AIAR Newsletters

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AIAR NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Friends,

September marks the start of our fall semester, and the Albright is once again full of energy. We are delighted to welcome our new cohort of fellows for the 2026–2027 academic year, and especially two fellows arriving in September who represent the Albright's full chronological span: Blair Heidkamp (University of Texas at Austin) as our Meyers Dissertation Fellow researching projectile points in Neolithic Levant, and Prof Benjamin Saidel (East Carolina University) as one of our Gitin Professors researching the archaeology of an Ottoman and British Mandate tent camp.

We are also pleased to announce that applications are now open for our 2027–2028 fellowships. Please share this opportunity widely among colleagues and students, we would love to see a strong field of applicants.

Finally, as we enter the Jewish High Holidays this month, I wish a Shanah Tovah to all who are celebrating Rosh Hashanah, and an easy fast and g'mar chatimah tovah to those observing Yom Kippur.

With warm wishes,

Jamie Fraser
Dorot Director W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research

Message from the Dorot Director

Summer dinner for fellows and residents. Photo by Jamie Fraser.

Upcoming Events

2026 Fall Lecture Program

Our fall lecture season opens this month, and we hope you can join us in person or on Zoom. All lectures begin at **5pm Jerusalem time**, with a reception at **6pm**.

Download the Fall 2026 Program (PDF)

September

SEP
16
WED

James Fraser

Albright Institute, Dorot Director

The Site That Broke the Clock: Radiocarbon Dating, Pottery, and Rewriting the Early Bronze Age “Collapse” in Jordan

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 826 4093 6072 | Passcode: 245194

SEP
23
WED

Dieter Vieweger

DEI Jerusalem & Amman

The Wondrous Phenomenon of the Artesian Spring: New Excavations at Tall Zirāʿa

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 899 0284 6433 | Passcode: 972810

SEP
30
WED

Luca Brancazi

Albright Institute, Marcia and Oded Borowski/George A. Barton Research Fellow; Sapienza University

Current Research on the Holy Sepulchre and Faunal Remains

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 810 4554 9308 | Passcode: 009497

October

OCT
14
WED

Alon Arad

Emek Shaveh

Antiquities, Ruins, and Destruction: International Law and Israeli Archaeology

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 831 1243 5085 | Passcode: 974287

OCT
28
WED

Federica Broilo

Albright Institute, Annual Associate Fellow

A Taste of the Holy Land? Exploring Travel and Hospitality in Early Nineteenth Century Ottoman Palestine

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 883 6144 7977 | Passcode: 946167

November

NOV
11
WED

Lorenzo Nigro

Albright Institute, Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professor; Sapienza University

Jericho, the Biblical Bias, and Historically Founded Archaeology

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 870 1461 0106 | Passcode: 600525

NOV
25
WED

Blair Heidkamp

Albright Institute, Carol and Eric Meyers Doctoral Dissertation Fellow; University of Texas at Austin

Hunting at the Edge: The Role of Kites and Projectile Points at the Close of the Neolithic

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 874 4200 7780 | Passcode: 477782

December

DEC
9
WED

Lorenzo Nigro

Albright Institute, Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professor; Sapienza University

Urban Origins in the Southern Levant as Seen from Jericho and Batrawy

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 872 1644 0490 | Passcode: 815139

DEC
16
WED

The Albright Institute Dorot Director and Staff

A Year in Review

Join on Zoom

Webinar ID: 874 1738 8682 | Passcode: 132839

Join us in Jerusalem or online.
Lectures are given in person at the Albright Institute and streamed live over Zoom. Subscribe to receive Zoom invitations and event updates.

Subscribe for Lecture Updates

Fellowships

2027–2028 Fellowship Applications Now Open

Applications are now open for the Albright's **2027–2028 fellowships**. Opportunities include:

Fellowship Opportunities

Lydie T. Shufro Summer Research Fellowship

A one-month summer award open to doctoral, post-doctoral, and senior scholars of all nationalities.

Carol and Eric Meyers Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

A four-month award for US citizen doctoral students, with preference for research on archaeology and society at the household level.

Marcia and Oded Borowski/Barton Research Fellowship

A four-month award open to doctoral students and recent PhDs (within five years of the degree) of all nationalities.

Seymour Gitin Junior Fellowship

A four-month award open to doctoral students and recent PhDs (within five years of the degree) of all nationalities.

Ernest S. Frerichs Annual Professorship

A four-month award for post-doctoral scholars of any nationality, who also mentor junior fellows and support community programming.

Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professorship

A four-month award for internationally recognized senior scholars of all nationalities.

Applications close in early December.
Full eligibility details and application instructions are available at **aiar.org/fellowships** .

View Fellowship Details

In the News

Huqoq's "Dazzling Mosaic" Featured in Haaretz

Haaretz published a feature on the exhibition of the Huqoq synagogue excavation, interviewing Albright Trustee Prof. Jodi Magness and highlighting the Institute's partnership with the US Embassy and the US Department of State on the Galilee Heritage Project. Read "A 1,600 Year Old Village, a Dazzling Mosaic, and a New Story of Ancient Judaism" **here**.

A 1,600-year-old Village, a Dazzling Mosaic and a New Story of Ancient Judaism

Samson at the Gates of Gaza, from the exhibition "Secrets of Huqoq" – the only original find from the site currently on display to the public. Credit: Gil Eliyahu

An exhibition near the Sea of Galilee offers a glimpse of Huqoq, the ancient village uncovered in 2011 that has archaeology enthusiasts enthralled. What does its spectacular mosaic reveal about Galilean Judaism – and when will the public finally get to see it?

Moshe Gilad

Progress Updates on Our Grants

We continue to make strides on our two-year, $1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of State through ECA's Cultural Heritage Center and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem:

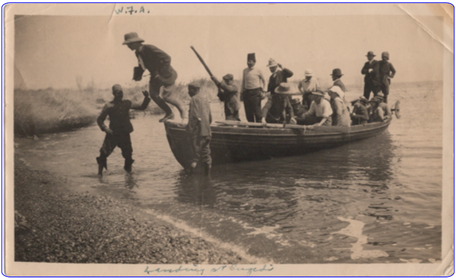
Galilee Heritage Project

Project Manager Shua Kisilevitz reports that, over the past month, conservation work is now fully underway. Stay tuned to the newsletter to find out more. Visit the **project website** for more on the excavation, and watch a **short video** about the project.

250
UNITED STATES EMBASSY
JERUSALEM
Judeo-Christian Heritage in the Galilee Project
Funded by the U.S. Department of State through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Cultural Heritage Center, and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

The Albright Family Archive

Project Conservator Alejandra Sanchez is working to conserve, preserve, transcribe, digitize and upload the recently acquired Albright Family Archive.



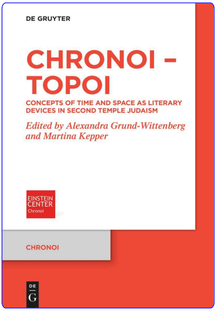
"Landing at Engedi." © Albright Family Archive.

This photograph captures William Foxwell Albright jumping from a boat as he arrives with a group on the shore of Ein Gedi, on the western shore of the Dead Sea. The handwritten inscription, "Landing at Engedi," offers a glimpse into the original context in which the photograph was kept. Beyond documenting a moment in the field, the image reflects the practical realities of archaeological travel in the early twentieth century, when reaching remote sites could be an expedition in itself. Preserved as part of the Albright Family Archive, currently undergoing conservation treatment, the photograph offers an intimate glimpse not only into Albright's archaeological work, but also into the journeys that surrounded it.

News from the Library

New Acquisition: *Chronoi – Topoi*

The library has received a donation of ***Chronoi – Topoi: Concepts of Time and Space as Literary Devices in Second Temple Judaism***, edited by Alexandra Grund-Wittenberg and Martina Kepper (De Gruyter, 2026). The volume was donated by Moritz F. Adam, who contributed the article, **"Ambiguous Spaces and Timeless Ideas: On the Openness of Time and Space in the Book of Ecclesiastes,"** while he was a fellow at the Albright Institute.


DE GRUYTER

CHRONOI – TOPOI

CONCEPTS OF TIME AND SPACE AS LITERARY DEVICES IN SECOND TEMPLE JUDAISM

Edited by Alexandra Grund-Wittenberg and Martina Kepper

EINSTEIN CENTER
Chronoi

CHRONOI

DE G

Visitors Welcome

Over the past month, the Albright Institute Library has welcomed a number of visitors from outside the Institute, including academics and students from both local and international institutions. It has been wonderful to see researchers making use of the library's collections and resources. Researchers and students interested in visiting the library are welcome to email **library@aiar.org** or submit a Visit Request Form through the Albright Institute website.

Staff Spotlight

Each month we spotlight a member of the Albright team. This month, meet **Laura Rheintgen**, who joined us in June.

Laura Rheintgen

Albright Institute

Based in the United States, Laura grew up in the Washington, D.C. area and spent time living in Europe and the Middle East during her youth. She returned to D.C. for college and graduate school, earning degrees in international relations.

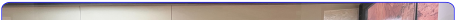
Laura brings more than 30 years of nonprofit development experience to our team. Her background includes work with public policy organizations such as the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), as well as cultural institutions like the National Women's History Museum and the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

Laura will be visiting the team in Jerusalem in mid-September. Outside of work, she enjoys yoga, hiking, and traveling with her husband, Steve. Her daughter is currently living in Italy for graduate school.

In Memoriam

Konstantinos "Dino" Politis

We are saddened to share the news that Konstantinos "Dino" Politis, archaeologist and longtime friend of the Albright community, died on August 11, aged 67, after a stroke. Dino spent nearly four decades excavating and protecting the archaeology of Jordan's Dead Sea shore, most notably at the Sanctuary of Lot at Deir 'Ain 'Abata, and went on to found the Museum at the Lowest Place on Earth to keep those discoveries in the landscape from which they came. He will be deeply missed. Dorot Director Jamie Fraser represented the Albright at Dino's funeral at Chalkida in Greece on August 17.



غور المزرعة 2000
Ghawr al-Mazra'a 2000

Dino Politis giving a tour of the Museum at the Lowest Place on Earth to Albright Fellows in February 2025. Photo by Jamie Fraser.

Support the Albright

The Omar and Hisham Jibreen Kitchen Campaign

Two names, one kitchen, eight decades of service. We're honoring the extraordinary legacy of Omar and Hisham Jibreen, uncle and nephew, whose combined dedication shaped the Albright's kitchen and table for generations, by naming the kitchen in their memory. With Hisham's son Daoud now carrying the tradition into a third generation, this campaign is both a tribute and a continuation. To learn more about their legacy, view some photos, and to support the campaign, use the link below.

Support the Campaign →

Centennial Paving Stone

Leave your name, or honor someone else's, on the Albright's campus for generations to come. For $250, you can purchase a named paving stone, placed along our pathway of supporters on the Institute's grounds. It's a small gesture with lasting presence: every stone tells a story of someone who helped carry the Albright into its next century. All donations are tax-deductible in the US.

Purchase a Paving Stone →

Get Involved at the Albright

Interested in a larger gift, a named fellowship or staff position, a campus naming opportunity, or a legacy gift to secure the Albright's future? We'd love to talk. Reach out directly to Dorot Director Jamie Fraser (**jamesfraser@aiar.org**) or Director of Philanthropy Laura Rheintgen (**laurar@aiar.org**) to discuss what's possible.

General Donations

You can make a difference. Every gift, large or small, helps sustain the Albright's mission in Jerusalem.

Donate Here

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