

The Jaffes of Jerusalem

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A story of the successful aliyah of a Cleveland family.



Miriam Jaffe, her four children and their spouses have all made successful aliyah to Israel. Top row (L to R) Arnold Zucker, David Jaffe, Barbara Jaffe and Daniel Jaffe. Bottom row (L to R) Debby Zucker, Bracha Jaffe, Ruth Jaffe and Miriam Jaffe.

HERB GEDULD Special to the CJN

Arthur Jaffe's lifelong dream of aliyah did not die with him on the tragic Halloween evening of October 1978 when he was murdered at work by still unknown assailants. Jaffe, 51, a Jewish activist, Zionist, president of Taylor Road Synagogue, and a warm, giving, human being was mourned by thousands of Clevelanders whose lives he had touched.

His dream of moving to Israel lived on in his wife, Miriam, and their four children, Daniel, Deborah, David, and Ruth. In the years following his death, the entire family, in stages, has gone on aliyah. The Jaffes, all of whom lead Jewishly observant lives, have successfully achieved *kli-tah*, integration, into Israeli society; all are making positive contributions to both their own and Israel's future.

The home of Miriam Jaffe at 37 Rechov Aza in Jerusalem's Rechavia quarter, which also contains the apartment of her brother-in-law, Dr. Eliezer Jaffe, is a mecca for Jewish Clevelanders who visit Israel.

The aliyah of the Jaffe family actually began with Arthur's brother, Eliezer, who came to Israel to teach social work at the Paul Berwald School of Social Studies at Hebrew University. Eliezer met and married his wife, Rivka, one of his students, in August 1961. They have four grown children.

Eliezer Jaffe has had an illustrious career in social work in Israel. He was on loan to the Jerusalem municipality where he organized their Social Welfare Department. Dr. Jaffe is one of the founders of Zahavi, the Israel Association of Large Families, which has done much to encourage large family growth in Israel. He is also the author of numerous books on social problems in Israel, including *Giving Wisely*, which helps potential donors to Israel direct their funds to worthwhile institutions.

Dr. Jaffe's poignant, personal book entitled *Letters to Yitz*, in which he describes the history of the Jaffe aliyah through letters between himself and his late brother Arthur (Yitzchak), is a classic of Zionist literature. *Letters to Yitz* is required reading in many American Hebrew schools.

Yitz, (the late) Arthur Jaffe, was a founder and leader of the Shomer HaDati-Bnei Akiva religious Zionist youth group in Cleveland and his children followed in his footsteps. The first to settle in Israel was his youngest son, David, now 32, and his wife, Bracha. David came on aliyah in September 1980 and obtained a master's

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degree in biomedical engineering at the Haifa Technion. David is employed in Research and Development at Luz International, a highly successful, American-founded, Jerusalem-based company that produces solar energy devices for the production of electricity.

David's wife, Bracha, has degrees in mathematics and computer sciences. She works at Bar Ilan University in a department computerizing Talmudic literature. David and Bracha and their three children live in Ra'anana, outside of Tel Aviv.

Arthur's eldest son, Daniel, now 35, settled in Jerusalem in April 1982 with his wife, Barbara. A mechanical engineer, Daniel initially worked on the Lavi aircraft. With the demise of the Lavi project, he went to work for Luz International. Luz has installed nine solar energy fields for electric power companies in Southern California, and Daniel Jaffe is vice president in charge of the California operations for Luz. Barbara, who has a master's in public health, has worked at the Hadassah Medical School. The couple has three children.

Arthur Jaffe's daughter Debby, together with her husband, Arnold Zucker, was the third of his children to make aliyah. They arrived in February of 1983. At present the Zuckers and their five children (the last two of which were born in Israel) live in a new home in Ramat Modiin, a settlement



Miriam Jaffe with Meytal, the youngest of her 11 grandchildren in Israel.

just over the green line, south of Jerusalem.

Arnold Zucker works for a software house in Jerusalem and runs in Israel's marathons around the Kinneret and in Tel Aviv. Debby Zucker is a social worker and administrative assistant at Bar Ilan University.

After the aliyah of three of her four children, Miriam Jaffe and her youngest daughter, Ruth, came to Israel for a trial period of one year in August 1983. Miriam went to ulpan (to learn Hebrew) and Ruth attended Orot, a Bnei Akiva seminary. In January 1984, Miriam, a social worker, began working with an agency which deals with disabled children. In 1986 she combined this job with part-time employment at the Hebrew University Paul Berwald School of Social Work as a field instructor for social work students. Two years ago, Arthur Jaffe's widow



Dr. Eliezer Jaffe, first member of the family to settle in Israel permanently, and his niece, Ruth.

achieved the ultimate absorption in Israel by purchasing and driving her own car in Jerusalem traffic.

Ruth, the youngest of Arthur's children, is a student in political science at Bar Ilan University and works part-time as a parliamentary aide to Member of Knesset Benjamin Begin, the son of Menachem Begin. Measuring in under five feet tall, she is known in the Knesset building as the "little American one."

The aliyah of the Jaffe family in Israel has been one of "success, satisfaction and fulfillment," says Miriam Jaffe. Spiritually and socially, the quality of life that she and her family have obtained in Israel is something they feel they never could have achieved in America. Arthur Jaffe's dream of aliyah is complete.