Tel Hazor is located in the Upper Galilee, about 15 km north of the Sea of Galilee. It was the largest Canaanite city in the 2nd millennium BCE, measuring approximately 84 hectares and consisting of an acropolis and a lower city. The renewed excavations at the site have uncovered two monumental buildings, dating to the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1550-1200 B.C.), one termed the Ceremonial Palace, the other termed the Administrative Palace. These buildings will be the focus of the presentation. Both buildings were destroyed in a violent conflagration at the end of Late Bronze Age Hazor, resulting in a unique state of preservation and allowing us a glimpse into royal buildings of “the head of all those kingdoms.”

Shlomit Bechar is co-director of the Tel Hazor Excavations and has been part of the team since 2007. She received her PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem titled “The Effects of Political Changes on Material Culture: The Transition from the Middle to Late Bronze Age in Northern Canaan”. She co-authored the latest Hazor VII volume and is now co-authoring the upcoming Hazor VIII volume and the publications of the lower city excavations. Shlomit is currently a post-doc at the Oriental Institute in the University of Chicago.

For more information, please email nreast@humnet.ucla.edu