

Jewish National Fund Blazes Roads Through Israel's Galilee



Jewish National Fund tractor and bulldozer team cutting a road through Israel's Galilee. Such activities are crucial to developing industry, agriculture, and population centers in the rocky, hilly northern region.

The Jewish National Fund's road-building activities are the key to Israel's northern Galilee's development as a new industrial, agricultural, and population center.

This is especially true in regard to the mitzpim, hilltop outposts located on rugged, hilly terrain far from larger communities. Many of these mini-villages, which safeguard the entire region, obtain a livelihood from locally-established high-tech enterprises. Responsibility for blazing roads between the mitzpim, local industries, and regional population centers falls upon JNF, the organization responsible for afforestation and land reclamation in Israel.

A striking, recent example of JNF's road-blazing was recently displayed at Mitzpe Halutz, in the central Galilee's Tefen Ranges, near Ma'alot. Thirty young pioneering families, immigrants from the U.S., decided to establish the mitzpe on Mt. Halutz, some 2,400 feet above sea level, in an area where no previous Jewish community existed. Creation of the mitzpe would not be possible without a JNF-built road to the summit, cut 45 feet into the hillside to protect the local topography from soil erosion. JNF tractors precariously perched on the edge of gaping ravines, scraping at boulders. The road was built according to an architectural design, and after engineering was completed, bare terraces were covered with trucked-in soil and fresh vegetation.

JNF completed building a similar road to Mitzpe Ashar, just south of Mt. Halutz in the Galilee's Segev Region. The organization also performed impressive engineering feats here, as Ashar's houses also huddle a hilltop. Since JNF completed work here, Ashar has become the geographical focal point of the Segev Region, offering a soaring view over some 15 communities established here in the last eight years.

JNF engineers were presented with yet a greater challenge in building a road connecting Mt. Halutz along the escarpment to nearby

Tzurim, according to Yehuda Gazit, a road builder with JNF's Land Development Authority. About 450,000 cubic feet of rock were excavated from the hillside to make way for the road, which traverses a ridge falling 1,200 feet. The road is planned as part of a major route running parallel to the coastal highway.

While recent roads cut west to east along the Galilee's highways, future roads will climb from the valley's floors south to north, also connecting isolated mitzpim to long-established communities. These roads are crucial links in JNF's development of the Galilee, an area rich in Jewish history.



Jewish artist Millie Schofield painting at *The Boulevard*.

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Texas, **Steve Lee**, wild birds
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Wash., **Millie Schofield**, Jewish art
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Ariz., **John Walker** Indians
Ecuador, **Toapanta**, carved oils
Utah, **Steve Spector**, caricatures
Colo., **Trish Williams**, Indian pottery

WASHINGTON (WNS) — The State Department said that it was not warning Americans not to travel to Israel. "No travel advisory has been issued as a result of the recent incidents and no such travel advisory is being contemplated," Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said.


The Boulevard Mall
 Maryland Parkway at Desert Inn