Established in 2007 under the co-direction of Aaron A. Burke (UCLA) and Martin Peilstöcker (Israel Antiquities Authority), the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project (JCHP) continued its progress in 2009 and 2010 toward achieving the project's four primary objectives: research, publication, conservation, and presentation of Jaffa's archaeological heritage. As a cultural heritage project, the JCHP differs substantially from many archaeological projects, which adhere principally to the expeditionary model. Expeditionary projects are usually of short (and often uncertain) duration, with limited objectives and, oftentimes, a narrow temporal focus that is confined to specific period(s) of interest, irrespective of the potential advantage of a longer, diachronic or “deep time” perspective. This report addresses the project's accomplishments in 2009 and 2010 within the framework of its four overarching objectives, with a view toward the goals of the 2011 to 2015 excavation seasons.

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION. In 2009, excavations continued within the visitor’s center in Qedumim Square, after initial soundings in 2008. The excavations, under the supervision of George Pierce, were carried out by field staff Kyle Keimer, Krystal Lords, Brett Kaufman, Hillary Pietricola, and Heidi Dodgen, all UCLA graduate students. Professional monument conservators from Los Angeles, Leslie Friedman and Ben Marcus, undertook preliminary work to enable expansion and deepening of the excavations. A team of 18 field school participants from four countries made possible an extensive excavation within the enclosed space of the center. The goal of the excavations included (1) exploration of the cultural sequence in this area of the tell (mound), with a focus on pre-classical phases; (2) estimation of the potential for relating renewed excavations to the work undertaken by Jacob Kaplan between 1935 and 1974; and (3) assertion of the feasibility of cooperation between the various institutions participating.

The excavation experience proved very successful in all three respects. The excavation area was deepened across most of the northern extent to the depth of the small probe conducted in 2008, vastly widening the exposure of the western rooms of a large complex dated to the Hellenistic period that dominates the area. A small and deep sounding in the center of the excavations revealed what appears to be an Achaemenid phase (ca. fifth–fourth centuries) of construction within the area. While the sounding was not large enough to permit an exposure of an architectural plan in this phase, this operation also unearthed Iron Age sherds (ca. 980–539 B.C.), suggesting that this part of the tell may have been occupied during the Iron Age. For safety reasons, it was not possible to continue deeper and, consequently, bedrock was not reached in this area. It remains possible, therefore, that Bronze Age layers still lay below the Iron Age remains. Despite this, the excavations revealed an impressive and unique limestone ashlar building preserved to a height of two stories, which is dated to the Hellenistic period on the basis of major phases of fill deposits and the structure’s architectural history. Unfortunately, owing to the fact that this structure was intentionally abandoned and then backfilled in the Early Roman period, no living floors dated to the Hellenistic phase were identified during the excavations. Subsequent conservation work by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Old Jaffa Development Corporation in 2009 and 2010 have prepared the excavations for public viewing as part of a newly designed exhibit on Jaffa within the visitor’s center (Figure 1).
In 2011 the project will proceed toward one of its main objectives, the renewal of excavations within Jacob Kaplan's main area, known as Area A, where a monumental gate facade of Ramesses II was unearthed in an early stage of Kaplan's work, as well as extensive evidence of a Late Bronze Age Egyptian garrison kitchen. The sequence of Egyptian occupation identified previously spans nearly three centuries (ca. 1460–1150 B.C.), as demonstrated through a wide range of Egyptian New Kingdom ceramics. Historical sources from the period confirm that Jaffa during this period served as an Egyptian imperial outpost and port in Canaan, facilitating nearly annual Egyptian campaigns into Canaan and points north. The renewal of Area A excavations are principally focused on obtaining additional lines of data from the Late Bronze Age phases of the site, which can provide a new understanding of the archaeological context. To address questions of social interaction and ethnicity through material culture excavated in this area, we will seek to collect a wide array of faunal, floral, and residue samples that can contribute to our understanding of the diet of Jaffa’s inhabitants, which, on the basis of previously excavated ceramics, are anticipated to be predominantly Egyptian in orientation. This will not only illuminate aspects of food preparation and consumption among the Egyptian population (something that has not been possible in archaeological contexts in Egypt owing to limitations on the sampling of archaeological remains), but it will also reveal the degree to which the Egyptian garrison interacted socially with the local Canaanite population and the extent to which processes of acculturation and adaptation were at work among these populations.

**Publication.** Since August 2009 and during a hiatus of excavation in 2010, efforts by JCHP staff were principally dedicated to a continued effort to publish results from Jacob Kaplan’s excavations of the Bronze and Iron Age remains of Jaffa undertaken between 1955 and 1974. Work continued with funding from the Shelby White-Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications, and the preliminary results of these efforts have been published in the journal *Near Eastern Archaeology* (Burke and Lords 2010), providing the first in-depth analysis of any part of Kaplan’s early excavations. Additional results of the publication initiative appeared in 2011 in *The History and Archaeology of Jaffa* 1, the first volume of the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project series (Burke and Mandell 2011; Keimer 2011; Peilstöcker and Burke 2011). The Kaplan
Publication Initiative, which has been ongoing since 2007, is approaching the final stages in the completion of the final reports addressing these excavations. In 2011, in addition to the inauguration of renewed excavation of the Egyptian fortress, the publication initiative will address Kaplan’s Area A excavations from 1970 to 1974, during which an oft-discussed temple known as the “Lion Temple” was excavated. Preliminary assessments now suggest that the temple had two phases of history during the Late Bronze Age, which may clarify why its precise date has been a contentious issue (Figure 2).

**PRESENTATION.** Beginning in the fall of 2009, the JCHP began using a NextEngine 3D desktop scanner to digitize the ceramics and artifacts uncovered. Funded by a UCLA Faculty Research Grant, the adoption of this technology was intended not only to increase the quantity and quality of data collected for artifacts in a way that made possible further study of artifacts outside of the field, but also to facilitate the inclusion of artifact scans in digital archives and 3D models. In 2010 protocols were established for creating publication-ready illustrations of ceramics in keeping with their traditional representation—namely, by means of profile drawings. This process should reduce costs associated with illustration in the long term, as nonspecialist participants are able to operate the scanner, while automated batch conversions of scanned sherds will enable the creation of profile drawings (Figure 3).

In addition to publications, one of the primary avenues for the dissemination of the project’s results is the project website, which was recently revamped and continues to broaden in scope. The website will permit the dissemination of a wide array of resources that can be accessed not only by researchers but also by laypersons interested in Jaffa’s cultural heritage. Resources, which will range from 3D digital scans to bibliographies and site guides, will be added regularly as new developments warrant.
In four years since its inception, the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project has succeeded despite some significant challenges, not the least of which has been the declining economic environment since 2007. Its success is foremost the result of the project’s commitment to the analysis and publication of legacy excavation data, such as that of Jacob Kaplan’s excavations in Jaffa, which have provided an important guide for strategically approaching the continued exploration of Jaffa’s archaeological heritage. Additionally, the project has carefully sought to invest in new technologies such as 3D artifact scanning and an online database that help reduce reliance on technical specialists, but also increase efficiency by reducing total processing time for lab work with artifacts. In the year ahead, the project will continue to expand its efforts to incorporate the latest methods, as we seek a sustainable and responsible approach to the renewal of excavations in Area A in Jaffa.

REFERENCES