peacemaking, community building and reconciliation between diverse faith communities in Jerusalem. The Center of HOPE aims to thereby serve as a sign and model for religions and their possible relationships worldwide.

The vision of The Center of HOPE...

Respects identity and authenticity without seeking to compromise or dilute religious affiliation.

Identifies learning about and from other religions as a need and a privilege for today and for our future.

Recognizes that religions need each other to better serve the world, to reach their highest potential and to help bring about peace in the hearts of the faithful and of humanity.

Recognizes that we all have much to learn from one another and that through such learning we are strengthened, rather than weakened, in our religious life.

Recognizes the importance of beauty in elevating the heart and mind in inspiring prayer.



“ Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. ”

— St. Francis of Assisi

With your support...

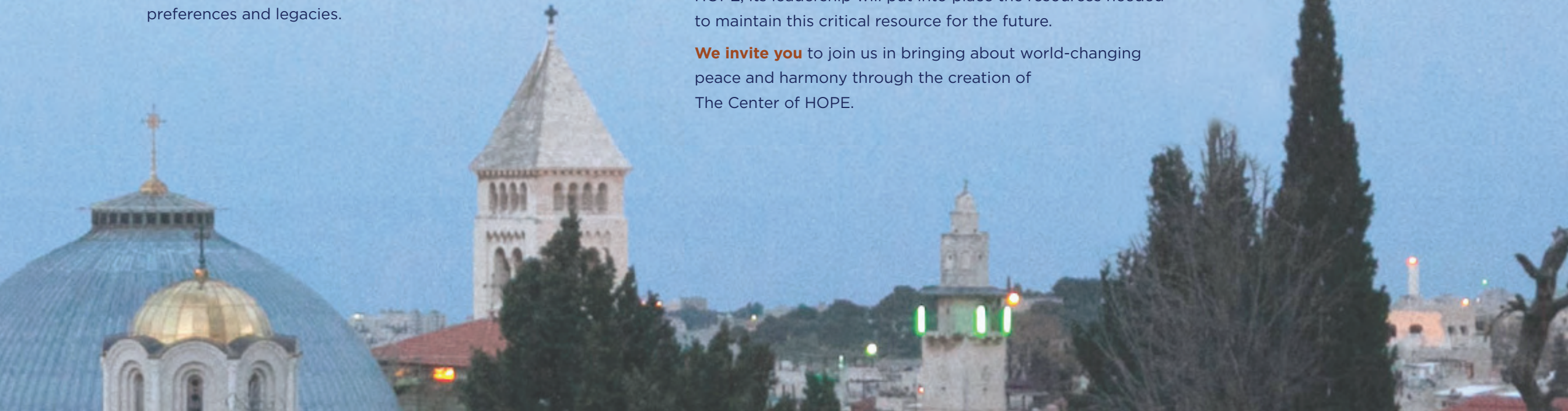
Now is the time to secure The Center of HOPE’s future and ensure that people of all faiths can share a welcoming home in Jerusalem. With the planned facilities, inspirational leadership, and transformational vision in place, The Center of HOPE now needs you to make this vision for peace a true reality.

We invite you to join your peers in peace by donating generously to The Center of HOPE Capital Campaign. Every gift to The Center of HOPE Capital Campaign is appreciated and important to making The Center a reality. Dedication opportunities are available to suit a range of giving levels, preferences and legacies.

With your support, The Center of HOPE will become an important space of learning, a unique environment for meeting, an opportunity for friendship, a site for inspiration, and a place where prayer for peace can rise together from the faithful of all faiths and all peoples...**in Jerusalem.**

All contributions to The Center of HOPE Capital Campaign are fully tax-deductible, and will be held in a special restricted fund to be used only for The Center’s capital needs. Also, gifts can be designated towards endowment purposes. By establishing a robust endowment dedicated for The Center of HOPE, its leadership will put into place the resources needed to maintain this critical resource for the future.

We invite you to join us in bringing about world-changing peace and harmony through the creation of The Center of HOPE.



THE CENTER OF HOPE

Will include...

Inspiringly beautiful prayer spaces where Jews, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus and others will pray alongside one another...for the peace of Jerusalem and the whole world

A museum experience, presenting prayer in the spiritual life of humankind

An exhibition space for art shows on themes of religious life, prayer and Jerusalem

A research and dialogue institute where resident scholars will serve the HOPE community, and where Elijah's scholarly seminars and interfaith think tank meetings will take place

A library, providing primary and scholarly resources on the foundations of all religions and their spiritual and prayer lives

A hospitality and friendship center, accommodating interreligious pilgrims in uniquely designed rooms, which express the thematics of peace, inspiration and the prayer life of saints in all traditions

Verdant spaces in lavish rooftops and serene courtyards, thematized around prayer and the quest for peace

An auditorium for public events and interfaith concerts

Lecture halls where the spectrum of interfaith activities, lectures and conferences, carried out by various organizations, can be hosted

“O mankind! We have created you all male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know one another.”

— Qur'an 49,13



The HOPE experience unfolds as **a journey of peace and ascension**. It carries the pilgrim into the heart of an oasis, in the bustle of city life, through the embrace of serenely verdant courtyards. And it raises one's gaze and spirit to the heights of the ineffable.



Support for the Vision



Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Austria

As a regular pilgrim to Jerusalem, I am repeatedly pained by the fact that members of the different faiths are engaged in a common activity — turning to God, while ignoring the presence of the other. May the HOPE vision of turning to God with full awareness and collaboration of the other help transform the reality of Jerusalem, making it a model for the entire world.



Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh, United Kingdom

Jerusalem — A city particularly holy to the three Abrahamic religions, generates spiritual vibrations for all. It stirs emotions in the hearts of adherents of all faiths. Jerusalem is a common heritage of all humanity. That cannot be denied. We therefore aspire to join in a broad movement of prayer for peace in Jerusalem, and in the entire world.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, India

I have been to Jerusalem as a pilgrim and absorbed the intensity of the spiritual life and prayer of believers of different faiths. I firmly believe there is room even for those of us who do not share the tenets of the Abrahamic faiths to join in the spiritual life of this holy city, by joining our prayers for peace and well-being of all peoples and creatures to those prayers already offered in this great spiritual center. The vision of The Center of HOPE could make this a reality.



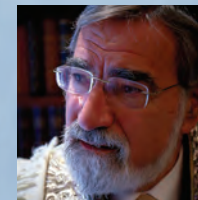
Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, India

Our world needs to move to greater understanding, love and harmony. The vision of The HOPE Center can help change the hearts of multitudes, who will be touched by a vision of spirituality and collaboration in one of the world's holiest cities. It has my full blessing and support.



Grand Mufti Mustafa Ceric, Bosnia

Jerusalem, holy to Islam, has been a pilgrim's destination for Muslims for hundreds of years. The vision of creating a center holy to all religions allows every pilgrimage to open up to an interreligious experience. This is what today's world needs.



Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, United Kingdom

We are all searching for the Heavenly Jerusalem, the ultimate destination of everyone's "pilgrimage for peace". How do we achieve this? By not losing sight of the importance of our daily pilgrimage of peace: helping others, praying for the sick, comforting the distressed, seeing the beauty in the face of a stranger. Each small act of kindness creates a fragment of peace in the world that was not there before, a moment when we truly hear the voice of God. That is what the work of The Center of HOPE achieves; it helps us to hear the music of faith beneath the noise in today's world.

“ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
so that those who love you be tranquil.”

– Psalms 122,6

*The Center of HOPE is founded on the prayer
that harmony between the **earthly and heavenly**
Jerusalem may be realized through **harmony in the**
lives of all the faithful, learning, sharing and praying
for peace...in Jerusalem.*



The Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders

Buddhist Leaders

H. H., the Dalai Lama, India
Rev. Jan Chozen Bays, USA
Ven. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Thailand
Ven. Norman Fischer, USA
Ven. Blanche Hartman, USA
Dharma Master Hsin Tao, Taiwan
Bhikkhuni Kusuma, Sri Lanka
Dr. Alison Murdoch, UK
Ven. Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara, Myanmar
Ven. Khandro Rinpoche, India
Ven. Sanghasena, India
Ven. Prof. Jinwol Sunim, Korea
Ven. Karma Lekshe Tsomo, USA

Christian Leaders

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Austria
Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev, Russia
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Turkey
Prior Isabelle Flye-Saintmarie, Israel
Archbishop Vincentiu Grifoni, Romania
Bishop Frank Griswold, USA
Rev. Dr. Katharine Henderson, USA
Bishop Lennart Koskinen, Sweden
Professor Dimitra Koukoura, Greece
Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, USA
*Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, USA
Cardinal Jorge Maria Mejia, The Vatican
Patriarch Mesrob, Turkey
Archbishop Boutros Mouallem, Israel
Very Rev. June Osborne, UK
Cardinal Telesphore Placidus Toppo, India
Rev. Dr. Notker Wolf, Germany
*Bishop Baerbel Wartenberg-Potter, Germany

Leaders of the Religions of India

Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, India
Swami Agnivesh, India
Swami Amarananda, Switzerland
Swami Atmapriyananda, India
Karmayogi Charukeerty Bhattarak Swamiji, India
Chandra Swami, India
Sr. Maureen Goodman, UK
*H. H. Dadi Janki, India
Sr. Jayanti, UK
Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, India
Acharya Shri Shrivatsa Goswami, India
Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh, UK
Sri Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji, India

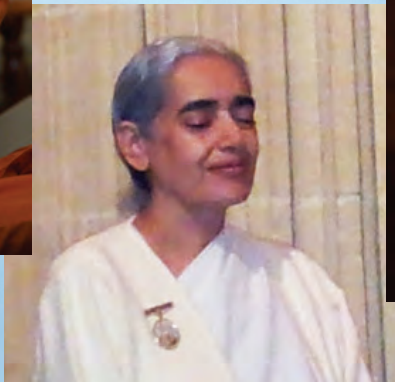
Jewish Leaders

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, UK
Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, Israel
*Chief Rabbi Gilles Bernheim, France
Rabbi David Bigman, Israel
Rabbi Youval Cherlow, Israel
Chief Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Israel
Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, Israel
Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar, Russia
Rabbi Richard Marker, USA
Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel
Rabbi Mordechai Peron, Israel
Rabbi David Rosen, Israel
Gilla Rosen, Israel
Chief Rabbi Renee Sirat, France
Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Netherlands
Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, UK
IJCIC - The International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultation, USA

Muslim Leaders

Grand Mufti Mustafa Ceric, Bosnia
Sayyed Jawad Al-Khoei, Iran
*Dr. Muhammad Zaki Badawi, UK
Dr. Y. Mossa Basha, USA
Imam Plemon El-Amin, USA
Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, India
Imam Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal, Canada
Sheikh Hisham Kabbani, USA
Dr. Wahidudin Khan, India
*W. Dean Mohammad, USA
Chief Kadi Ahmed Natour, Israel
Dr. Aadmou Ndam Njoya, Cameroon
Sheikh Muhammad Nur Abdallah, USA
Imam Dr. Abduljalil Sajid, UK
Dr. Ahmed Taoufiq, Morocco
*H. R. H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Jordan
Dr. Muhammad Suheyl Umar, Pakistan
*Dr. Abdurrahman Wahid, Indonesia

*Former member



“ A house of prayer is where all holy sparks come together making peace among them, and this is the special feature of Jerusalem. ”

— based on R. Nathan of Breslav

Respecting **diverse identities**, participants in The Center of HOPE express a **unified vision** of prayer and peace, that finds its culmination in **prayer for peace**, carried out day and night.



The Elijah Interfaith Institute

Our vision is global in scope, celestial in aspiration.



“ I have known no experience so rich as the communion that comes of common worship with people of many faiths...Let all who care for the heritage of Gandhi strive to develop that true tolerance which is based on reverence and friendship. ”

– Horace Alexander

Founded in Jerusalem in 1996 by Rabbi Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, The Elijah Interfaith Institute has become recognized as one of the leading global organizations advancing the cause of interfaith understanding.

Its unique approach to interfaith relations is built on serious academic foundations, coupled with the active engagement of an illustrious Board of World Religious Leaders, who are involved in an ongoing way in educational and public activities organized by Elijah.

Bridging the academic, the spiritual and the communal in a unique way, Elijah has grown from a consortium of academic institutions collaborating on educational programs in Jerusalem to an international representative body, in which all major world religions are equal partners. It brings Jews, Christians and Muslims into dialogue and partnership with Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and others.

Since its inception in Jerusalem, Elijah has expanded into a global network of leaders, drawing deeply from one's own tradition while receiving inspiration from the other.

Elijah functions under the umbrella of UNESCO as a network for the advancement of interreligious study and understanding. It has enjoyed the recognition and support of some of the leading foundations, such as the John Templeton Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Henry Luce Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers, Fetzer Institute and many more. The Center of HOPE will be a culmination of the Elijah Interfaith Institute's vision and achievements.



Hope of the Prophets

The Center of HOPE is envisioned as rising on Prophets Street, one of Jerusalem's most historical locales. The appeal to the Prophets finds expression in the many prophetic quotes that were chosen to decorate the prestigious houses built in the late 19th and early 20th century, lending the street a Biblical spirit.

Prophets Street (in Hebrew, Rehov HaNevi'im) is one of the most symbolically charged streets in all of Jerusalem. It symbolizes bridges and connections - connecting old and new. Rooted in the mid-19th century expansion beyond the Old City walls, this street is adjacent to the Old City and leads to the New.

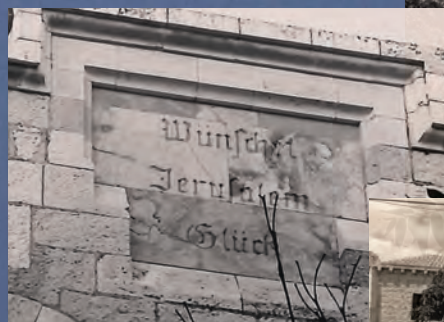
It symbolizes encounter and diversity - then and now. Originally known as the street of the consulates, all major European countries were represented there during the Ottoman era. International diversity was complemented by religious diversity, with multiple faiths operating along the street. It was associated with healing; several hospitals, many religiously motivated, were found along the street. And it was associated with beauty, being at one time Jerusalem's showcase for the finest cosmopolitan architecture of the day. A more humble street today and positioned at the heart of the deepest divides - political and religious - the street beckons us to a testimony of unity, healing and beauty, restoring a former glory, and realizing prophecies long in waiting.



“ *The mission of Jerusalem is to be a place of true knowledge and awe of God and universal peace.* ”

— Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, Olat Re'aya

The actual site of The Center of HOPE on Prophets Street has a unique history. It was the camping ground for Emperor Wilhelm II, during his historic visit to Jerusalem in 1898. The Emperor's visit, including a meeting with Theodor Herzl, was a historic encounter between East and West - joining multiple cultures in a pageant of beauty and regal presence. Plans made at that time for this plot to become a religious-educational center never materialized. Instead, for many years it served as the German Parsonage. Later it housed a technical school. The present idea of a unified religious-educational vision for this site provides one more instance of ancient dreams being realized in the course of time. Suggestively, the Biblical verse that decorates the Parson's home is the key inspiration for The Center of HOPE: **Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.**



At the heart of The Center of HOPE is the courtyard, a site of reflection, encounter and welcome, where the transformative HOPE journey is launched.



Join us on this Inspiring Journey...

There are dreams that have been waiting thousands of years for their realization...

There are promises that continue to inspire us, even though we cannot imagine how they will be realized...

There are hopes, deep in our hearts, that come from a depth that eludes us...

And there is longing for a fulfillment and a peace that transcends the reality of our day-to-day world...

“ *Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates love.* ”

– Lao Tzu

“ *May all living beings be happy. May all living beings be free from ill-will.
May all living beings be free from oppression.
May all living beings be free from trouble.
May all living beings look after themselves with ease.
May all living beings be freed from all suffering and pain.
May all living beings enjoy good fortune.
May all share in the blessings springing from the good all have done.* ”
– Buddhist prayer

“ *The whole world is suffering. We plead to you God,
through Your mercy please protect and save us.
No matter which door or sanctuary or
place of worship we come from...* ”
– Sri Guru Granth Sahib

“ *In the all-holy Truth and in pure Prayer
there is no narrowness and no bitterness,
but only breadth and soft, cooling peace.* ”
– Frithjof Schuon



A PROJECT OF:

“Sharing Wisdom - Fostering Peace”
www.elijah-interfaith.org
admin@elijah-interfaith.org

Design by:
Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership

Rendering Services by:
Windtunnel Design & Visualization

*The Elijah Institute thanks the following
photographers for contributing to this brochure:*
Eitan Simanor, Claudia Henzler, ©Mindrolling International