

program*

* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: October 23, 2017

CONGREGATION SHIR HADASH
THE MANY FACES OF JUDAISM – A TRIP TO SPAIN AND ISRAEL
LED BY RABBI MELANIE ARON
June 10 – 21/24, 2018

Day One: Sunday, June 10, 2018

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, June 11, 2018

ARRIVAL IN MADRID

- Arrive at Madrid International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Welcome yourselves to the beauty of Madrid with a panoramic tour of the city, including stops at:
 - **Puerta Del Sol**, the center of the city.
 - **Plaza de España**, which features a monument to Spanish novelist, poet and playwright Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.
 - **Plaza Mayor**, site of multiple 'acts of faith'- the infamous 'auto-da-fé' of the Spanish inquisition.
 - The **Palacio Real** (Royal Palace), widely considered as one of the most emblematic and beautiful buildings in Madrid, not only for its location overlooking the river valley but also for its architecture and the artistic treasures to be found in its rooms.
 - The **San Miguel Market**, famous for its sumptuous tapas dishes.
- Check into the hotel.
- **LaDa'at Focus** *The Golden Age of Spanish Jewry*: **Welcome dinner** and orientation dialogue with your tour educator at a restaurant. **Overview** of the group journey; including reviewing the itinerary, the group themes, the different narratives. Share group and personal goals.

Overnight: Madrid



Day Three: Tuesday, June 12, 2018

TOLEDO AND TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF CONQUEST AND CULTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart for **Toledo** which remains much as it was in the 16th century, and begin with a panoramic tour of the city.
- **LaDa'at Focus** Toledo – *A City of 3 Religions and Cultures* with your tour educator.
- Tour the city, including the **Jewish Quarter**, the **Samuel Halevi Abulafia Synagogue**, which was turned into a church known as **Nuestra Señora del Tránsito**, the **Sephardic Museum** and the **Santa Maria La Blanca Church** (formerly the Grand Synagogue).
- Lunch on own en route.
- Return to Madrid.
- Visit the **Prado**, one of the world's most renowned art museums and the best collection of classical art in Madrid.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Madrid

Day Four: Wednesday, June 13, 2018

SEGOVIA - ALCAZAR, AQUEDUCTS AND ANCIENT LEGENDS

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **LaDa'at Focus** *Contemporary Jewish Life in Madrid* Dialogue with a leader of **Congregation Bet El**, the Masorti congregation in Madrid.
- *Jews and Spain, One and the Same*: Visit **Segovia**, a microcosm of the story of Jews in Iberia, from Roman times until the Expulsion.
- Lunch on own en route.
- Visit the **Jewish cemetery** on the slopes opposite Segovia.
- Continue to **Avila**, which was once a center of Jewish mysticism. Walk around the town and its former Jewish quarter, with little tangible remains.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Madrid

Day Five: Thursday, June 14, 2018

FROM MADRID TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel, transfer to the Madrid International Airport and check in for the flight to Tel Aviv.
- 4:25 p.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Ascend to Jerusalem.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem** - ברוכים הבאים: Enter the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem, an experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Check into the hotel.
- *The Sephardi Community in Israel – Challenges and Achievements*: **Dinner and dialogue** with **Prof. Haviva Peda**, Israeli poet and author and head of the *Elishar Center for the Study of the Jews of Spain and the East* at Ben Gurion University.

Overnight: Jerusalem



Day Six: Friday, June 15, 2018

HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Proceed to the Old City and begin with a visit in the Jewish Quarter to the four **Sephardi Synagogues**, which reflect the richness and diversity of Diaspora Jewish traditions.
- Stop at the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site followed by a visit to **Azarat Israel**, the pluralistic section of the Kotel.
- *From the Diaspora to Jerusalem* – Take a walking tour through the colourful neighbourhood of Nachlaot. Visit the various synagogues and walk through the alleys and learn about the different communities who inhabit the neighbourhood.
- Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Machaneh Yehuda** open-air market, with lunch on own.
- Return to the hotel.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at **Kehillat Kol Haneshema**, led by **Rabbi Yael Karrie** (*pending confirmation*).
- **Festive Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Seven: Saturday, June 16, 2018

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Shabbat services** at one of the local Sephardi synagogues (*please note: these will most likely not be pluralistic*).
- Shabbat lunch on own.
- **LaDa'at Hebrew Writers**: Guided walk through the streets of Jerusalem, using the writings of Sephardic poets along with Jerusalem's poets and authors, such as Yehuda Amichai, S.Y. Agnon and others.
- *One Mountain, Three Religions*: An inter-denominational exploration of **Mt. Zion**, the traditional burial site of King David, the Room of the Last Supper and a mosque – all sharing a single building.
- *Ben Kodesh Lechol*: **Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- Enjoy a night out with dinner on own, perhaps at the **Old Train Station Plaza**, with its' fashionable restaurants featuring local and international cuisine.

Overnight: Jerusalem



Day Eight: Sunday, June 17, 2018

AGENTS OF CHANGE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel, depart Jerusalem and drive north along the Trans-Israel Highway.
- Visit **Emek Hashalom** Eco-Farm, located among the beautiful Menashe hills. The farm was founded by LOTEEM, the leading organization in Israel offering outings, nature clubs and creative workshops in nature to people with special needs. Meet young Israelis who volunteer with the special-needs youth and experiment with different ancient crafts.
- Visit the **Yemin Orde** youth village, one of Israel's most innovative educational institutions, specializing in integrating new immigrant youth into Israeli society. Dialogue with faculty and students, including **lunch**.
- Continue to Haifa.
- Pay a special visit to the **Ahmadyya community**, including a visit to the mosque and a dialogue with Muad Oudeh, a member of clergy, at Kababir.
- Drive to the Upper Galilee and check into the hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.
- *Multicultural Israel as Portraits in Israeli Films*: evening program led by film expert **Ayelet Kaufman-Goldin**.

Overnight: Upper Galilee

Day Nine: Monday, June 18, 2018

NATURE AND SECURITY IN THE GOLAN

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *The Balance of Power on Israel's Northern Border*: Field seminar and dialogue with **Maj. (Ret) Sarit Zehavi**, former Senior Intelligence Officer at the IDF northern border at **Mt. Bental** (overlooking the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra) give sharp insights into Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights**, and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- Visit the remains of the Second Temple-period town of **Gamla** on the Golan Heights, site of one of the fiercest battles fought against the Romans during the Great Revolt; walk to the **Bird Observatory** and enjoy the sight of the vultures for which Gamla is famous, as they effortlessly catch the updrafts where they nest. Conclude your visit to the 150-foot high **Gamla Waterfall**.
- Lunch on own en route.
- Drive to **Tsfat** and visit the **Ari, Caro or Abuhav Synagogue**, each with its particular Sephardi atmosphere indicative of the refugees of the Spanish Expulsion.
- Walk through the quaint streets and restored buildings of old **Rosh Pina**, one of the first communities established at the dawn of the Zionist era and visit the Reform community.
- Dinner on own together with leaders of **Kehilat Rosh Pina** in Rosh Pina.

Overnight: Upper Galilee



Day Ten: Tuesday, June 19, 2018

MINORITIES AND CO-EXISTENCE IN ISRAEL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and drive west.
- Visit the **Zippori National Park**, known for its extraordinary ancient mosaics and its central role in Jewish life after the destruction of the Temple.
- Visit a **Druze** village in the Carmel Mountains for a window into the unique world of the Israeli Druze community, with **home-hospitality lunch**.
- Enter the city of **Tel Aviv**, known as the “city that never sleeps,” with its centers of culture, recreation and national history, great beaches and fine stores.
- *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**.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner on own at the renovated **Old Port of Tel Aviv**, with its wonderful restaurants, cafés and shops, right on the water’s edge; OR at the **Tachana**, Jaffa’s Old Railway Station, renovated and restored as a great pedestrian complex, with restaurants, shops and open spaces for people-watching.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Eleven: Wednesday, June 20, 2018

ISRAEL’S CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Challenge, Question, Engage and Enlighten*: Visit **Bina**, the Secular Yeshiva, which represents the Secular Jewish Renaissance and *Yahadut Hevratit* (Jewish Social Activism) in Israel.
- Lunch on own en route.
- *Foundations of a City and State, Ahad Ha’Am to Bialik*: Zionist ideology and the revival of the Hebrew language come alive as you walk down **Bialik Street** and through the **Trumpeldor Cemetery**.
- **From Sefarad to Tel Aviv**: Explore two thousand years of rich Jewish culture and community at **Beit Hatefutsot**, the Museum of the Jewish People, located on the Tel Aviv University campus.
- Return to the hotel and free time to relax and finish packing.
- Late check-out from the hotel for those returning to the USA.
- **Festive farewell dinner**.
- Return to the hotel for the extension, OR transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check into the return flight to the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight



Day Twelve: Thursday, June 21, 2018

RETURN HOME/EXTENSION – LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Arrive In the USA.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and drive to Jerusalem.
- Return to the Old City and take a more extensive walking tour through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, for visits to archaeological treasures and other highlights, among them:
 - 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.
 - 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.
- Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Western Wall alongside the Temple Mount.
- Explore the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park**, including the Davidson Center, Robinson's Arch and the Southern Wall steps where Jewish pilgrims entered the Temple Mount 2,000 years ago.
- Lunch on own in the Old City.
- Visit the **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**
 - The **Historical Museum**
 - The **Children's Memorial**
- Free time in the **Mamilla pedestrian arcade**, a very contemporary shopping area with a whiff of the past, located outside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City; dinner on own.
- **The Night Spectacular** at the **Tower of David Museum**: The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a night-time show – a celebration of sight and sound – that depicts the story of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Thirteen: Friday, June 22, 2018

MEMORIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the 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.
- Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Machaneh Yehuda** open-air market, with lunch on own.
- Return to the Old City to visit the **Christian Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other Christian sites.
- Rest of the day at leisure.
- *Optional* Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem



Day Fourteen: Saturday, June 23, 2018

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Optional Shabbat Services.*
- **Free Shabbat in Jerusalem** for an opportunity to explore (on own):
 - *The **Old City Ramparts** for a walk along the ancient walls of the city*
 - *The **Tower of David Museum** of the History of Jerusalem, for a walk through the city's history – with observation points, an animated film and visual and audio-visual aids – from the time of Abraham to the end of the British Mandate over Palestine.*
- Dinner on own.
- Late check out from the hotel and transfer to Ben Gurion Airport to check in for the departure flight to the USA.

Overnight: Flight

Day Fifteen: Sunday, June 24, 2018

RETURN HOME

- Arrive In the USA.

