

Fulbright-Albright Anniversary Event February 8, 2026 | Jerusalem

Celebrating American and Israeli contributions to archaeology



9:30 AM – 10:00 | Arrival & Coffee

10:00 AM – 10:30 | Opening Session

Welcome remarks from

[Dr. Anat Lapidot-Firilla](#), Executive Director, Fulbright Israel

[Dr. James Fraser](#), Dorot Director, W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research

[Joëlle Uzarski](#), Senior Public Engagement Officer, U.S. Embassy

[Sarah O'Sullivan](#), NEA Branch Chief, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

10:30 – 12:00 | "Talking Academia" – Debates in Archaeology Today

Moderated by [Dr. Avner Ecker](#)

Widening the Edges: Israeli Archaeological Work across Central and East Asia

[Professor Gideon Shelach-Lavi](#) and [Professor Michael Shenkar](#)

Looking at Jerusalem from Two Directions

[Dr. Yiftah Shalev](#) and [Professor Andrea M. Berlin](#)

Does archaeology disprove the Bible?

[Professor Ze'ev Herzog](#) and [Professor Erez Ben-Yosef](#)

12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch

13:00 – 14:30 | Current Research

[Dr. Simeon Ehrlich](#) (moderator) *The Cemetery Vineyard at Ashkelon*

[Professor Dalit Rom-Shiloni](#), *Beta Israel Biblical Scriptures: Discovering Hidden Texts, Hidden Stories behind Scribal Traditions*

[Dr. Peter Zilberg](#), *How to Deal with Calamity in Antiquity: The Case of the Diviner's Archive from Idumean Maresha*

[Nurith Goshen](#), *The Afterlife of Things: Thing-Power Between Research and Display*

[Dr. Vered Eshed](#), *Human Anatomy and Physical Anthropology as an Auxiliary Force for Archaeological Research*

[Dr. David Gurevich](#), *Elite Comfort and Cultural Transfer: Private Roman Hot-Bathing in Jewish Jerusalem*

[Professor Assaf Yasur-Landau](#), *Canaanites, Philistines and Phoenicians in the 21st century*

14:30 – 15:00 | Coffee Break

15:00 – 15:45 | Keynote Address

Shared Pasts, Shared Futures: The IAA and American Archaeologists in Israel

[Dr. Debora Sandhaus](#) interviewed by [Professor Andrea M. Berlin](#)

*Available on Zoom for our American audience

16:00 – 17:30: Evening Reception with Wine and Refreshments

Address by

[The Honorable Mike Huckabee](#), United States Ambassador to Israel

Closing remarks by

[Dr. Avner Ecker](#)

