



**BULLETIN  
JERUSALEM  
ROTARY CLUB**

Chartered 1929  
Club #13459 District  
2490

20 May 2020



Club #13459

**Club Officers  
2019-2020**

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Robert Hammer

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R/Mark Mina

P/E Dieter Ziulkowski



**Today's Program - "Jerusalem Day -- 1918"**

Gil Zohar, Author, Journalist and Tour Guide

Born in Toronto, Canada, in 1955, Gil Zohar moved to Jerusalem in 1982. A licensed tour guide, author and journalist, he writes extensively about religion and the Middle East. He is the author of a set of books, "Voices from Israel" and separate volumes, "Israel: Holy Land to Many", and "Culture, Customs and Celebrations in Israel" As a tour guide, he loves to weave together the region's multiple narratives.

Gil's Rotary Talk will focus on the historical circumstances of the British victory in Palestina, A.I. over the Ottoman Turks during World War 1 and the victorious entrance of General Allenby into the Holy City – "Jerusalem Day, 1918"

Jerusalem Day, 2020, commemorating the reunification of the City, will be celebrated this year on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Gil Zohar can be reached at [gilzohar@rogers.com](mailto:gilzohar@rogers.com)

**We have a virtual meeting again using the internet application ZOOM. Please log in as follows:** just before 1:00 pm (1300), of the meeting date, click on the following "Join URL": <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86112105200> or only the numbers [86112105200](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86112105200) in the log-in window of ZOOM

**Upcoming Events**

27 May, 2020 tba

*Foundation Greetings*  
*Foundation Thoughts of the Week*

Again this week, members of our club have no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate. However, let us, together, celebrate that the pandemic in Israel seems to be lessening and further:

Many will know the story of the fish in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. These fish have lived for generations in the dark, so that at last the optic nerve has atrophied and they are quite blind. Similarly Darwin tells us that he lost completely his love of poetry and music, once very strong within him, simply because he ceased to develop it. This is true of all our powers, memory, concentration, capacity for hard work. We must use them or lose them.

We may all be restricted but let us not stop supporting our Foundation. DONATE!



*The President's Corner*

Because of the COVID19 pandemic, Rotary International has cancelled its International Convention, originally scheduled for 6-10 June in Honolulu, Hawaii. Instead, Rotary International will have a FREE virtual convention, from 20-26 June.

There will be General Sessions on the 20th and the 21st at three different times. From the 22nd through the 26th, there will be "breakout" sessions, also at three different times, to accommodate all time zones. Check the My Rotary website for details.

Essentially all of Rotary's activities, not just the International Convention, have gone virtual, because of the disruption of travel, as well as to protect the health of all participants.

Recent years have seen the organization of online "e-clubs," to serve the needs of scattered and highly mobile Rotarians. However, most Rotary clubs have emphasized the weekly face to face meeting. I expect that most Rotarians will be happy to return to this traditional pattern, once the public health situation normalizes.

However, while virtual meetings are a response to an emergency, I submit that they do have a place, in "normal" times; once a month, perhaps. We have experienced meetings with participants from all over the world. One can, for example, envision virtual joint meetings of different Rotary clubs, from within the district and from different countries.

How would you utilize technology to conduct virtual events? **Let us have your feedback.**

Robert Hammer



## *International Toast* – Rotary Club of Calicut, Kerala, India

Three noteworthy historical events that happened on 20 May, the day of our meeting:

**1498** Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama arrives at Calicut in Kerala (South-West India), becoming the first European to reach India by sea. Although the city's official name is Kozhikode, in English it is sometimes known by its anglicised version, *Calicut*. The word *calico*, a fine variety of hand-woven cotton cloth that was exported from the port of Kozhikode, is thought to have been derived from *Calicut*. It is the historical capital of Kerala as the history dates back to 1498 AD when Vasco da Gama landed in Kappad, near Calicut. Kozhikode was the capital of an independent kingdom ruled by the samoothiris (Zamorins) in the Middle Ages and later of the erstwhile Malabar District under British rule. Arab merchants traded with the region as early as 7th century, and Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed at Kozhikode on 20 May 1498, thus opening a trade route between Europe and Malabar. A Portuguese factory and the fort was intact in Kozhikode for short period (1511–1525, until the Fall of Calicut). The English landed in 1615 (constructing a trading post in 1665), followed by the French (1698) and the Dutch (1752). In 1765, Mysore captured Kozhikode as part of its occupation of the Malabar Coast.



Vasco da Gama



Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss



Entrance to the Gotthard Rail Tunnel

**1873** Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis patent the first blue jeans with copper rivets. Levi Strauss was born to an Ashkenazi Jewish family in Buttenheim on February 26, 1829, in the Franconia region of the Kingdom of Bavaria in the German Confederation. He was the son of Hirsch Strauss and his second wife Rebecca. At age 18, Strauss traveled with his mother and two sisters to the United States to join his brothers Jonas and Louis, who had begun a wholesale dry goods business in New York City called J. Strauss Brother & Co. The family decided to open a West Coast branch of their dry goods business in San Francisco, which was the commercial hub of the California Gold Rush. Levi was chosen to represent them, and he took a steamship for San Francisco, where he arrived in early March 1854 and joined his sister's family. Strauss opened his wholesale business as Levi Strauss & Co. and imported fine dry goods from his brothers in New York, including clothing, bedding, combs, purses, and handkerchiefs. He made tents and later jeans while he lived. Jacob W. Davis was one of his customers and one of the inventors of riveted denim pants in 1871, and he went into business with Strauss to produce blue jeans. The two men patented the new style of work pants in 1873.

**1882** Gotthard rail tunnel between Switzerland & Italy opens. The Gotthard Tunnel is an approximately 15-kilometre-long (9.3 mi) railway tunnel and forms the summit of the Gotthard Railway in Switzerland. It connects Göschenen with Airolo and was the first tunnel through the Saint-Gotthard Massif in order to bypass the St Gotthard Pass. It is built as one double-track, standard gauge tunnel. When opened in 1882, the Gotthard Tunnel was the longest tunnel in the world. The tunnel rises from the northern portal at Göschenen (1,106 m (3,629 ft)) and the highest point (1,151 m (3,776 ft)) is reached after approximately 8 kilometres (5.0 mi). After two more kilometers, the border between the cantons of Uri and Ticino is passed; after another 5 kilometres (3.1 mi), the

tunnel ends at the southern portal near to Airolo (1,142 m (3,747 ft)). The trip takes about seven to eight minutes by train. Services are operated by the Swiss Federal Railways.

Today we are toasting the Rotary Club of Calicut in India on the arrival of Vasco da Gama on 20 May 1498. The first European to arrive by sea to an existing town and area with a very long history. The Rotary Club of Calicut was instituted in the year 1949 and was the first club in the region of Malabar. Calicut has 13 Rotary Clubs, with another 8 in surrounding towns.

Dieter Ziulkowski

 *Some other news*

Times have changed, contributed by Carry:



The participants of last week's ZOOM meeting, courtesy of Eli:





## *One of our projects, past and present*

From the Rotary Year 2019 – 2020:

**Tenufa Bakehila** is Israel's largest non-profit home repair organization for the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged. For over 25 years, it has fixed leaky roofs, hazardous wiring, mould walls and more, for over 4,500 poverty stricken families. The repairs not only improve quality of life, but in many instances by dealing with unsafe and unsanitary conditions have kept families together; avoiding the need for Social Services to remove children and grandchildren from the unsafe family home. Letters have been sent to those clubs in or near the communities in which the organization operates, recommending their support but to date no responses have been received. The JRC will support the activities of Tenufa Bakehila in Jerusalem.



**The Jerusalem Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. (13.00) at the Jerusalem International YMCA on King David Street. On the last Wednesday of every month it meets in the evening at 7 p.m. (19.00). NIS75 covers lunch/dinner, the Rotary program and a presentation by selected speakers. Kosher meals can be ordered until 90 minutes before the start of the meeting, by sending a message to our secretary 054-4295680. Visiting Rotarians and visitors are welcome.**