



icnext Cohort 3, 2014-2016

Blue, Brown and More

May 6, 2016



Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND

@AKIVA



israel.cleveland.next is a project of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, administered through @akiva

Blue, Brown and More

This magazine captures the experiences of the israel.cleveland.next high school students' mission to Israel. It presents written and visual narratives that are meant to be experienced together, just as the sights, sounds and people were intertwined for the students throughout their journey.

The written narrative provides a taste of intensive blogging by the students during the 10-day journey. The visual narrative, based on the trip's theme, "Blue, Brown and More," shows the progression of colors and experiences about the land.

To see the full blogs and more photos, visit www.icnext.org and click on icnext Cohort 3 "Israeli Mission 2015 blog" or "Photo Exhibit."

What is icnext?

israel.cleveland.next – also known as icnext – is a two-year program that educates Cleveland Jewish high school students from all denominations in the core issues of Israeli society and the geopolitical situation in Israel today.

Students also learn and engage with Israeli peers from Cleveland's sister community of Beit She'an and the Valley of Springs (Emek HaMayanot). This partnership region in the North of Israel is home to many activities supported and coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

The first year involves interactive educational programming and a visit to Cleveland by teens from the Beit She'an region, and culminates in a 10-day Israel exploratory mission. In the second year, students galvanize peer involvement in educational, political or cultural activities in support of Israel

@akiva is now recruiting for this fall's icnext participants. See back page for details.

To learn more about @akiva's menu of offerings, see pages 22-23.

icnext Cohort 3, 2014-2016

| Name | School |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eli Atzenhoffer | Avon High School |
| Lindsay Blashka | Solon High School |
| Emma Bloomberg | Brush High School |
| Hannah Borow | Beachwood High School |
| Eliana Bortz | Beachwood High School |
| Sydni Burg | Solon High School |
| Josh Caplan | Hawken School |
| Hannah Caplin | Solon High School |
| Emily Einhorn | Beachwood High School |
| Aidan Geis | Orange High School |
| Jeremy Gimbel | Shaker Heights High School |
| Ellie Levine | Beachwood High School |
| Rebecca Levine | Twinsburg High School |
| Jonathan Peleg | Solon High School |
| Miriam Pincus | Fuchs Mizrahi School |
| Benjamin Roter | Beachwood High School |
| Keeva Schneider | Hawken School |
| Samantha Shaffer | Beachwood High School |
| Rebecca Shankman | Shaker Heights High School |
| Gabriel Shapera | Beachwood High School |
| Daniel Simon | Orange High School |
| Barak Spector | Shaker Heights High School |
| Shane Strongosky | Brecksville Broadview Hts. HS |

Magazine Editor: Rebecca Shankman

Assistant Editor: Emma Bloomberg

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Setting expectations

I'm looking forward to using the knowledge that I learn throughout this journey to advocate and inform about the situation in Israel for more than geopolitical reasons. I hope that we will be able to show the world a new side of Israel, one full of technological advances that affect not only Israel but the whole world. - *Rebecca Shankman (6/12/15)*

First interviews

On the way to Israel, icnext Cohort 3 had a long layover in Philadelphia. In order to take advantage of that time we interviewed people throughout the airport about their knowledge of Israel and its water situation. These are a few of the responses.



Both of our interviewees said they thought that Israel had a shortage of water and were surprised when we told them that Israel actually had a surplus water supply. I thought it was interesting hearing the answers that we were given. It made me realize that not a lot of people know about the water in Israel and the good that the Israeli water innovations are doing in the world.
- *Eli Atzenhoffer (6/14/15)*

I liked that how after we interviewed each person about the freshwater situation in Israel, we clarified what really was happening and most of them were interested except for the first person that had no clue where Israel even was. We had a wide range in people and how they answered. Thinking about the questions myself, I don't know perfect answers for all of the questions. - *Hannah Caplin (6/14/15)*

The final man we asked provided the most shock to our group. When asked to associate the two words, he said "Well, the Israelis are probably keeping the Palestinians away from water. Actually they're probably stealing it from them." This was just so blatantly wrong that I had a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that this man actually believed what he was saying. It honestly sounded like an answer we would make up during a seminar about advocacy so we could practice the ARM (Address, Respond, Message) strategy. During seminars, we talked about ignorant people who didn't have the facts and made Israel the enemy, but since I had never experienced someone like this before, I really didn't think people like that were out there. - *Lindsay Blashka (6/14/15)*

Although these people did not know about Israel or the issues with water, they seemed interested and wanted to learn more about Israel and the world generally. On the other hand, there are people that do not know a lot about a topic, but they want to learn more and are open to new information. - *Hannah Borow (6/14/15)*



Learning as we go

As Jews, we are a people of the book, and together we either help to write the book or merely read it. Despite being the last stop after a long day of traveling, communications expert Neil Lazarus managed to gain and keep our attention for the duration of his lecture. As it turns out all that is necessary to keep people focused on a talk about the Middle East is a few jokes about Obama, Canada, and Fox News. I believe that we have learned some today, and that is the reason for us being here in Israel learning and traveling across the country. For without this knowledge how could we hope to do anything?

- Aidan Geis (6/16/15)





CONNECTION



The nature of the Jewish State

This brings us to the next, and most significant underlying point of the entire discussion with Ben Gurion University Professor Dr. Guy ben Porat: Is Israel a Jewish state, or a state of Jews? Can a democracy enforce laws heavily based on religion, whether or not individuals practice that religion? And if so, what exactly is a Jewish state, and what boundaries should there be for making laws that inevitably affect the lives of each individual residing in Israel? These questions are the consistent issues in Israeli society today, and are the main struggles that have been significant in society since the establishment of the state. - *Sydni Burg (6/16/15)*



Jerusalem for Jews and Palestinians?

All year, in every session, speaker, or discussion we had, "perspective," "different opinions" as well as "open-minded" were all words we were told to keep in mind when addressing the conflict and tension within the state of Israel. After eating breakfast at the Rabin Hostel, the cohort awaited our speaker Ben, a representative of the Israeli non-profit organization Ir Amim (City of Nations). They believe that both groups of people not only have a connection to the holy city but a right to it. What differentiates Ir Amim from other organizations is that they are Jews recognizing the other side's right and desire for Jerusalem. Ir Amim believes that the more Israel negotiates and gives land to Palestinians, terror will decrease. Ben's message was we have to acknowledge that as much as Jews believe they have a right to Jerusalem, the same applies to Palestinians, and we must change our perspective, open our minds, and be open to changing our fixed mindsets and search for what humans want and crave the most: peace. - *Miriam Pincus (6/18/15)*





BONDING

Knesset challenges

Even though there are many diverse voices in the Knesset, there are three problems that they all agree on, Israeli journalist Gil Hoffman told us: security, the need to change the way the political system runs, and the gap between the rich and the poor. The Knesset members are working very hard to make Israel the best it can be. These members fight for the people they represent attempting to modernize this ever-changing state. - *Eliana Bortz (6/15/15)*





Overcoming apathy

“People are apathetic. They don’t know. They don’t care. But they still have opinions.” This reality is a direct obstacle to Israel, and to all Jews said Michelle Rojas, the Diaspora Education Director for the Israel advocacy organization Stand With Us. That includes us, specifically for Jewish teens planning on college. We will encounter people who know little about Israel, but certainly have strong and often negative opinions about it. For these students, ignorance is no longer bliss. Jewish teens who are not informed about Israel and the conflicts there are not safe. In fact, they are more at risk. They lack the facts and statistics to defend themselves against anti-Israel protesters, and remaining uninvolved is no longer an option. It is tragic that so many people are too apathetic to inform themselves, to know more about Israel than its problems. Stand With Us seeks to change that. This alone won’t create peace, but it is an essential step along the way. - *Rebecca Levine (6/17/15)*

IDENTITY



Israeli views about water

icnext traveled to the Mediterranean beach in Tel Aviv in order to see how much knowledge the locals had about the sources of water and Israel's problems with water. When we arrived there, we split up into four groups and asked random people about Israel's water and its issues. What was interesting was that in the end, even though we had very little data, it went to all points on the "knowledge spectrum" – the lower end being "no knowledge whatsoever about Israel's water and its problems," and the higher end being "expert on Israel's water and its problems." - *Ben Roter (6/23/15)*



The younger generation answered the question with pride and a lack of perspective on the struggles all countries face. For example, every one of the teens we interviewed claimed that Israel faced no challenges regarding sufficient water sources. It seems that our icnext cohort has the upper hand over the younger generation in Israel. This trip and program has instilled in us knowledge that is possessed for the most part in the older generation. A knowledge that tells us Israel's unfortunate lack of water sources has caused it to become the leading country in recycling and reuse of water. It should not be Israel's water situation that the younger generation is proud of, but rather its innovation and ability to adapt to the many challenges it faces. - *Barak Spector (6/23/15)*



Treasures at the Israel Museum

One thing that the Israel Museum in Jerusalem is known for is that in recent years it has created the world's smallest bible. A team at the museum experimented for months to determine the best material to laser-print it on. This bible was created by putting millions of tiny dots on the material, and if you look at it using technology you can read it; it's perfectly legible. This was truly the coolest thing they have at the museum. It's smaller than a grain of sugar. The Israel Museum was a great stop on the way to being reunited with our friends from Emek HaMayanot (Valley of Springs) and I can't wait to return to see new exhibits! - *Danny Simon (6/18/15)*



INCREDIBLE



Photographs tell the story

The exhibit at the Tel Aviv Museum was called "This Place." Our tour guide, Julia, explained that the exhibit was done by 12 photographers from many different places around the world. These photographers came to Israel and explored, taking pictures of anything they felt represented the way they saw Israel. This project was created by Frederic Brenner in 2006. Brenner had the idea that through pictures people could understand the complexity of Israel, meaning its history, geography, inhabitants, and daily life. Each of the 12 photographers spent at least six months in residence in Israel developing their artistic styles. Each photographer in his or her pictures showed different aspects of the whole Israeli picture. - *Eli Atzenhoffer (6/23/15)*



Protecting children

Orly Levy-Abekasis has been a Member of the Knesset for six years, and within this time she has helped pass almost 30 laws. One law that Levy-Abekasis is known for in particular is a law that benefits minors who have been victims of a crime. This law makes sure that the person that committed the crime not only has to serve time in jail but they also have to pay the minor 10,000 shekels. Currently 97% of victims that are minors are benefitted by this law. Minister Levy-Abekasis sets an example for many kids that come from the same background as her. She shows kids that by taking advantage of opportunities and dedicating yourself to your goals you can achieve many things, no matter what background you come from. - Emma Bloomberg (6/20/15)





Hydroelectric reality and dream

This hydroelectric plant we visited represented Zionism in its purest form as it relates to the 21st century. For the early settlers, their Zionist vision was building the agriculture of Israel. The hydroelectric plant builders have used their genius innovation to secure Israel's dominance in the world. They aren't hoping for an effect in the present but rather one in the future. Though modernized, the Zionist vision is the same. Through the Jewish mind for innovation, a strong future is almost inevitable. - Barak Spector (6/18/15)



Learning from intergenerational theater

Today we saw an original play, "To Tell in Order to Live," put on by eighth-grade students working with Holocaust survivors. It is a "multi-generational interaction that leads to a prospect of closeness, co-operation and outreach between teenagers, Holocaust survivors and their offspring." The mix of these two completely different generations not only told the most unique story, but also helped emphasize the importance of the next generation carrying on these stories. This was a beautiful way to pass on the stories of these survivors who are sadly dying out, as it appeals to the younger generations - Emily Einhorn (6/16/15)





Kicking back at a concert

When Amnon says “we are going to a concert and I’m very excited,” you naturally get a little worried. It was a late concert, starting at 10 p.m. after we had woken up early for a disappointing Cavs game. I was running on four hours of sleep ending what Tal and Amnon called the most busy day we would have here. Watching Amnon dance to a song he loves was quite an experience and one that I wish everyone could get a chance to see. Sure it wasn’t music we would normally listen to, sure we were the youngest there by 20 years, and yes it wasn’t something we’d normally do on our own, but it was quite the experience. - *Rebecca Shankman (6/17/15)*



**NEW
EXPERIENCES**



Timing safety in minutes

The city of Sderot has borne the brunt of the rocket attacks from Gaza. It is one thing to hear statistics of the hardships people face on a daily basis, but it is something entirely different to actually go and witness this situation first-hand. It is with this mindset that most of the trip will be spent, the focus lying not on tourist attractions but on meeting and understanding the people, culture, and struggle. - *Aidan Geis (6/16/15)*



One kilometer, 0.625 miles, 15 seconds. Those are the numbers that every single resident of Sderot knows by heart. Those numbers describe the time and dust it takes for a rocket fired from Gaza to reach Sderot. How would you live your life under these circumstances? - *Hannah Caplin (6/16/15)*



Separation for security

When siblings are fighting with each other they are sent to their rooms and have the doors shut, similar to how the separation fence and wall are intended to work. The separation wall itself makes up a small part of the separation barrier. This unpainted giant concrete wall looked out of place. On one side there were brick buildings but all I could focus on were the 26 foot high solid masses of concrete blankness. Its original purpose was to prevent further terror attacks, help the Israeli economy, and separate the Muslims from the Jews. Following the installment of this wall Israeli citizens can be assured of a safer day and not fear leaving their homes. Though it may not be the perfect solution it is what will stay until a true agreement is reached. - *Yoni Peleg (6/17/15)*



Now ask yourself this, how long do you take a shower for? 5 minutes? 10 minutes? In Sderot they take one-minute showers with their clothes all ready outside the door just to be prepared if a siren goes off. They have to change these little things in order to live their life fully. They don't let the danger of these missiles affect their daily lives. Life is about compromise and in Sderot it's no different. - Josh Caplan (6/16/15)



UNFORGETTABLE



Photographing home hospitality

Friday afternoon, after an interesting morning at Eden Farm in Beit She'an, and then a journey through a water trail, it was time to go with our host families for Shabbat and the weekend. We were all given the task of taking a picture with our host family. My host, Guy Azulai, made the decision that we would take our photograph at Sachne, a natural spring in Beit She'an that has warm water all year round. The scenery was breathtaking to say the least. The combination of natural blue water with the palm trees and large boulders made for a perfect place to take a picture. Being at a such a beautiful place with these very friendly Israelis was such a great way to begin my time with Guy and his family.

- Shane Strongosky (6/19/15)



In the Valley of Springs (the region surrounding Beit She'an), they use natural springs and lakes as much as possible. Hanging out at lakes is the norm for the residents of Beit She'an. In many places throughout Israel, there is a shortage of water. But in Beit She'an, there is not, and they don't let their springs go to waste. My host, Yagel, took me to one of these amazing places for a picture.

- Gabe Shapera (6/19/16)



The Temple Mount

Yesterday we visited the heart of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. We went through security, something that is done in nearly every building in Israel, and walked up the covered bridge to the Temple Mount. Ever since 1967 this national conflict has turned into a religious conflict, which in the end has evolved into a political conflict and the main source of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. What once was about pure religion and belief has put two peoples against each other creating intifadas, wars, and thousands of casualties on both sides. And the worst part is that this situation has circled back. Instead of allowing both religions to pray as they wish, pure politics has literally been placed at the center of one of the holiest places for both religions. This place meant for both religions has become political fuel. - *Ellie Levine (6/17/15)*



I didn't take a photo with the whole family, rather Aviv and I took one on Friday night at Shabbat dinner. We went to the pool in her kibbutz with around 40 of her family members and friends from the kibbutz. I was expecting to have a stereotypical Shabbat dinner: wine, challah, and prayers, but that's not at all how it was. It was a very casual cookout with the kids playing in the pool and the adults just sitting around it talking. This setting made me feel really comfortable because it reminded me of gatherings back in America, other than all the Hebrew around me. - *Lindsay Blashka (6/19/15)*

MEMORABLE

Water: bringing people together

On our first full day with our friends from Beit She'an, Cohort 3 took a more hands-on approach to this year's theme, water – in the Kibbutzim Creek while wearing street clothes. Lost flip flops and sunglasses aside, it was a fun experience. The Israelis and Americans mingled somewhat uncomfortably at first, but something about the water allowed the conversation and laughter to flow naturally. We held on to and supported each other through the water, the tunnels made of pipes, and over the rocks. That is why this year's theme is so important; water brings people together in order to overcome obstacles (literally in this case). - *Sam Shaffer (6/19/15)*



Yad Vashem

One can't express all the emotions that I felt in Yad VaShem in Jerusalem. Hearing and seeing what the Nazis did to millions of Jews brought incredible sadness to me. However, it was important that we went to the museum even though it was so difficult to experience. It is my generation's job to tell the story of what happened to the millions of Jews so no one can forget. The museum is built in a way that leads you where it wants – you can't pick which path to walk around the museum. This was meant to show how the Jews couldn't choose their path. As we exited the museum we were walking upward, representing coming out of those horrific times. For all we know, the victims could have been the next Albert Einstein, or found a cure for cancer. - *Hannah Caplin (6/24/15)*



Bringing technology to farming

Eden Farm is not just a farm, but also an "agricultural experimentation station." Their goal is to use the latest agricultural and scientific technology in order to protect and enrich Israel's environment, provide more economic opportunities for families, and increase the quality of life for everyone. That mission is crucial in learning the truth about how Israel operates from multiple perspectives, and the mission is crucial in understanding the truths about how Israel interacts with other countries. Despite some issues, Eden Farm epitomizes how advanced Israel is environmentally, technologically, scientifically and economically. - *Ben Roter (6/19/15)*



Making the most of sewage

One of the last things we did on the trip was probably the worst smelling activity ever – a stop at the Dan Region Sewage Treatment Center, or Shafdan. The United States recycles only 1% of its sewage water and in 2009, Israel recycled 70% of its sewage water. Today, an astounding 85% of Israel's water from toilets and other sources is being recycled – and they're just getting started. Prime ministers and governors have come to Shafdan to learn what they do and adopt their system. Even the governor of California visited Shafdan and is copying their idea. The Shafdan sewage treatment center uses natural filtration to transform the sewage water into the clean water that we use every day. Not only is it a brilliant idea, but it also serves 2 million people! Crazy, right? The water can be used to grow crops through drip irrigation. There are positive steps forward: saving water through drip irrigation, desalination and sewage purification.
 - Danny Simon (6/24/15)



EXCITING





Reclaiming the land's beauty

Today we went for a tour of Ariel Sharon Park in Tel Aviv. When we arrived at the park I was in awe of its beauty. There were gentle hills covered with lush, green grass – something you don't find much of in Israel. A stream bubbled along and poured into a beautiful lily pond filled with purple and white flowers. Before our tour we stopped at the information center to watch a film and learn about the park's history, and, most astonishingly how it started as an area to dump garbage. Today, they have also found a way to harness the bad gasses from the buried garbage. The park uses long tubes to extract the gas and produce electricity from this biofuel. In return, the park gets paid from other companies who want to use this electricity. As an excellent example of land reclamation (other than the odd shape of Hiria Mountain in Ariel Sharon Park) you wouldn't think that it would have been a place where people dumped their garbage back in the 1900s. This landfill, with one of the best views of Tel Aviv, has turned out to be another excellent example of Israel's focus on preserving and maximizing its natural resources. - *Shane Strongosky (6/23/15)*

Mixing with Muslim teens

For the past year in our icnext seminars, we have explored reasons for tension between Jews and Muslims in Israel. For the last nine days we have heard mostly Jewish speakers, had Jewish tour guides, and spoken the language of the Jews. But I was excited for our visit to Jisar Az-Zarka, a small Arab village on the coast of the Mediterranean. We made our way to their equivalent of a JCC where we were met with a room of about a dozen Arab Muslim teens. Soon, we were broken up into tables where questions awaited us on the table. The questions ranged from what we do in our free time to what happens in romantic relationships in our religion and culture. Following the questions we created mandelas. Each group took the assignment in different ways, ranging from putting the symbol of our religions together in a peace sign alongside the words shalom and salam, to a Superman sign. Regardless of what comprised the mandelas, they were simply a statement that said "we have are differences but more importantly it's our similarities that can unite us and create peace." What an evening it was to be alongside Muslim teens, enjoying homemade pita and other Israeli foods, sitting by the most beautiful ocean in the world, in the country that we both love the most! - *Miriam Pincus (6/22/15)*





BREATHTAKING



Reflection

A lot of people have been asking me which of the places we went to was my favorite. Tel Aviv was beautiful and the beach was amazing. Jerusalem was great and visiting the Temple Mount was incredible. But by far my favorite was going to Beit She'an. There were a lot of comments about what people did with their host families and how much sleep they didn't get, but I personally loved spending time with Bar, my host, and his family.

- Keeva Schneider (Post-Mission)

Welcome to the new @akiva

@akiva is:

- A unique life experience.
- A positive connection with Israel.
- The center of Jewish life and learning for all teens in the community.
- All of the above.



Teens are different today than they were when Akiva High School was founded in 1967 to provide only Hebrew-language education. America was different a half-century ago. Israel was different.

The new @akiva of today is different, too. And it's most definitely not just a Hebrew school.

The new @akiva's innovative thinking, strong content-based programs, extensive outreach, and entrepreneurial way of engaging teens sets it apart as the premier, inter-denominational center in Cleveland that is building the next generation of Jewish leaders.

It serves teens across the community and coordinates, enhances and offers Jewish-themed programming for synagogues, Jewish youth organizations, supplemental religious schools, Jewish day schools, public and private high schools, and families. What hasn't changed is its commitment to Jewish, Israel and Hebrew education as foundations of Jewish identity.

Think of @akiva as a menu of possibilities that resonate for Jewish teens and their diverse interests regardless of how much time they devote to Jewish activities.

Check out the exciting opportunities now – and check back tomorrow to see what's new. Details are at www.akivacleveland.org or call 216.367.1388.

**@akiva
for.all**

cleveland.shin.shinim

Teen emissaries from Israel who strengthen the connection of teens in Cleveland to Israeli society and culture by forming meaningful relationships and creating interactive, exciting educational events. They are deeply involved in @akiva's array of programs.

"I did not see [the shin shin] as a teacher standing up in front of the room and teaching. She was able to talk to us and be real. We were able to learn without any boundaries."

HS@akiva

Two tracks for meaningful Jewish learning experiences: Hebrew.for.all(teens) provides Hebrew language studies online, with tutors or in traditional classes. Judaic Track offers exploration and debate about issues facing Jewish teens today.

"Knowing how to read and write in Hebrew connects me to our past and ensures my connection to the Jewish future."

icnext (israel.cleveland.next)

A two-year program including a trip to Israel that educates students in the core issues of Israeli society, culture, and the geopolitical situation today. Participants create a traveling photo exhibit based on the theme of their trip and share it with the entire Cleveland community.

"By developing my connections on a social level, on an academic level, and on a spiritual level, icnext laid the groundwork for a lifelong relationship with my homeland."

HaZamir Cleveland

The local chapter of an international organization that promotes high-level Jewish choral singing, Jewish unity, connection to Israel, and teen leadership.

"HaZamir Cleveland enables me to meet other young Jews who share my passion for music. We are able to get to know other teenagers from Beit She'an which is a really great experience which further connects me both to Israel and to music."

scholars.in.residence

Providing dynamic and skilled educators to work in residency with schools and groups throughout the community several times a year to provide leadership and education.

testimony.theater.cleveland

Bringing together students with Holocaust survivors and their families for re-telling and re-acting of forgotten narratives that keep the memory alive and gives teens a new opportunity to experience history.

College prep initiatives:

- **Juniors go to college** - An opportunity to see how Jewish life looks on a campus as the college selection process begins.
- **Senior seminar** - Providing knowledge and tactics to cope with and respond to the wave of anti-Semitic, anti-Israel challenges on college campuses.
- **Seniors go to AIPAC Policy Conference** - Joining the Cleveland Delegation to attend the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., the largest gathering of America's pro-Israel community.

iDay

Enjoying an afternoon of fun and interactive Israel experience and Israeli food and coffee.

J-Serve Cleveland

Coordinating Cleveland projects for J-Serve, the International Day of Jewish Youth Service.

Students go to Camp Szarvas

Selecting and preparing Cleveland students go to Camp Szarvas as Fellows to meet, celebrate, explore and share experiences with 1,500 Jewish campers from 20+ countries at a summer camp in Szarvas, Hungary.

Upcoming opportunities

- **j.films.for.teens**
A film series that entertains, enlightens and encourages teens to think about issues that affect them and their Israeli peers.
- **Cleveland-Israel theater program**
Using theater in new ways that are educational, challenging and fun.



israel.cleveland.next (icnext) is accepting students for 2016-2018. Apply today!

Learn about Israel.

Travel to Israel.

Connect others to Israel.

Want to join us?



... commit to seven Sundays (one per month) in the first year, host an Israeli teen in your home for a week, travel to Israel for a 10-day summer experience, and lead a second-year project for your community.

Applications for icnext Cohort 5 are now being accepted.

Cost for the program is \$1,800 (financial aid available).

WHAT? israel.cleveland.next (icnext) is a unique two-year program that educates a dedicated group of Jewish high school sophomores and juniors from all denominations on the core issues of Israeli society and the geopolitical situation in Israel today. Students also learn, engage and work with a group of Israeli peers from Cleveland's sister community of Beit She'an and the Valley of Springs (Emek HaMayanot).

The first year culminates in a 10-day Israel exploratory mission, giving participants the opportunity to experience the realities of life in Israel. In the second year, students will be involved in initiating, organizing and galvanizing peer involvement in educational, political or cultural activities designed to build support for the State of Israel. Students will become expert Israel engagers in order to educate others about Israel.

WHO? icnext applications are open now for Cleveland-area high school students who have a strong interest in Israel and will be entering 10th or 11th grades in fall 2016. Applicants will be judged on essays, recommendations and a personal interview. The selection committee will choose 26 students to participate in the program.

HOW TO APPLY? Go to www.icnext.org to download the Participant Application and the 2016-2018 Calendar. Applications and information are also available by calling 216.367.1388 or by emailing tkeller@akivacleveland.org.



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