

# 2025

DONOR  
IMPACT  
REPORT



## STEVAN B. DANA PROJECT GRANTS





# 2025 DONOR IMPACT SUMMARY

**\$30,000**

**6 grants  
awarded**

- **Silvia Amicone**, University of Tübingen, “ReLand Project” Iraq
- **Zachary Dunseth**, University of California San Diego, “Early Desert Cities: An Investigation into 3rd Millennium BCE Urbanism at Tel Arad at the Macro- and Microscales” Israel
- **Gregg Gardner**, University of British Columbia, **Orit Peleg-Barkat**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, “The Horvat Midras (Israel) Archaeological Project” Israel
- **Kathryn Gleason**, Cornell University, and **Barbara Burrell**, University of Cincinnati, “Promontory Palace Project at Caesarea Maritima” Israel
- **Kathryn Grossman**, North Carolina State University, “Makounta-Voules Archaeological Project” Cyprus
- **Elise Laugier**, Utah State University, “Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey” Iraq



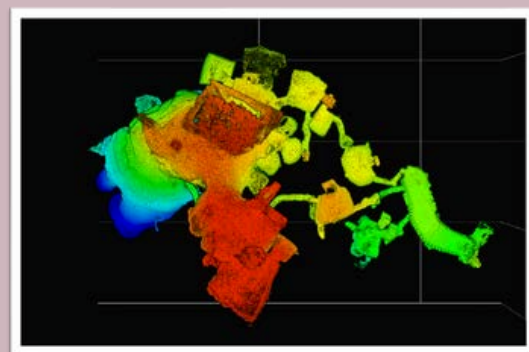
# GREGG GARDNER AND ORIT PELEG-BARKAT

## The Horvat Midras Archeological Project, Israel



Orthophoto of the Roman temple in Area A at the end of 2022 season (Photo: T. Rogovski)

"This project marks the first comprehensive use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology to document underground installations in the Judean foothills. ASOR's support was instrumental, allowing us to develop non-invasive geophysical methods in regional archaeology and advance both site-specific knowledge and broader archaeological methodology."



LiDAR surveys of Cave 20, Horvat Midras

Hebrew  
University of  
Jerusalem  
&  
University of  
British  
Columbia



An aerial view of the pyramidal funerary monument and the opening of the collapsed burial cave to its north, looking west (Photo: T. Rogovski)

The implementation of the new methodologies allowed us to calculate volume of the narrowburrows that were the main addition to the underground installations that turned them into hiding complexes, thus enabling us to evaluate work and effort invested in these endeavours.



# KATHRYN GLEASON AND BARBARA BURRELL

## Promontory Palace Project at Caesarea Maritima, Israel

"We are grateful to Stevan B. Dana and ASOR for their grant; it will be crucial in publishing our glass finds, both in our final report volumes in the ASOR Archaeological reports series, and in our open access database, for use of scholars in the future."



Aerial view of the Promontory Palace, July 2013.

The Promontory Palace on the coast of Israel has been identified as the palace of King Herod the Great, an architecturally extraordinary building he had had built into the bedrock within a reef in the surf of the Mediterranean to serve as his residence in the harbor-city he founded, Caesarea on the port Sebastos.

Among the most notable and numerous of our finds in this building were thousands of pieces of glass. This stretch of Israel's coast is thought to be one of the most fertile points of innovation in ancient glass making, so our finds should offer powerful insights into the development of glass making technologies as well as use of glass during the Roman and early Byzantine periods.



Dr. Lisa Kahn studying the glass vessels from the Promontory Palace.

University of  
Cincinnati  
&  
Cornell  
University

## Excavating a Chalcolithic Cemetery

Makounta-Voules Archaeological Project, Cyprus  
North Carolina State University

"We have not yet completed excavations in the cemetery, but the results of the work at Makounta-Voules-Mersinoudia, supported by ASOR's Dana Grant in 2025, have given us valuable preliminary information about a new Chalcolithic cemetery on Cyprus.

During June and July of 2025, we began the first systematic exploration of this cemetery. The cemetery comprises a series of rock-cut shafts, bell-shaped pits, and other modifications to the bedrock, cut into a ridge running roughly north-south. During the 2025 season, we excavated eight of these cuts in the bedrock."



Dentalium shell beads from one of the tombs at Makounta-Voules-Mersinoudia.



Apertures for prehistoric rock cut tombs at Makounta-Voules-Mersinoudia.

"With support from the Steven B. Dana Project Grant, we were able to bring two specialists to Cyprus to assist in the excavation of these tombs. Dr. Maureen Marshall oversaw and assisted with the excavation of the human skeletal remains from our 2025 excavations.

Dr. Melissa Cradic advised us on our excavation strategy at the beginning of the season, helping to craft a uniform practice for the whole cemetery that would maximize our data recovery."



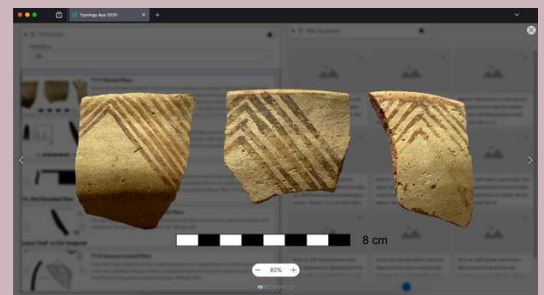
# ELISE LAUGIER

## Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey, Iraq



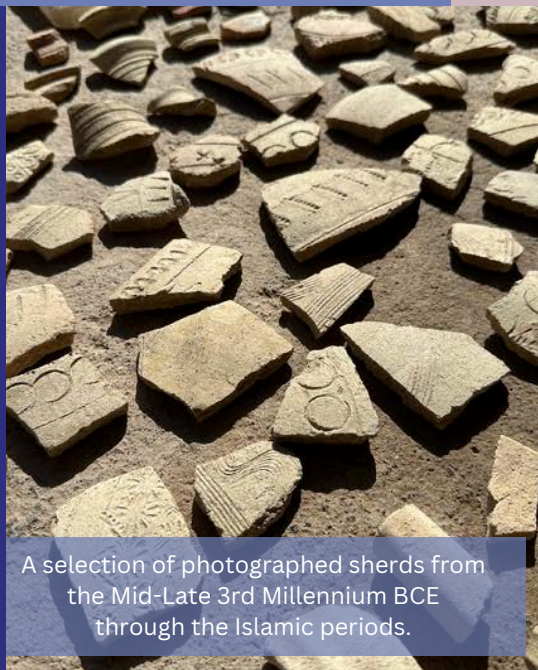
Drone image of the Erbil Plain near EPAS site 761, showing ongoing agricultural activity and landscape development. Image courtesy the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS).

With support from ASOR's Stevan B. Dana Grant, our 2025 season focused on expanding and completing the image database that underpins this ceramic typology. Working at the Museum at Erbil Directorate of Antiquities, the team processed and added dozens of images from early phases (Proto-Hassuna through Ninevite 5) to the existing ArcGIS Online mobile application.



Example of the desktop EPAS Ceramic Typology interface, displaying color images and descriptive text of Hassuna Period painted sherds.

# Utah State University



A selection of photographed sherds from the Mid-Late 3rd Millennium BCE through the Islamic periods.

"We thank ASOR and the Stevan B. Dana Grant for its generous support in helping us transform a decade of research into a shared resource for the archaeological and heritage communities of the Erbil Plain and beyond."

# Lifetime Donor Summary Impact



# \$70,000

Money  
awarded  
over the  
years

# 14

Total  
projects  
funded

Year	Recipient	Country	Project	Organizations & Universities of Recipients
2022	Sergio Alarcon Robledo	Egypt	North Saqqara Archaeological Survey	Harvard University
2023	Hamza Benattia	Morocco	Unveiling the Farming-Herding Communities of III-I Millennium B.C. Mediterranean Western Maghreb	University of Barcelona
2023	Anne Austin	Egypt	Bioarchaeology of Deir el-Medina Research Project	University of Missouri, St. Louis
2024	Jason T. Herrmann	Italy	Phoenician Roots in a Punic City	University of Pennsylvania
2024	Jennifer Ramsay	Jordan	Exploring Continuity and Transition in Southern Jordan	SUNY-Brockport
2024	Sara A. James	Croatia	The Brac Island Project	University of Colorado Boulder
2024	Bethany J. Walker	Israel	Khirbet Beit Loya	University of Bonn



**asor**

UNEARTHING THE PAST SINCE 1900

2025	Silvia Amicone	Iraq	"Rediscovering Ancient Clay Landscapes: Geological Prospection for Pottery Making in the Mosul Dam Region"	University of Tübingen
2025	Zachary Dunseth	Israel	"Early Desert Cities: An Investigation into 3rd Millennium BCE Urbanism at Tel Arad at the Macro- and Microscales"	University of California San Diego
2025	Gregg Gardner and Orit Peleg-Barkat	Israel	"The Horvat Midras Archaeological Project"	University of British Columbia and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
2025	Kathryn Gleason and Barbara Burrell	Israel	"Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima"	Cornell University and University of Cincinnati
2025	Kathryn Grossman	Cyprus	"Makounta-Voules Archaeological Project"	North Carolina State University
2025	Elise Laugier	Iraq	"Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey"	Utah State University



Thank you for your continued  
support of archaeological  
research and new discoveries!

