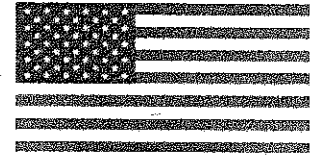


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Photographs of Israel at the Derfner Judaica Museum

By **PAULETTE SCHNEIDER**

"Some Things Seen in Israel," an exhibition of photographs by Burt Allen Solomon, is on view at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale's Derfner Judaica Museum. The works were mounted this month to mark the State of Israel's 65th anniversary.

The 42 black-and-white photos capture moments of ordinary life, mainly in the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, over a period of 40 years. Solomon, with no political agenda, documented scenes for their subject matter, light and composition during several visits to Israel starting in 1968, right after an El Al plane was hijacked.

The frames containing people are suffused with somber moods—a wary crowd boarding a bus, passengers seated and standing in silence, three patrons in a starkly furnished bar, a circle of men handling tobacco, elderly men in an alley, shepherds with their charges, parents shopping with their son, even a few urban children at play—not a smile in sight.

One exception is a shot from 1974—lively youngsters in Tsefat think the photographer is filming them for TV, so they laugh and wave to the camera, calling out "Televiziah!" Another is a scene from

Tel Aviv in 2004—the younger of two construction workers concentrates on a task while the older one watches, grinning.

Several images depict contemporary structures juxtaposed with ancient ones.

"I have certainly been conscious of the contrast of the 'old' and the 'new' throughout the country ever since my first visit, when my older cousin Shlomo Shpiegel and I walked the streets of Netanya, which he had helped to found," Solomon told Derfner director Susan Chevlowe in an interview published as a brochure.

"He pointed out to me what was 'yashan' (old) and what was 'hadash' (new). At least subconsciously, I was aware of the 'hadash' and the 'yashan' whenever I aimed my camera to shoot."

Solomon, a New York attorney, was born in 1944 and lives in South Orange, New Jersey. He was introduced to photography as a teen in Brooklyn, where his father, a printer by profession, had created a darkroom in the corner of the garage.

His photographs have been on exhibition at the Framing Mill Gallery in Maplewood, New Jersey, and in Vladeck Gallery at the Amalgamated Houses in The Bronx.

The exhibition is open through July 28.

Museum hours are 10:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. from Sunday through Thursday. The Hebrew Home at Riverdale is at 5901 Palisade Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10471.



Tel Aviv 1974. (Copyright BA Solomon)