


program*

* whatcha gonna do.

Program dated: June 27, 2018



PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

2018 CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL

Track V – LOOKING AT ISRAEL 20/20 (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.
- *Looking at Israel 20/20*: **Welcome dinner** at **Meatos**, known for its excellent meat dishes, including an orientation with PAS staff, track chairs and your tour educators.

Overnight: Hilton, Tel Aviv



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Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY ISRAEL

- Optional Minyan.

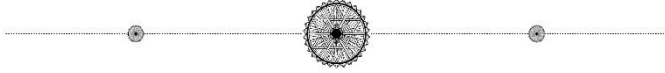


PAS EVENT
WELCOME TO ISRAEL @ 70!

Begin the trip together as a community with a special

ISRAELI BREAKFAST EVENT

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



- Check out of the hotel.
- **VIP experiential visit** to the newly opened **Israeli Innovation Center** at the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**, including greetings by **Chemi Peres**, Shimon Peres's son and chairman of the Peres center for Peace, and a managing general partner and co-founder of Pitango, Israel's largest venture capital fund.

Option #1:

- **Between Tel Aviv Shel Mata and Tel Aviv Shel Maala:** Field seminar in Tel Aviv highlighting the gentle balance and contrasts between the old and the new neighbourhoods of Tel Aviv, focusing on economic, social, and religious gaps in the city. The walking tour will be led by **Rami Hod**, Director of the **Social Economic Academy**, which works toward closing the economic gap to advance Israel's social progress.

Rami Holds a BA from Haifa University's program for Social-Economic History and Sociology, and an MA in Sociology from Ben Gurion University in the Negev, with his research focusing on education policy in Israel. Rami is a lecturer and a regular commentator and publicist in Israel's newspapers and journals on topics of social policy, inequality and social change.

Option #2:

- **Strangers in a Strange Land:** Explore first-hand the reality behind the headlines of the foreign worker in Tel Aviv as you walk through the streets of **South Tel Aviv** with **Sigal Rozen**, founder & public policy coordinator for the Hotline for Migrant Workers.

All:



- Lunch on own.
- Drive to the **Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel** in Zichron Ya'acov and check in. *The hotel's iconic main building was constructed in 1968 as the Mivtachim Sanatorium and gained worldwide recognition for its innovative design, earning architect Yaacov Rechter the prestigious Israel Award for Architecture in 1973. Purchased by **Lily Elstein** in 2005, the building was the centerpiece of her vision to create a world-class center for the arts and boutique hotel. Under the guidance of Amnon Rechter, Yaakov Rechter's son, the building was restored according to the original plans and original materials to add two state-of-the-art concert halls and art galleries.*



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Day Three: Monday, December 24, 2018

HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY ISRAEL

Option #1:

- Free time to explore the hotel's world-class spa and facilities. *The Elma Spa's unique philosophy stimulates both mind and body. Tibetan bowls and cymbals, tank drums, harps... these and many more instruments intensify the experience through the deep connection between mind, body, and music.*

Option #2:

- **Living as a Minority in the Jewish State:** Explore with **Professor Dalia Fadila**, President of the Technology and Science College of Baqa al Garbia, the reality of Arabs living in Israel and what it means to be the first Arab woman president of an institution of higher education in Israel. Meet with **Avivit Hai**, Program Director in Israel for the Inter Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues who is the "eyes and ears" of the Task Force, liaising with local players - from government officials to Arab, Jewish and joint NGOs - leading a number of information-sharing and coalition-building efforts.

All:

- **Dinner** at the hotel.
- Attend a **concert/cultural performance** while immersed in the hotel's unique concert venue.



Overnight: Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel, Zichron Ya'acov



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Day Four: Tuesday, December 25, 2018

THE MOSAIC OF ISRAEL @ 70

- Optional Minyan.
- Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning options:

- **Option #1:** *The Art Within:* Guided tour of the hotel's widely acclaimed private art collection.
- **Option #2:** Guided visit to **Zichron Ya'acov**, one of the first communities established by the early Zionist pioneers, including a stop next to the **Aaronsohn House** to delve into the world of a Jewish spy ring active during the First World War.
- **Option #3:** Nature walk through the dazzling **Ramat Hanadiv Gardens**, dedicated to Baron de Rothschild (the "Nadiv" or "Benefactor"), located on the outskirts of Zichron Ya'acov.

All:

- Lunch and shopping on own in the colorful **Pedestrian Mall** in Zichron Ya'acov.
- **Building a Pluralistic Community in Israel:** Dialogue with **Rabbi Elisha Wolf** from **Kehillat Veahavta**, the Masorti congregation in Zichron Ya'acov.

Option #1:

- **Visit a school in Haifa**, accompanied by **Eilon Tirosh**, an investor and a serial entrepreneur. *Eilon Founded Yuvalim, a public benefit company, engaged in preventing drop out and cultivating excellence at junior high schools in out-lying communities. Yuvalim operates in 7 centers around the country with 1200 students.*

Option #2:

- **An Old-New Perspective of Minorities in Shefaram:** Explore the city of **Shefaram**, located between the bottom of the Carmel Ridge and the entrance to the Galilee. Once a Jewish center during the Talmudic period, this ancient-modern Arab town later became one of the Crusades' posts and was eventually taken over by the Muslim Ottoman Empire. This heuristic tour with a local Arab guide will include visits to a:
 - **Mosque** and dialogue with the Muezzin (the Muslim clergy) about Islam and the life of a Muslim Arab in Israel.
 - **Roman Catholic Church** with its beautiful art, to learn about the unique story of the Eastern Christians living in Israel.
 - **Old Synagogue of Shefaram** abandoned in the 1900's to engage in a conversation about the minorities in the land throughout the ages.

All:

- Return to the hotel.
- Meet with **Adam Montefiore**, Israel's leading wine specialist and *Jerusalem Post* columnist for special insights about the development of the Israeli wine industry, followed by **dinner** and **wine tasting**.
- Return to the hotel.

Overnight: Elma Arts Complex Luxury Hotel, Zichron Ya'acov



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Day Five: Wednesday, December 26, 2018

CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out.
- Briefing with **Brig. Gen. (ret.) Ephraim Segoli** about the challenges facing Israel's Air Force and the future of Israel's air power.
- Tour an **army base** and meet with officers and soldiers.
- Lunch on own en route.
- Drive to **Ra'anana** to for a special visit to **Beit Issie Shapiro**. *The mission of Beit Issie Shapiro is to provide cutting-edge services to improve quality of life for people with disabilities, and to effect social change by breaking down the barriers preventing people with disabilities. Beit Issie Shapiro is a world-wide recognized leader in research and therapies for the disabled and as such enjoys status as a Special Consultant to the United Nations and has been named Israel's Most Effective Non-Profit.*
- 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 WEST BANK – MULTIPLE NARRATIVES

- *Optional Minyan.*
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Hebron: A Tale of Two Cities** Depart via bullet-proof bus to head deeper into the Judean Hills, arriving in Area H2, the Israeli controlled part of **Hebron**, the largest city in the West Bank.
- **A Jewish Perspective:** Take an inside look at one of the most pivotal components of the discussion of Jewish settlement, including the **Tomb of the Patriarchs** (Machpelah), **Tel Rumeida** and **Beit Hadassah**, guided by Director of Tourism, **Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum**. Meet with local residents for an overview of Jewish life in Hebron and the relationship of Israelis with their Palestinian neighbors; dialogue regarding the future of the city.
- **Lunch** in Hebron.
- **A Palestinian Perspective:** Cross the border into the Palestinian side of Hebron. Visit a Palestinian family in their home. Learn about the difficult conditions of Palestinian residents and shop owners living in close proximity to the nearby settlements.
- **Creating A Joint Future for Palestinians And Israelis:** Meet with **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, Ali Abu Awwad, Shaul Judelman** who reside in the Bethlehem / Gush Etzion Area and founded the Roots Coexistence Project. The Roots project draws Israelis and Palestinians who, despite living in close proximity, are separated by walls of fear – not just fear of each other, but fear of the price of peace. Without building trust, the suspicions between these two communities risk suffocating any chance for political peace agreements.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- **Israel before and after 1967 - A Grassroots View of Israeli Society:** Dialogue with journalist-scholar **Yossi Klein Halevi**, senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem



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Day Seven: Friday, December 28, 2018

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Optional Minyan.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Option 1:**
 - Explore **Christian East Jerusalem** through visits with Christian personalities and institutions with **Hana Bendcowsky**, Director of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish Christian Relations.
- **Option 2:**
 - **VIP visit** to the **City of David**, to explore the excavations at the very core of ancient Jerusalem.
- **All:**
 - Stop at **Ezrat Yisrael**, the pluralistic section of the Kotel (Western Wall), to learn 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.
 - 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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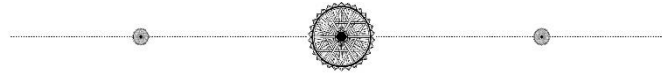
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Day Eight: Saturday, December 29, 2018

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.

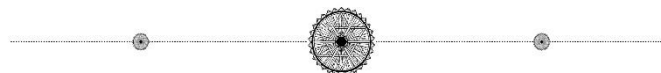


Walking Tour Option #1:

- **LaDa'at Hebrew Writers:** Walking tour of 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:

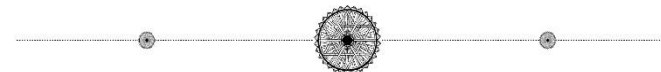
- **Jerusalem beyond the Old City Walls:** Travel back in time to hear the stories about the development and expansion of the city outside the Old City walls, stopping at milestones such as the **King David Hotel**, the **Yemin Moshe** and **Mishkenot Shaananim** neighborhoods, and famous houses in **Talbiye** and **Rechavia**.



PAS EVENT

PAS COMMUNITY HAVDALLAH & CONCERT

at the **Jerusalem International YMCA Auditorium**



- Dinner on your own.
- *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.
- **In the Haredi Courtyard:** Join **Motti Bar Lev**, born and raised in Mea Shearim and formerly Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) for a journey back to his neighbourhood in the Haredi Area of Jerusalem and explore first-hand the struggles of the *Hozrim BeShe'elah* (*people who left the orthodox world*). The tour will end on the seamline between the religious and secular areas of Jerusalem.
- Meet with staff of the **Netzach Yehuda NPO**, which supports Haredi soldiers throughout their military service, up to and including their discharge and integration into civilian life. Learn how this organization addresses the challenges faced by these soldiers through their military service and helps them emerge as employed Haredi Jews making a valued contribution to Israeli society.
- Take a *multi-cultural tasting journey* through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Machaneh Yehudah** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop.
- Visit **Ammunition Hill**, site of a Jordanian Police Academy until 1967 and one of the most crucial battle sites for the unification of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War. Tour the newly opened and moving museum, led by **Alon Wald**, son of Rami Wald, an IDF captain and a war hero who fell on the first day of fighting. At the outbreak of the war, Alon was only 10-months-old and since then he has spent much of his adult life trying to piece together the story of his father's bravery. The journey is what led him to give a voice to those who fell in the battle for Jerusalem and share their untold stories with visitors.
- Late check out.
- **Farewell dinner** at **Angelica**, with its impressive menu of kosher Euro-Mediterranean fare and a devotion to local produce.
- 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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