



## THE CONSORTIUM FOR THE BETHSAIDA EXCAVATIONS PROJECT Updated 2018

### *I. The History of the Project*

The Consortium of the Bethsaida Excavations Project (CBEP) was organized in 1991, housed by the University of Nebraska at Omaha until 2016 and now in the Hebrew Union College Jerusalem, Israel (HUC).

The Consortium maintains a pottery restoration lab at the HUC. The storage rooms contain the excavation material which has not yet been published. Published artifacts were shifted to Israel Antiquities Authority.

### *II. The Consortium's Research Objectives*

Our mission is to excavate the ancient city of Bethsaida, research the remains and finds, increase knowledge of the past, and disseminate the results to both academic and popular audiences.

The Bethsaida Excavation Project (BEP) is an interactive, educational and multidisciplinary research project which involves historical, social and hard sciences alike. The research involves the following disciplines:

- Archaeology, specialized in the Southern Levant and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Greco- Roman archaeologists, Roman Provincial archaeologists, maritime archaeologists, numismatics, ancient glass experts, pottery experts, ancient glyptic art experts, lithic experts, and epigraphers.
- Geology, Geography, geomorphology, geophysics, chemistry, physics, carbon 14 analysis and other branches of archaeometry
- Historians specialized in the Ancient Near East, Ancient Greece and Rome, ancient Judaism, Biblical scholars.
- Zooarchaeologists and archaeobotanists
- Architects and draughtsman
- Restoration, preservation and reconstruction experts
- Computer science experts
- Photographers and artists

### *III. Educational Program*

The CBEP provides an interactive educational program within the excavation project. The program is built on units of two-week excavation sessions. Most seasons begin in the month of May and end in early July. The daily schedule of each session includes the following:

- 5:30 departure base camp to the site
- 9:00-9:40 breakfast
- 11:00 – 11:15 break
- 12:30 – return to the base camp
- 1:00 lunch
- 4:00– 7:00 lab works, sorting, cataloguing and studying the finds
- 7:00 – 8:00 dinner
- 8:00 – 9:00 lecture

#### *Work Stations at the dig*

Students participating in the educational program learn the skills of field archaeology and assume to take part in the work stations assigned at the dig. The Work Stations are as follows:

- Excavation loci, students learn how to excavate at the assigned loci.
- Surveying Station, students learn how to operate surveying equipment and help surveying.
- Field Diary, Students learn how to record and maintain a Field Diary.
- Technical Section drawing, students learn how to draw sections and ground plans.
- Photography, students learn elements of archaeological photography.
- Conservations, students learn elements of conservations.
- Preparing finds for analysis that includes cleaning of the finds and initial sorting.
- Sorting, classifying, recording and cataloguing finds, students learn elements in pottery analysis.

#### *Lodging*

For the 2018 excavation season, the expedition is housed at Kibbutz Gadot. Each room is equipped with air-conditioning. Free WiFi is available in the rooms. Visit Gadot web site:

<http://en.gadot-lodging.co.il/ViewPage.asp?pagesCatID=13510&siteName=gadotlen>

The educational program fees include room and full board, and trip transportation from the Kibbutz to the site each working day. Weekend field trips are offered at an extra cost.

#### IV. *The CBEP Financial Support*

Funding for CBEP derives from the following resources:

- Consortium membership fees
- Students and volunteers participation fees
- Private and public donors
- Fund raising drives
- Scholarships and grants

The CBEP encourages its members to solicit financial support for the project and to establish a fund in each institution.

#### V. *Co-Directors*

A Co-Director is a faculty member officially representing an educational institution and whose university has paid the Consortium fee for that calendar year. Co-Directors and staff correspond through the Excavation Director or directly to one another regarding evaluating excavation matters. Co-Directors should consult and take decisions together with the Excavation Director. Each Co-Director is responsible for raising his/her own funds and groups. CBEP encourages members to establish their own budgets for the Project at various institutions for the purpose of faculty or student research. Each Co-director is responsible for disseminating the information for the summer excavations and may participate in planned academic seminars at the regional, national, or international conferences planned by the CBEP.

1. Membership in the CBEP is \$2,500 per calendar year per institution. This membership entitles the representatives of the member institution to participate in the annual meeting and to discuss any relevant ideas they have and to share any concerns they may have.
2. Membership in this consortium is an affiliation of institutions and scholars whose shared interest is in the Bethsaida Excavation Project.
3. For informational purposes, physical finds are the property of the State of Israel and the Intellectual Properties are the properties of the Director of BEP.
4. Membership does not infer any ownership interest, nor any rights to any directing or co-directing of BEP.
5. Faculty who arrange a group of eight students (or more) have their room and board paid for by the CBEP.
6. Members Representatives Directors, are encouraged to publish the finds of the dig, but in coordination with the Director of the excavation.
7. Membership in the CBEP entitles a full access to Bethsaida databases, including the digital database ArchBang, manual field diaries, reports, maps, ground plans, and

Photographs.

8. The member institution and its representatives will appear in all CBEP publications produced by the CBEP.

#### *VI. CBEP Annual Meetings*

Consortium members and associated staff meet every November at the Clifton Batchelder Conference for Biblical Archaeology, at UNO or wherever they meet. Scholars discuss and present the research and finds of the previous season and plan for next year's excavation.

#### *CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AND CO-DIRECTORS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY MEMBER, CLASS OF 2016*

Dr. Carl Savage  
Drew University

Prof. Dr. Heinz-Wolfgang Kuhn  
Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich

Dr. Gillian Asquith  
Melbourne School of Theology

Dr. Patrick Russell  
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

Dr. Gregory Jenks  
St. George's College Jerusalem

Dr. Richard Freund  
University of Hartford

Dr. Rami Arav  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dr. Jerome Hall  
University of San Diego

Dr. Miriam Belmaker  
University of Tulsa

Dr. Walter Bouzard  
Wartburg College IA

#### *VII. Conferences*

- The Clifton Batchelder Fund sponsors an annual conference for Archaeology and Biblical Studies. The conference meets at UNO during the Fall semester. The CBEP encourages its members to present papers at the conference.
- The CBEP encourages its members to arrange sessions in the regional, national and international meeting of SBL, ASOR or AIA.

VIII. *Publications*

For a list of publication by CBEP and associates, please visit:

<https://bethsaidaarchaeology.org/publications/>

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