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* whatcha gonna do.

Program dated: June 27, 2018



PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

2018 CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL

**Track IV – ISRAEL 2.0 FOR YOUNG ADULTS & THEIR FAMILIES
& ANYONE WHO IS YOUNG AT HEART (2 buses)**

December 22-31, 2018



Day One: Saturday, December 22, 2018

DEPARTURE

- Group flights:
 - 9:00 p.m. Depart from Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) on El Al flight #026 arriving to Ben Gurion International Airport at 2:20pm on December 23.
 - 11:50 p.m. Depart from John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) on El Al flight #008 arriving to Ben Gurion International Airport at 5:10pm on December 23.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Sunday, December 23, 2018

WELCOME TO ISRAEL



- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Group transfers to the city of **Tel Aviv**, known as the “city that never sleeps,” with its centres of culture, recreation and national history, and great beaches.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Welcome dinner** At **Uno** offering light Italian cuisine with a personal interpretation by Chef Nitzan Raz.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv



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Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE

- *Optional Minyan.*



PAS EVENT

WELCOME TO ISRAEL @ 70!

Begin the trip together as a community with a special

ISRAELI BREAKFAST EVENT

with opening remarks and greetings from your **Rabbis** and **trip leaders**.



- **Israel at 70 – Reviving the Hebrew Language:** dialogue with **Gil Hovav**, a leading culinary journalists and television personality and the great-grandson of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language.
- **LaDa'at EthnicTasting Tour:** walk through Tel Aviv's famous **Levinsky Market**, where you'll find a combination of foods and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and hear the unique stories of the individuals who sell them.
- **Urban Culture Tours of Tel Aviv, Combining Street Art, Language & Graffiti:** Join **Niro Taub**, a local resident, to explore the urban culture of the city.

Afternoon options:

- **Option #1: Architecture in Tel Aviv:** a view from a Middle-Eastern “eclectic” beginning, through the International Bauhaus style to the skyscrapers of modern Tel Aviv; walk along Rothschild Boulevard, and through Neve Tzedek and the new Tachana compound, for new insight into how changes in the urban landscape reflect the surrounding culture, including a visit to **Neve Schechter Legacy Heritage Center for Jewish Culture** in Tel Aviv's Neve Zedek neighborhood, a magnet for Jewish pluralism.
- **Option #2: Israeli Fashion:** A special window into the world of Israeli fashion, visiting design houses and designers in Tel Aviv's leading fashion districts.
- **Option #3: The Art Scene in Tel Aviv:** Visit the galleries which have put Tel Aviv at the forefront of the local and international art scene and meet with gallery owners for an insight into their world.

All:

- **Against the Odds - Building a State: Visit Independence Hall**, where David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel on May 14th, 1948.
- *Return to the hotel.*
- **Cocktail reception** at the hotel with invited **Israeli millennials** from Masorti (Conservative) Congregations from Tel Aviv.
- **Free Night** in Tel Aviv for an opportunity to:
 - Meander through the **Old City of Jaffa**.
 - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard**, with its many cafés and bars.
 - Experience **Tel Aviv Port**, with its restaurants and clubs.
 - Explore the gentrified **Neve Zedek** neighborhood.
 - Saunter down the Tel Aviv **Beach Promenade**.
 - Wander through the **Tachana**, Tel Aviv's renovated old train station, now a center of boutiques and good food, and one of Tel Aviv's blooming hot spots.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv



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Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

LIVING ON THE EDGE

- *Optional Minyan.*
- *Optional early morning jogging tour of Tel Aviv highlights.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive south to the border with Gaza.
- *Pending confirmation:* Visit an **IDF Army Base** and meet with the soldiers and officers operating the **Iron dome**.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- **Living on the Edge:** Visit to the border city of **Sderot**, a city that has been under the constant barrage of rocket attacks since 2001, including:
 - A **city tour** with visits to **protected playground** and schools, the City Market, various locations damaged by rockets.
 - A visit to the **Qassam rocket display** at the **local police station**.
- Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot for an eye-opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- *Optional (cost not included):* Dinner at Blackout, a restaurant completely in the dark.
- Visit to the **Nalaga'at Theater** to view a production of *Lo Al HaLechem Levado – Not by Bread Alone* **OR** *Luna Park*, performed by a deaf/blind theater group.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv



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Day Five: Wednesday, December 26, 2018

CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out.
- **VIP visit** to the newly opened **Israeli Innovation Center** at the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**, followed by a dialogue with **Yosef Abramowitz**, an American-Israeli human rights activist, educator and entrepreneur, recognized as one of the pioneers of the solar energy industry in both Israel and East Africa.
- **Strangers in a Strange Land:** Explore the reality of the foreign worker in Tel Aviv as you walk through the streets of South Tel Aviv, possibly led by **Rabbi Susan Silverman**, whose rabbinic work includes activism on behalf of asylum seekers in Israel.
- Lunch on own.
- Stop at **Rabin Square**, a center of Tel Aviv's cultural and political life, named for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was assassinated here. Take a quiet moment at the Rabin Memorial.
- Depart Tel Aviv and drive to Jerusalem.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem** - ברוכים הבאים: Enter the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Check into the hotel.



PAS EVENT

CELEBRATING ISRAEL @ 70 & PAS at 136!

Celebrate **Israel's 70th birthday** with a "Jerusalem of Gold" ambience,
at the beautiful **Olmaya Hall**,
with spectacular views of the Old City lit up in the background,
and greetings by the **Mayor of Jerusalem**.
Enjoy the best of Israeli cocktails and cuisine,
music performances and festivities for all ages.



Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Six: Thursday, December 27, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Explore the excavations at the **City of David**, the very core of ancient Jerusalem; walk through the recently opened **Second Temple-period tunnel** under the walls of the Old City, emerging in the Jerusalem Archaeological Park.
- Stop at **Ezrat Yisrael**, the pluralistic section of the Kotel (Western Wall), for a discussion about religious pluralism and freedom of religion in Israel.
- Visit the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site.
- Lunch on your own in the Old City.

Option # 1:

- Walking tour through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, for visits to archaeological treasures and other highlights, among them:
 - The **Cardo**, the main street of Jerusalem in the 6th century.
 - King Hezekiah's First Temple-period "**Broad Wall**".
 - **Hurva Square**, the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
 - A walk along the **Rooftops** of the Old City for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live alongside each other.

Option # 2:

- **The Secrets of Jerusalem:** Walk along the streets of the **Old City** for a behind the scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem including:
 - A meeting with an **Armenian Ceramic Artist** and a visit to his workshop, followed by a short tour of the Armenian Quarter, the smallest of the four quarters with the smallest number of residents.
 - *Is it a Church or a Synagogue?* A visit to **Christ Church**, the oldest Protestant Church in the Middle East, which looks exactly like a synagogue.
 - A visit to the **Austrian Hospice**, a European enclave in the heart of the Old City, known for its breath-taking views from the rooftop terrace.

Option # 1:

- **A Window into the Israeli Reality:** Meet with students and teachers from the **Ma'aleh Film School** for a film screening and discussion, exploring the intersection of Judaism and modern life. Ma'aleh's unique, cutting-edge films attempt to foster deeper understanding and dialogue between religious and secular Jews. While Ma'aleh graduates are shaping the future of the Israeli film and television, they also created a first-of-its-kind video-therapy for at-risk youth, Ethiopian immigrants, terror victims and adults with special needs.

Option # 2:

- Visit the **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - A possible dialogue with a **Holocaust survivor**
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**
 - The **Historical Museum**
 - The **Children's Memorial**
 - A concluding **Memorial Service**

All:

- **Hustle & Bustle Around the Clock:** Enjoy a night out to explore the bars, restaurants, and flavors of the Jerusalem nightlife at the open-air **Machaneh Yehuda** market.


Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

UNDERSTANDING THE CONFLICT

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Meet with representatives from the **Parents' Circle Families Forum**, a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis.
- **Life in Palestine 2018:** Dialogue and tour the streets of **Bethlehem** with **Rami Nazzal**, a local journalist and guide.
- Lunch on own.
- Return to the hotel with free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.



PAS EVENT

EREV SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

Welcome Shabbat with **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at the **Jerusalem International YMCA Auditorium**. The Jerusalem International YMCA is a cultural, sports and educational center located in the heart of the Jerusalem.

The Y strives to foster equality and friendship among members of all religions, with an emphasis on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, while serving as an oasis of multiculturalism and a space for coexistence among the residents of Jerusalem and beyond.

The historic building, with its elegant arches, domes, and 152-foot observation tower overlooking Jerusalem's Old City & New City, is an iconic landmark, designed by Arthur Loomis Harmon, architect of the Empire State Building.

Gather together with your fellow congregants for a private

PAS COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

at the David Citadel Hotel



- **Oneg Shabbat Learning Experience:** Join local scholars for intimate group learning sessions, including:
 - **The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:** A dialogue with a leading journalist/scholar.
 - **Religious Pluralism & Freedom of Religion in Israel:** A panel discussion with some of Israel's Progressive leaders, led by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove.
 - **Israeli Politics in 2018:** Dialogue with a leading Israeli journalist/political analyst.
 - **Parashat Hashavua:** Learning about this week's Torah Portion.
 - Fun programs for the younger kids at the hotel's **Children's Play Center**.
 - **Oneg Shabbat for teens**, led by PAS staff.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Eight: Saturday, December 29, 2018

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Enjoy breakfast at your leisure at the hotel.
- Shabbat morning Services at local Jerusalem synagogues.



PAS EVENT

PAS COMMUNITY KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

in the **Blaustein Hall**, overlooking the Old City.



Walking Tour Option # 1:

- **LaDa'at Hebrew Writers:** Walk through the streets of Jerusalem, guided by the writings of Jerusalem's poets and authors, such as Yehuda Amichai, S.Y. Agnon and others.

Walking Tour Option # 2:

- **The Spirit of the City:** Take a Synagogue tour of Jerusalem, including the Great Synagogue, Yeshurun, and a walk to the Nachlaot neighborhood, to learn about the various communities who live in that eclectic part of the city, including the Ohavei Zion Persian Synagogue, and the Adas Syrian synagogue, where it's believed that the oldest Torah scroll was hidden.



PAS EVENT

PAS COMMUNITY HAVDALLAH & CONCERT

at the **Jerusalem International YMCA Auditorium**



- Dinner at your own expense.
- *Optional:* Special late night visit to the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Temple Mount's Western Wall, exposed in recent years; visit the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Nine: Sunday, December 30, 2018

THIS IS THE HOPE

- Optional Minyan.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **PAS DOES TIKKUN OLAM:** Visit the **Hand in Hand School** in Jerusalem. *Hand in Hand* is a bilingual school with Israeli Jewish and Israeli Palestinian students combining peace education and top academic standards. Its mission is to build partnership, coexistence and equality between the Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.
- Visit **Ammunition Hill**, site of a Jordanian Police Academy until 1967, and one of the most crucial battle sites for the unification of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War.
- **Lunch** at the Israel Museum.

Option 1:

- **VIP visit** to the renewed and wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its wide-ranging and eclectic collection, from Archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls, to Jewish Life and Art, European art, contemporary Israeli art and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.

Option 2:

- Return to the hotel; free time.

All:

- Late check out.
- **Farewell dinner** at **Eucalyptus**, a kosher restaurant in Jerusalem located in the Artist Quarter of the city a stone's throw away from the magnificent walls of Old City, serving a modern interpretation of biblical cuisine.
- Group transfers to Ben Gurion International Airport to check in for your departure flight to New York.

Overnight: Flight

Day Ten: Monday, December 31, 2018

RETURN TO NEW YORK

- Group flights:
 - 12:30 a.m. Depart on El Al flight #001, arriving to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) at 5:45am.
 - 1:00 a.m. Depart on El Al flight #027, arriving to Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) at 6:20am.



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