

Anglo *Olim* Reps Tour Binyamin Area

Representatives of four groups representing Anglo *olim* have been visiting out-of-town areas in Eretz Yisrael to see firsthand the potential for settlement there. This past Thursday, they were at it again, this time as guests of the Binyamin Regional Council, where they toured Ganei Modiin, Tel Tzion and Adam.

The Binyamin region offers opportunities to live in the center of the country — in close proximity to Yerushalayim or Modiin Illit — with beautiful pastoral views, at relatively affordable prices.

“There are places with relatively large populations, including *chareidi*, very close to Yerushalayim yet much more affordable, where all of what Yerushalayim has to offer (*chinuch*, shopping, etc.) is readily accessible — including by cheap and readily available public transportation — while a satisfactory level of infrastructure may exist locally as well,” commented Rabbi Yoel Berman, of the organization Avira D’Eretz Yisroel, adding that “new roads planned and future growth may turn some of these *yishuvim* into an extension of Yerushalayim.”

As for why some of these locations are lesser known among the *chareidi tzibbur*, both mainstream Israeli and Anglo, tour participant Avraham Shusteris noted that “most of the *yishuvim* in Binyamin identify with the national religious *tzibbur*. However, some of these *yishuvim* are either *chareidi* or *mitchareid* with a growing *chareidi* minority.”

In fact, Rabbi Berman comments that the three locations in Binyamin may prove to be even more suitable



A general view of Tel Tzion

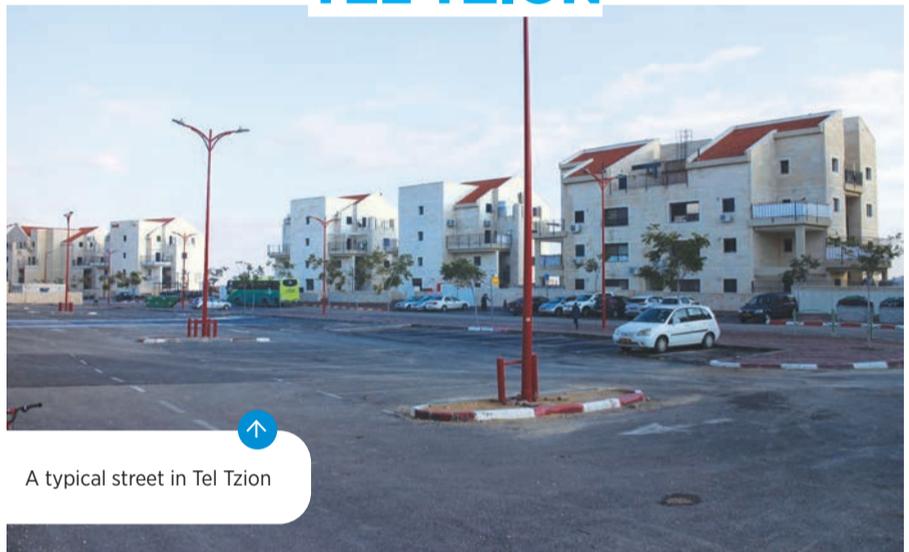
TEL TZION

for American *olim* than the standard options.

“These are places where all shades of *chareidim* get along, while each still maintains their unique culture, and even though these places are considered *chareidi*, some of their population seems more similar in certain aspects of their lifestyle, such as *chinuch*, to *chareidi kehillos* abroad.”

Another advantage over more established American bubble-like communities is that integration into Israeli society happens more quickly.

“From my own experience at the *cheder*, young children of *olim* can be absorbed with relative comfort and speed into an Israeli *chinuch* system — including those who don’t know any Hebrew at arrival,” commented the *menahel* of Talmud Torah Chashmona’im of Ganei Modiin.



A typical street in Tel Tzion



In this view of Ganei Modiin, new construction can be seen on the hillside behind the park.

GANEI MODIIN



Children in the *cheder* of Ganei Modiin

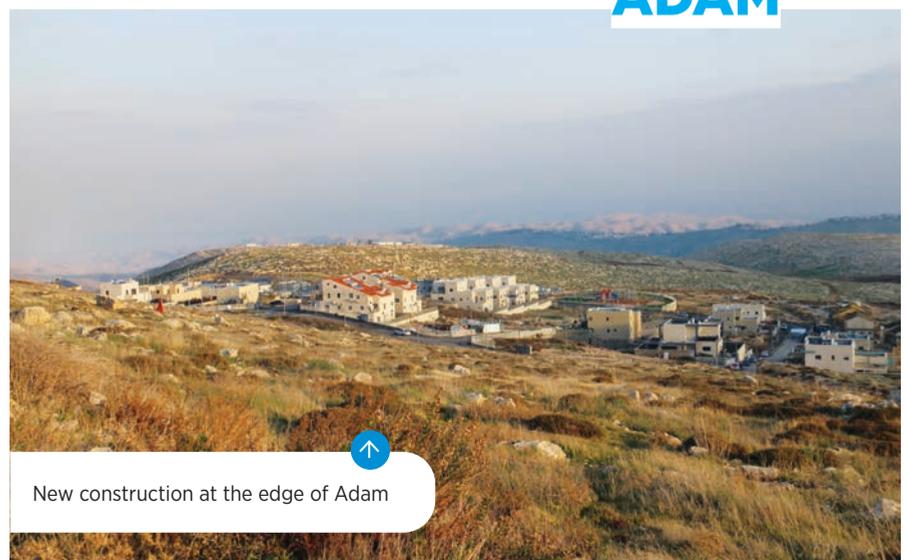


The entrance to Adam

ADAM



Children playing at the *cheder* as the city planner (L) has a conversation with the *menahel* (R).



New construction at the edge of Adam