



Amnon Ophir  
@akiva Director  
@akiva

216-789-2861  
aophir@jecc.org  
<https://www.akivacleveland.org>



**icnext 12 2024 June Israel Mission Itinerary**  
Jun 9, 2024 - Jun 21, 2024

## Trip Summary

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### June 9 - Sunday - On the way to Israel

12:01 AM	Before The Trip - The Blogger
5:58 AM	Depart from Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE) - Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE)
7:35 AM	Arrive at Boston Logan International Airport - Boston Logan International Airport
9:15 AM	Mugshots for our Blogs with Amnon
9:30 AM	Photographers and Bloggers of the Days - 6.9-10.2024
10:00 AM	Preparing For Our Blog Post Session and building interview questions with Tina
1:34 PM	Depart from Boston Logan International Airport - Boston Logan International Airport Our Israel Mission Blog

### June 10 - Monday - Welcome to Israel

	Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)
6:38 AM	Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון) - Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון)
8:30 AM	Opening activity and Breakfast at Park Ariel Sharon
11:00 AM	Anu, Museum for the Jewish People - Opening Activity
1:30 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	
3:00 PM	A visit to the House of Many Colors
4:00 PM	
5:30 PM	Going to the rooms
6:00 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Pre Shavuot celebration in Beit Shean (with Interviews)
8:30 PM	To be an Israeli - An opening program with the Shin Shinim
9:00 PM	Daily Reflection
10:00 PM	Layla Tov Overnight at Beit Dadia Hostel (Beit Shean) Our Israel Mission Blog

### June 11 - Tuesday - Erev Shavuot

	Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)
	Shavuot in the Kibbutz - The Bloggers
7:00 AM	Boker Tov
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	The Morning Briefing
8:00 AM	Understanding the Partnership - A debrief with Teenshinim
10:00 AM	Water activity at the partnership
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	
	Overnight at Home Hospitality in Reshafim/Shlafim/Shluchot
2:00 PM	Shavuot In the Kibbutz (Erev Chag 7:20pm) - On the kibbutz, Shavuot is a time for remembering the movement's glory days .pdf
9:00 PM	Tikun Leil Shavuot (until 1pm) Layla Tov Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 12 - Wednesday - Shavuot

7:00 AM Home Hospitality Shavuot (End of the Chag 8:32pm)  
 11:00 AM My "Bait"? activity with Yahav  
 8:30 PM Dinner together  
 9:00 PM Daily Reflection  
 9:30 PM After Shavuot activity  
 10:30 PM Layla Tov  
 Overnight at Home Hospitality in Reshafim/Shlafim/Shluchot  
 Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 13 - Thursday - On The Way to Jerusalem

Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)  
 7:00 AM Boker Tov  
 7:30 AM Breakfast  
 8:00 AM  
 8:00 AM The Morning Briefing on the bus  
 9:30 AM A visit to the Ecological Greenhouse at Ein Shemer with Oded Rahav  
 1:15 PM Lunch  
 2:00 PM Check in at Rabin Youth Hostel  
 3:00 PM Daily Reflection  
 3:30 PM A visit to Israel National Library (NLI)  
 6:30 PM Dinner  
 7:30 PM  
 9:00 PM Guy Mazig Concert  
 11:30 PM  
 11:59 PM Layla Tov  
 Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)  
 Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 14 - Friday - Mifgash in Jerusalem Day 01

7:00 AM Photographers of the Mifgash  
 7:30 AM Boker Tov  
 8:00 AM Breakfast  
 8:30 AM The Morning Briefing  
 8:30 AM A ride to Yad Vashem  
 9:15 AM A visit to Yad Vashem  
 1:00 PM Food tour of Shuk Machne Yehuda with the Teenshinim  
 Shabbat Blogger  
 4:30 PM Preparation for Shabbat  
 7:11 PM Shabbat Entrance  
 7:45 PM Kabalat Shabbat  
 8:30 PM Shabbat Dinner  
 9:30 PM Program with the Teenshinim  
 11:00 PM Layla Tov  
 Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)  
 Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 15 - Saturday - Mifgash in Jerusalem Day 02

8:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	A walk to Israel Museum
9:30 AM	The Israel Museum - Tour about Israel our home
11:30 AM	A walk back to Rabin
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Menucha
2:00 PM	The Israeli Politics arena: Structure and Current Challenges
3:00 PM	Activity with the Teenshinim
3:30 PM	Menucha
4:00 PM	Meeting with Ibrahim Abu Ahmad and Amira Mohammed - My Home? - Voicing a Third Narrative_ How October 7 Jolted These Palestinian-Israeli Peace Activists Into Action - Israel News - Haaretz.com.pdf
7:30 PM	Dinner
8:30 PM	Havdala
8:45 PM	A Ride to Kikar Safra
9:00 PM	Final Mifgash activity with Guru Zuzu
11:00 PM	Layla Tov
	Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)
	Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 16 - Sunday - Jerusalem

	Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)
	Jerusalem Blogger
7:30 AM	Boker Tov
7:30 AM	Morning Briefing
8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	
8:30 AM	Old City of Jerusalem - "The Jewish story - then, and now" tour with with Benji Davis
11:00 AM	
11:30 AM	A visit to Shalom Hartman Institute (including Lunch)
2:30 PM	Geopolitical Tour of modern Jerusalem- "The Conflict of Narratives" with Benji Davis
6:30 PM	Dinner
7:30 PM	The Middle East in Time of Crisis - a lecture
9:30 PM	Daily Reflection
10:30 PM	Good Night
	Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)
	Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 17 - Monday - Israel after October 7: The people, the stories and the needs

Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)

October 7 Day - Bloggers

7:30 AM Boker Tov  
 8:00 AM Breakfast  
 8:30 AM Volunteering in Moshav Nacham  
 1:30 PM Meeting with Israeli South Refugees (TBA)  
 3:00 PM October Seventh - Exhibit at Anu Museum  
 6:30 PM Check in at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)  
 6:45 PM Dinner  
 7:30 PM Koby Sibony' Workshop - Reflection on the Dead Sea and the Jordan River  
 9:00 PM Daily Reflection  
 Overnight at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)  
 Our Israel Mission Blog  
 9:00 PM Layla Tov

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## June 18 - Tuesday - Tel Aviv Day 01

Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)

7:30 AM Boker Tov  
 8:00 AM Breakfast  
 8:30 AM The Morning Briefing  
 8:30 AM A meeting with Hadas Kaldaron  
 10:30 AM A Graffiti Tour of Tel Aviv with Grafitiyul  
 12:00 PM Tasting Food around Shuk Hacarmel (including Lunch and Interviews)  
 4:00 PM A Meeting with Itamar Kramer - "Altalena Incident: A Turning Point in Israel's History  
 5:30 PM Dinner  
 7:00 PM A Play - Tartuffe By Molière - Tartuffe by Moliere.pdf  
 9:00 PM The Hostages Square (TBA)  
 10:30 PM Daily Reflection  
 11:00 PM Layla Tov  
 Overnight at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)  
 Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 19 - Wednesday - Tel aviv Day 02

Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)

7:30 AM	Boker Tov
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	The Morning Briefing
8:00 AM	What is a "Bait"? An interview activity at the new Tel aviv light rail train
11:45 AM	Lunch (Mishkanot)
12:30 PM	
1:00 PM	A final mission reflection workshop with Dina Goldstein
4:00 PM	
4:30 PM	The Third Annual icnext Matkot Tournament with the Shin Shinim - Matkot (Paddleball) by Jimbo J.pdf
7:00 PM	Mission final dinner at the Cooking Studio
9:00 PM	Ella and Gavi to the Airport
11:00 PM	Layla Tov
	Overnight at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)
	Our Israel Mission Blog

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## June 20 - Thursday - Going back home

Post Mission Blogs (by June 27, 2024)

5:00 AM	Boker Tov
5:30 AM	Breakfast
6:00 AM	A ride to the Airport
10:11 AM	Depart from Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון) - Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון)
2:30 PM	Arrive at Boston Logan International Airport - Boston Logan International Airport
	Our Israel Mission Blog
10:38 PM	Arrive at Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE) - Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE)

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## June 21 - Friday

12:58 AM	Depart from Boston Logan International Airport - Boston Logan International Airport
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## Information

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### **Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



### **icnext 12 Delegation**



### **Cohort 12 Israel Mission - Bloggers and Photographers**



### **Statement of Personal Responsibility**



### **icnext Cohort 12 2024 Israel Mission pre-departure information**



### **Dear icnext participants**

## Educational Documents

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### **\*Home questions for interviews:\***

1. How did oct 7 change the way you feel about your home?
2. Do you feel at home with God?
3. Do you feel like you can be yourself in your ur community and around your friends/family?
4. Is there a time that you have felt unsafe at home?
5. Do you feel like you are more connected to israel through an emotional or physical state?
6. How has your home as a community been impacted during the war?
7. Do you think your house is your home or do you find home/community somewhere else?
8. As a Jew/israeli, why is having a home important?
9. Do you ever think it's difficult to feel at home in israel?
10. Where do you feel most at home and why?
11. Does being around other jewish people make you feel at home?
12. What action makes you feel at home?

### **Photography and Blogging Guidelines for Cohort 12 Israel Mission**

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**Photography**

Every member of Cohort 12 should think of themselves as a photographer, recording our daily activities. We will ask you to turn in your photographs at the end of each day. The photos will be taken with your cell phones.

You should take the following images:

1. Landscape/background shots for each speaker or activity
2. Interesting Israeli objects and people
3. Israeli “homes” with important details that make it “Israeli”
4. Members of our group being engaged in the learning or activity

**Blogging**

All members of the group will be assigned times to blog. Whether you are blogging about a speaker or an activity, be sure you know the exact location where this is happening. If your assignment is a speaker, be sure to record the correct spelling of their name, and important details of their presentation.

At the end of the day you will put together a blog that presents both information and your reflection/reaction to the speaker or event.

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**What is Home? by the icnext 12 students**

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**Active listening Cohort 12**

i

**Cohort 12 Israel Mission Daily Reflection Questions**

During our trip we will end each day with a reflection on that day's experiences. We will begin the reflection by having each of you sit quietly, think about specific questions that we will ask, and make notes in your notebooks - the same questions will be asked every day. We will then sit in small discussion groups to share our thoughts.

The Daily Questions:

- What was your favorite place, experience or person you met?
- What surprised you today? Did it disagree with or make you re-think something you already thought?
- Choose an experience and explain how it might help you respond to anti-Semitism or anti-Israel experiences in the future.
- How involved were you today? What did you learn? How invested were you in the day?
- Rate your participation from 1 - 10 (10 being a leader).

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**icnext Cohort 12 Interviews about the Meaning of Home**

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**This Great House By Shai Secunda**

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**On the kibbutz, Shavuot is a time for remembering the movement's glory days**

i

**Tartuffe by Moliere**



## Post Mission Information (icnext second year)



### Cohort 12 Year 2 Fellows Program

To successfully complete the Fellowship Year, you will need to continue your involvement with our program for **20 hours** over the course of Year 2. There will be several options for you to satisfy this requirement, including attending speakers and events, reading and doing a project. Each member of the Cohort will create their own program by choosing from a list of options!

**August 18, 2024** will be the Cohort 12 reunion and Year 2 planning meeting. This will also be a 'formal' welcome to the 24-25 Shin Shinim.

## June 9 - Sunday - On the way to Israel



**12:01 AM** - Eastern Daylight Time

### Before The Trip - The Blogger

Gavi Lappen



**5:58 AM DEPARTURE** - Eastern Daylight Time

### Depart from Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE)

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL	GATE
EI AI	LY 4176	TERM	A7



### Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE)

5300 Riverside Dr, Cleveland, OH, US, 44135  
(216) 265-6000



**7:35 AM ARRIVAL** - Eastern Daylight Time

### Arrive at Boston Logan International Airport

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL	GATE
EI AI	LY 4176	A	A2



### Boston Logan International Airport

1 Harborside Dr, Boston, MA, US, 02128  
(857) 241-2000



**9:15 AM** - Eastern Daylight Time

### Mugshots for our Blogs with Amnon





**9:30 AM** - Eastern Daylight Time  
**Photographers and Bloggers of the Days - 6.9-10.2024**  
*Photographers*

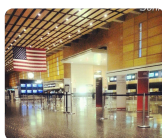


**10:00 AM** - Eastern Daylight Time - 1 hr  
**Preparing For Our Blog Post Session and building interview questions with Tina**



**1:34 PM DEPARTURE** - Eastern Daylight Time  
**Depart from Boston Logan International Airport**

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL
EI AI	LY 16	E



**Boston Logan International Airport**  
 1 Harborside Dr, Boston, MA, US, 02128  
 (857) 241-2000



**Our Israel Mission Blog**  
[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 10 - Monday - Welcome to Israel



**Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)**  
 Noa Rabinovitz



**6:38 AM ARRIVAL** - Israel Daylight Time  
**Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון)**

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL
EI AI	LY 16	3



### Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון)

Ha-Mamri'im Rd., 70100 תל אביב, ישראל, תל אביב-יפו, +972 3-975-5555



8:30 AM - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr

#### Opening activity and Breakfast at Park Ariel Sharon

Update about Israel by Benji Berman

Activity Blogger - Rebecca McCann



11:00 AM - Israel Daylight Time - 4 hr

#### Anu, Museum for the Jewish People - Opening Activity

Activity Blogger - Rebecca McCann



1:30 PM - Israel Daylight Time

#### Lunch



2:00 PM DEPARTURE - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr 15 min

A ride to Daliat al-Carmel



3:00 PM - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr

#### A visit to the House of Many Colors

[About the House of Many Colors](#)

Activity Blogger - Rebecca McCann



**4:00 PM DEPARTURE** - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr 15 min  
A ride to Beit Shean



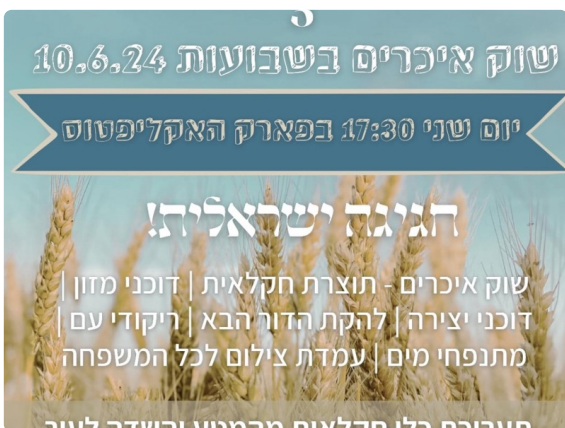
**5:30 PM** - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr  
**Going to the rooms**



**6:00 PM** - Israel Daylight Time - 30 min  
**Dinner**



**6:30 PM** - Israel Daylight Time  
**Pre Shavuot celebration in Beit Shean (with Interviews)**



**8:30 PM** - Israel Daylight Time - 30 min  
**To be an Israeli - An opening program with the Shin Shinim**



**9:00 PM** - Israel Daylight Time  
**Daily Reflection**



10:00 PM - Israel Daylight Time

Layla Tov



Overnight at Beit Dadia Hostel (Beit Shean)



Our Israel Mission Blog

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 11 - Tuesday - Erev Shavuot

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Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)

Noa Rabinovitz



Shavuot in the Kibbutz - The Bloggers

Romi Balkan

Ava Gross



**7:00 AM**  
**Boker Tov**



**7:30 AM - 30 min**  
**Breakfast**



**8:00 AM - 15 min**  
**The Morning Briefing**



**8:00 AM - 30 min**  
**Understanding the Partnership - A debrief with Teenshinim**

Cleveland has a sister. She lives in Israel, and her name is Beit Shean, which means House of Tranquility. Located in the Galilee region up north, it's about an hour and a half drive from Tel Aviv, near the Jordanian border. Our sister city is older than Cleveland. Ancient, in fact; it is believed the city has been continually inhabited since the Early Bronze Age (3200-3000 B.C.). Cleveland and Beit Shean share many traits, as sisters often do. Neither is known primarily as a tourist destination, yet both have much to offer visitors. There are some real gems to be discovered in Beit Shean; in its surrounding nature, in its history, and within its people's Guide to Beit Shean.



**10:00 AM - 2 hr**  
**Water activity at the partnership**



12:30 PM - 1 hr  
**Lunch**



1:30 PM DEPARTURE  
A ride to Home Hospitality



**Overnight at Home Hospitality in Reshafim/Shlafim/Shluchot**



2:00 PM  
**Shavuot In the Kibbutz (Erev Chag 7:20pm)**



9:00 PM  
**Tikun Leil Shavuot (until 1pm)**

**Layla Tov**



### Our Israel Mission Blog

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 12 - Wednesday - Shavuot

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7:00 AM - 30 min

**Home Hospitality Shavuot (End of the Chag 8:32pm)**



11:00 AM - 1 hr 30 min

**My "Bait"? activity with Yahav**

Yahav



8:30 PM - 30 min

**Dinner together**



9:00 PM - 30 min

**Daily Reflection**

(Two Groups)



9:30 PM - 1 hr

**After Shavuot activity**



10:30 PM

**Layla Tov**





**Overnight at Home Hospitality in Reshafim/Shlafim/Shluchot**



**Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 13 - Thursday - On The Way to Jerusalem



**Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)**

Maya Lichtenstein



**7:00 AM**

**Boker Tov**



**7:30 AM - 30 min**

**Breakfast**



## 8:00 AM DEPARTURE

A ride to to the Ecological Greenhouse at Ein Shemer



8:00 AM - 15 min

### The Morning Briefing on the bus



9:30 AM - 2 hr

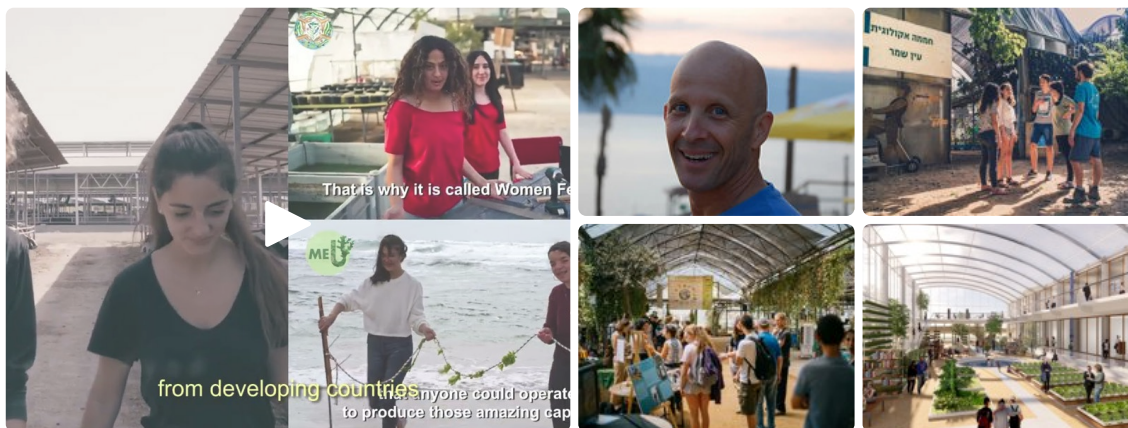
### A visit to the Ecological Greenhouse at Ein Shemer with Oded Rahav

**About** - the Ecological Greenhouse at Ein Shemer is a center for global and local environmental challenges. It is a place to invent, learn, research, meet and create together, with the wide diversity of Israeli society, young people and experts, ideas and solutions for a green future, innovation, sustainability, agriculture, science, technology and culture.

[More about the Ecological Greenhouse at Ein Shemer](#)

#### Activity Blogger - Asher Hardis

**Oded Rahav** is the Dead Sea Guardian - the only person on the planet who has taken it upon himself to save this Sea. An entrepreneur, Oded has founded, managed, and led businesses in a wide range of fields. He is a relentless environmental activist and change generator.



A ride to Jerusalem



**1:15 PM**  
**Lunch**



**2:00 PM CHECK-IN - 1 hr**  
**Check in at Rabin Youth Hostel**



**3:00 PM**  
**Daily Reflection**



**3:30 PM - 1 hr 30 min**  
**A visit to Israel National Library (NLI)**  
**About - The NLI: Your Story. Our Story.**

Antique manuscripts; robots pulling books off shelves; an exciting, interactive display on a giant 65-ft. screen; ancient incantation bowls; enchanted items; rare recordings of cultural ceremonies. Would you have ever believed you could find all this and much more at a library?

You read that right! It's all here at the National Library of Israel!

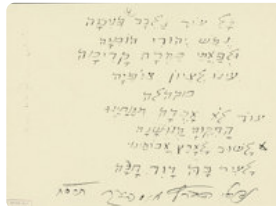
Inside an impressive new building, you can find the greatest, most important cultural treasures of Israeli society and the Jewish People. Soon, you – curious people of all ages seeking a quality, content-rich, meaningful experience – will be able to see all these treasures up close.

You are invited to the National Library's brand-new home in Jerusalem, where you can enjoy thought-provoking tours, exhibitions, and activities that will inspire your imagination and warm your heart.

**It's a learning experience that's both fun and inspiring – and it can only happen here.**

[Click on the following link to learn in advance about our tour experience in NLI](#)

**Activity Blogger - Meir Bickart**



**6:30 PM - 45 min**  
**Dinner**



**7:30 PM DEPARTURE**  
A ride to Yahud for the Guy Mazig Concert



**9:00 PM - 4 hr**  
**Guy Mazig Concert**  
[About Guy Mazig Music](#)

[Guy Mazig Music \(Apple\)](#)

[Guy Mazig Music \(Spotify\)](#)

**Activity Blogger - Mackenzie Acker**



**11:30 PM DEPARTURE - 1 hr 30 min**



A ride to Jerusalem



11:59 PM  
Layla Tov



Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)



**Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 14 - Friday - Mifgash in Jerusalem Day 01



7:00 AM  
Photographers of the Mifgash

7:30 AM



## Boker Tov



8:00 AM - 30 min

**Breakfast**



8:30 AM - 15 min

**The Morning Briefing**



8:30 AM DEPARTURE

**A ride to Yad Vashem**



9:15 AM - 3 hr

**A visit to Yad Vashem**

Activity Blogger - Asher Rosenberg



1:00 PM - 2 hr 30 min

**Food tour of Shuk Machne Yehuda with the Teenshinim**  
Activity Blogger -

[Shuk Machne Yehuda](#)

Lunch and free time with Israelis



**Shabbat Blogger**  
PJ Ryan

Naomi Wuliger



**4:30 PM**  
**Preparation for Shabbat**



**7:11 PM**  
**Shabbat Entrance**



**7:45 PM - 30 min**  
**Kabalat Shabbat**



**8:30 PM - 45 min**  
**Shabbat Dinner**



**9:30 PM - 1 hr**  
**Program with the Teenshinim**  
With the Partnership Staff



**11:00 PM**  
**Layla Tov**



**Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)**



**Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 15 - Saturday - Mifgash in Jerusalem Day 02



**8:30 AM - 30 min**  
**Breakfast**



**9:00 AM DEPARTURE - 15 min**  
**A walk to Israel Museum**



**9:30 AM - 2 hr**  
**The Israel Museum - Tour about Israel our home**



**11:30 AM DEPARTURE - 15 min**  
**A walk back to Rabin**



**12:00 PM**  
**Lunch**



**12:30 PM - 1 hr 30 min**  
**Menucha**





2:00 PM - 45 min

**The Israeli Politics arena: Structure and Current Challenges**



3:00 PM - 30 min

**Activity with the Teenshinim**



3:30 PM - 1 hr

**Menucha**



4:00 PM - 2 hr

**Meeting with Ibrahim Abu Ahmad and Amira Mohammed - My Home?**



7:30 PM - 30 min

**Dinner**



8:30 PM - 15 min

**Havdala**



8:45 PM DEPARTURE

**A Ride to Kikar Safra**



9:00 PM - 2 hr 15 min

**Final Mifgash activity with Guru Zuzu**

Join the [Zuzu Guru](#) and turn the volume on for an exceptional urban experience in the heart of Jerusalem.

We will sing, dance, laugh - and enjoy all the things that our body and soul need in this current time. One of the most powerful experiences in Israel with high levels of fun guaranteed!



**11:00 PM**  
**Layla Tov**



**Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)**



**Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



**June 16 - Sunday - Jerusalem**



**Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)**

Ella Ohayon



**Jerusalem Blogger**

Gavi Lappen

Meir Bickart



**7:30 AM** - Israel Daylight Time  
**Boker Tov**



**7:30 AM** - Israel Daylight Time - 15 min  
**Morning Briefing**



**8:00 AM** - Israel Daylight Time - 30 min  
**Breakfast**



**8:00 AM DEPARTURE** - Israel Daylight Time  
 A ride to the Old City



**8:30 AM** - Israel Daylight Time - 2 hr 30 min  
**Old City of Jerusalem - "The Jewish story - then, and now" tour with with Benji Davis**



**11:00 AM DEPARTURE** - Israel Daylight Time  
 A ride to Shalom Hartman Institute



**11:30 AM** - Israel Daylight Time - 2 hr 30 min  
**A visit to Shalom Hartman Institute (including Lunch)**

**About** - The Shalom Hartman Institute is a leading center of Jewish thought and education, serving Israel and North America. Our mission is to strengthen Jewish peoplehood, identity, and pluralism; to enhance the Jewish and democratic character of Israel; and to ensure that Judaism is a compelling force for good in the 21st century.

[More about the Shalom Hartman Institute](#)

1. Israel as the home of the Jewish People



2:30 PM - Israel Daylight Time - 3 hr  
**Geopolitical Tour of modern Jerusalem- "The Conflict of Narratives" with Benji Davis**  
Activity Blogger



6:30 PM - Israel Daylight Time - 30 min  
**Dinner**



7:30 PM - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr  
**The Middle East in Time of Crisis - a lecture**



9:30 PM - Israel Daylight Time  
**Daily Reflection**



10:30 PM - Israel Daylight Time  
**Good Night**



**Overnight at Yitzhak Rabin Youth Hostel (Jerusalem)**



**Our Israel Mission Blog**  
[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 17 - Monday - Israel after October 7: The people, the stories and the needs



### Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)

Ilan Gottfreid



### October 7 Day - Bloggers

Romi Balkan

Ava Gross



7:30 AM

### Boker Tov



8:00 AM - 30 min

### Breakfast



8:30 AM - 3 hr

### Volunteering in Moshav Nacham

**Naham** (Hebrew: נחם) is a [moshav](#) in central [Israel](#). Located near [Beit Shemesh](#), it falls under the jurisdiction of [Mateh Yehuda Regional Council](#). In 2022 it had a population of 532.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### History[[edit](#)]

Moshav Naham was established in 1950 by [immigrants](#) from [Yemen](#) and [Cochin](#) on part of the lands of the [moshava](#) of [Hartuv](#), abandoned during the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](#). It was named after a member of the [Tribe of Judah](#) in the [Book of Chronicles](#) 4:19<sup>[2]</sup> — "And the sons of the wife of Hodiah, the sister of *Naham*, were the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite."



1:30 PM - 1 hr

### Meeting with Israeli South Refugees (TBA)



3:00 PM - 3 hr

### October Seventh - Exhibit at Anu Museum A Space of Anguish, Loss, Anger, Memory and Sorrow

ANU – Museum of the Jewish People now displays a new exhibition, "October Seventh", examining how Israeli culture reacts to the war.

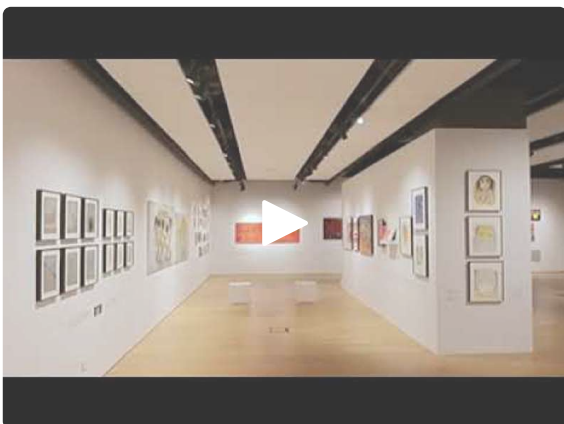
The exhibition curates works by 25 artists whose creative activity reflects the atrocious times Israeli society is facing since October 7th. Some of them are living artists, some deceased – either murdered on October 7th or died during the ongoing war, while others are residents (or former residents) of the southern areas, who suffered the loss of their loved ones, their homes, or whose families were affected by the horrors of the massacre.

The new exhibition wishes to frame a current situation and to record the unique creative burst that is well felt among Israelis since the war began.

Participating artists: **Shai Azoulay / Odelia Elhanani / Eyal Assulin / Raz Ben-Ami / Sofie Berzon MacKie / Shira Glezerman / Yosef Joseph Dadoune / Shirel Horovitz / Inbar Heimann z"l / Jonathan Chazor z"l / Ziva Jelin / Miriam Cabessa / Zvika Lachman / Haim Maor / Roei Idan z"l / Oren Fischer / Avishai Platek / Amit Cabessa / Eviatar (Tari) Kipnis z"l / Irit Regev / Nil and Karin Romano / Shirley Shor / Leeor Shtainer / Dina Shenhav / Keren Shpilsher**

Curators: **Carmit Blumensohn, Michal Houminer**

#### [More about the Exhibit](#)



**7.10**  
October Seventh  
שבעה באוקטובר



6:30 PM CHECK-IN - 1 hr

### Check in at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)

6:45 PM - 30 min



**Dinner**

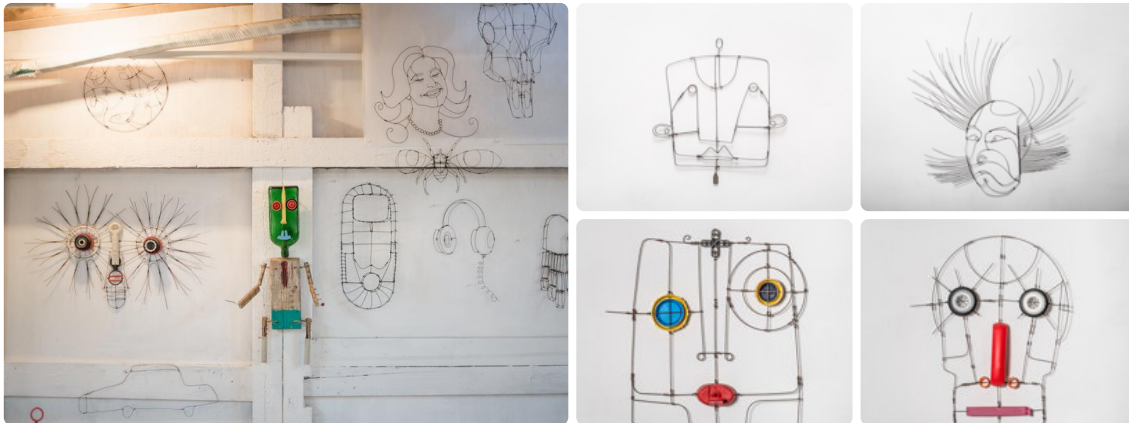


**7:30 PM - 2 hr**

**Koby Sibony' Workshop - Reflection on the Dead Sea and the Jordan River**

**Activity Blogger**

**About Koby Sibony**



**9:00 PM**

**Daily Reflection**



**Overnight at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)**



**Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



**9:00 PM**

**Layla Tov**



## June 18 - Tuesday - Tel Aviv Day 01



### **Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)**

Danielle Mossinson



**7:30 AM**

### **Boker Tov**



**8:00 AM - 30 min**

### **Breakfast**



**8:30 AM - 15 min**

### **The Morning Briefing**



**8:30 AM - 1 hr 30 min**

### **A meeting with Hadas Kaldaron**

Activity Blogger - Rebecca McCann

Hadas Hadas Kalderon is an actress, playwright, and director who is currently serving as the artistic director of the National Youth Theatre. Hadas is the granddaughter of renowned poet Avrom Sutzkever, and she has been on a journey to keep her grandfather's memory alive. To accomplish this, Hadas has been involved in three projects: as the associate producer of the award-winning documentary *Black Honey, the Life and Poetry of Avraham Sutzkever*; as the producer and the main character in the new film *Ver Vet Blaybn? (Who Will Remain?)*, which follows Hades travels to Lithuania, using her grandfather's diary to trace his early life in Vilna and his survival from the Holocaust. Finally, Hadas wrote and produced the play "The Witness". The play follows her grandfather, Sutzkever who was chosen by the Russians to be the only Jewish witness at the Nuremberg Trials. His evidence had an enormous impact in the trials. The play is the story of his great belief that poetry will save lives and the human spirit.



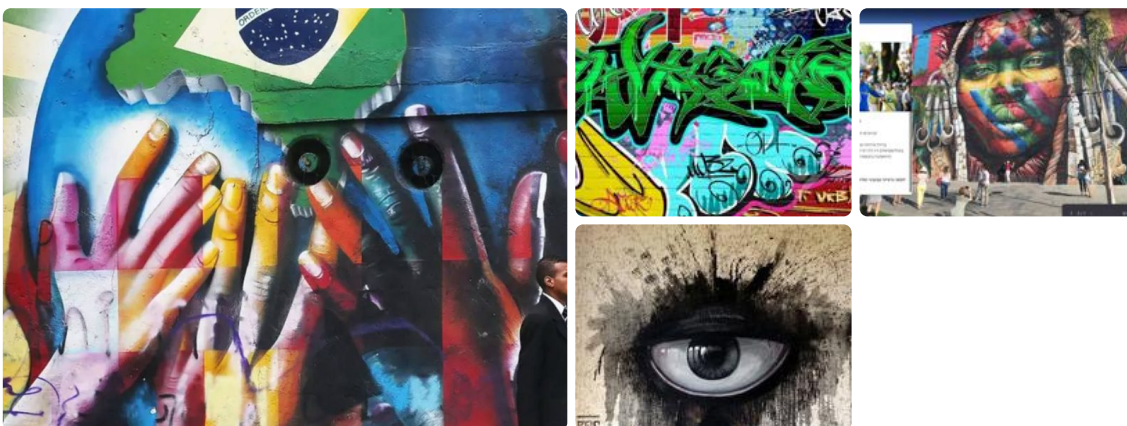


10:30 AM - 1 hr 30 min

### A Graffiti Tour of Tel Aviv with Grafitiyul

[Grafitiyul](#)

Activity Blogger - PJ Rayn



12:00 PM - 3 hr

### Tasting Food around Shuk Hacarmel (including Lunch and Interviews)

Interviews Blogger -

Mackenzie Acker

Asher Rosenberg



4:00 PM - 2 hr

### A Meeting with Itamar Kramer - "Altalena Incident: A Turning Point in Israel's History Bugrashov Beach

Activity Blogger - Naomi Wuliger

"Altalena Incident: A Turning Point in Israel's History": For three days, just a month after its formation, Israel was thrown into internal conflict. The Israeli National House was almost destroyed soon after it was built. A ship carrying weapons and activists, organized by the revisionist movement, sparked a major controversy dividing the nation. This event, reaching its peak off the coast of Tel Aviv, profoundly influenced Israeli statehood and continues to shape Israeli culture and identity.

**About Itamar Kremer**

Itamar is an esteemed educator and social entrepreneur passionate about promoting Jewish Peoplehood and fostering cultural understanding worldwide. As the former head of the Koret International School for Jewish Peoplehood, he led initiatives to deepen Jewish identity and belonging. As founding director of Ibelong - Masa Israeli, Itamar empowered young adults on their journey of self-discovery and connection to Israel. With a diverse background, including being a former school principal, IDF officer, and ex-JAFI emissary, Itamar navigates Jewish identity and Israeli society with nuance and empathy. He is recognized as a dynamic speaker on Jewish Peoplehood and Israel's challenges, making him an ideal choice for promoting dialogue and understanding. With a forward-thinking approach, Itamar inspires audiences towards a future rooted in understanding and cooperation.



**5:30 PM** - 30 min

**Dinner**



**7:00 PM** - 1 hr 30 min

**A Play - Tartuffe By Molière**

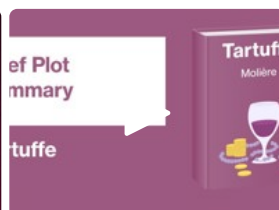
**Activity Blogger** - Asher Hardis

**Tartuffe By Molière** - A new and surprising modern version of the timeless comedy written by one of the greatest comedy writers of all time.

Translated by Eli Bijaoui

Directed by Roni Brodecki

About the Play - Orgon is living the good life. He has money, status, and a loving family. But he feels the need for spiritual reinforcement to give his life meaning. He brings into his home Tartuffe, a man of faith and principles whom Orgon views as a demigod. From that moment on, chaos ensues. Orgon's family falls into complete disarray, and no one is able to make Orgon see that Tartuffe may be a con artist and a fraud.



**9:00 PM** - 1 hr

**The Hostages Square (TBA)**



10:30 PM  
Daily Reflection



11:00 PM  
Layla Tov



Overnight at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)



**Our Israel Mission Blog**

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 19 - Wednesday - Tel Aviv Day 02

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**Shin Shin of the day (Photography and Blogging)**  
Maya Lichtenstein



7:30 AM  
Boker Tov



7:30 AM - 30 min  
**Breakfast**



8:00 AM - 15 min  
**The Morning Briefing**



8:00 AM - 3 hr  
**What is a "Bait"? An interview activity at the new Tel Aviv light rail train**  
[About the Light Rail](#)

**Interviews Blogger -**

Romi Balkan

Asher Hardis



11:45 AM - 30 min  
**Lunch (Mishkanot)**



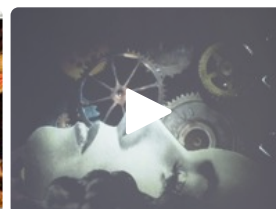
**12:30 PM DEPARTURE - 30 min**  
A ride to Dina's studio



1:00 PM - 3 hr

**A final mission reflection workshop with Dina Goldstein**  
Activity Blogger -

[Dina Goldstein](#) is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in Tel Aviv. Her works include live animation performances, collage, video and dance. On the verge between performance, visual art and toy theater, the works strive to evoke surreal fantasy worlds, deriving from my yearning for the wondrous and the desire to bring the magical into the quotidian.



4:00 PM DEPARTURE - 30 min

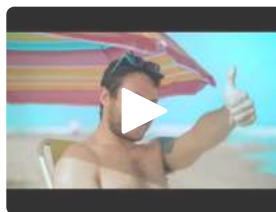
A ride to the beach



4:30 PM - 2 hr

**The Third Annual icnext Matkot Tournament with the Shin Shinim**  
Matkot = Paddleball

Activity Blogger -



7:00 PM - 2 hr  
**Mission final dinner at the Cooking Studio**  
Activity Bloggers -

[About the Cooking Studio](#)



9:00 PM DEPARTURE  
**Ella and Gavi to the Airport**



11:00 PM  
**Layla Tov**



**Overnight at Mishkanot Ruth Daniel Youth Hostel (Jaffa)**

**Our Israel Mission Blog**



[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



## June 20 - Thursday - Going back home



### Post Mission Blogs (by June 27, 2024)

Bloggers -

Gavi Lappen

Meir Bickart

Mackenzie Acker

Ava Gross

Rebecca McCann

Naomi Wuliger



**5:00 AM** - Israel Daylight Time

### **Boker Tov**



**5:30 AM** - Israel Daylight Time - 30 min

### **Breakfast**



**6:00 AM** - Israel Daylight Time - 1 hr

### **A ride to the Airport**



**10:11 AM DEPARTURE** - Israel Daylight Time

**Depart from Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון)**

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL
EI AI	LY 15	3

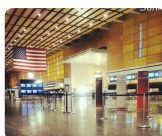


**Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) (נמל התעופה בן גוריון)**  
 Ha-Mamri'im Rd., 70100 תל אביב, ישראל, תל אביב-יפו, תל אביב-יפו  
 +972 3-975-5555



**2:30 PM ARRIVAL** - Eastern Daylight Time  
**Arrive at Boston Logan International Airport**

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL
EI AI	LY 15	E



**Boston Logan International Airport**  
 1 Harborside Dr, Boston, MA, US, 02128  
 (857) 241-2000



### Our Israel Mission Blog

[Click on the link to read our ongoing mission blog](#)



**10:38 PM ARRIVAL** - Eastern Daylight Time  
**Arrive at Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE)**

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	GATE
EI AI	LY 8510	C6



**Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (CLE)**  
 5300 Riverside Dr, Cleveland, OH, US, 44135  
 (216) 265-6000

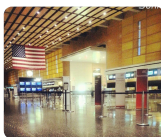
## June 21 - Friday



**12:58 AM DEPARTURE** - Eastern Daylight Time  
**Depart from Boston Logan International Airport**

AIRLINE	FLIGHT NUMBER	TERMINAL	GATE
EI AI	LY 8510	C	C30





**Boston Logan International Airport**

1 Harborside Dr, Boston, MA, US, 02128

(857) 241-2000





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## icnext Cohort 12

Israel Mission June 9 – 20, 2024

### Waiver 03

#### Statement of Personal Responsibility

Welcome to Cohort 12's upcoming trip to Israel!

While on this exciting journey you will travel and experience all that Israel has to offer. As a member of icnext you represent the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, and will be expected to act accordingly. This is an educational experience – not a tour or camp trip – requiring responsibility and maturity. Therefore, we have established a set of rules and guidelines to ensure that everyone has a safe, enjoyable, and respectful trip. By signing this contract, you agree to abide by these rules and understand that failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Let's make this an unforgettable experience for all the right reasons!

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

- The use of any **drug**, including marijuana, is not permitted with the exception of prescription drugs noted in advance.
- The use of **cigarettes or smoking** of any kind, including Vaping, Nargila or Hookah is not permitted.
- Consumption or purchase of **alcoholic beverages** is not permitted with the exception of *Shabbat Kiddush* wine.
- Students are expected to act respectfully to each member of the group, our Israeli hosts and those of the opposite sex. **Sexual activity** is not permitted between participants or when visiting Israelis.
- The program is a **group experience** and participants are expected to act in ways that demonstrate respect and tolerance. Each student is expected to participate fully in all activities, cooperating fully at all times with the staff and fellow students, following all instructions, respecting the opinions of others even in disagreement, offering appropriate feedback and personally contributing to the activity.
- Students must comply with the directives of the group leaders and adhere to all security precautions.
- Each student will fulfill his or her role as a **responsible representative** of their people and community and behave in an acceptable and respectable manner at all times.
- A student who causes any **personal or injury or property damage** is responsible to pay the cost of the damage.
- Any body piercing or tattooing is strictly prohibited.
- Students are required to cooperate with curfews as set by the group leader.
- **Failure to comply with any of these guidelines is grounds for expulsion from the program. The expelled student will be sent home at parents'/guardians' expense and the parent/guardian hereby agrees to pay such expense.**

We, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to all of the above and will comply with all rules and regulations of the icnext program.

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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## icnext Cohort 12

### *Israel Mission – pre-departure information*

*Sunday, June 19 – Thursday, June 20, 2024*

#### **Travel Information:**

Arrive at the **Delta ticket counter 4:00AM** for 6:00AM departure on Delta Airlines flight 5684. You must have your passport with you when you arrive at the airport!!! ***We will print boarding passes at the airport – no need to print your boarding pass at home.***

#### **The 2024 Israel Mission**

- ***The icnext attitude:*** a successful Mission depends on our participants being able to navigate a range of situations. One minute we will be hearing from a serious speaker, and later in the day dancing at a concert.
- ***icnext tools for success:*** notetaking; questioning; listening; respect for speakers and participants; open-mindedness; courtesy; reflection.

#### **Packing for our Mission**

Israel will be hot, and our days will be very busy. However, this is an educational mission, not just a tour. Students should dress casually and comfortably but are required to dress modestly. Nice jeans, Capri pants and shorts are OK, but shorts must be a **modest length** – no shorter than fingertips when you are standing. Nice t-shirts are fine, but ***no tank (this includes boys), tube, halter, midriff length or spaghetti strap tops.*** *(Participants who come to breakfast inappropriately dressed will be asked to return to their rooms and change.)* Sandals are OK, but be sure to bring good walking shoes. A light jacket or sweater might be needed in the evening, and you will need 1 outfit that can get dirty (including shoes). For walking in Jerusalem's Old City, (we will be there on Shabbat) girls must have long (below the knee) skirt or pants and boys must have long pants.

We will be dressed for Shabbat on Friday evening and all day Saturday until sundown. Proper Shabbat attire is a **MUST!** For girls this means a blouse and skirt or dress, with sleeves (half sleeves are OK) or nice pants. For boys this is generally casual slacks or khakis, and a button down shirt.

Limit your baggage to **one checked bag of no more than 50 pounds** (please weigh it at home before coming to the airport). You are also permitted one carry-on bag. Remember, the



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less you bring, the easier it will be. Participants will be carrying their own suitcases, and an elevator is not always available.

Some specific suggestions:

- 10-11-day supply of undergarments and socks
- 10-11-day supply of comfortable tops
- 3 pairs of jeans/comfortable pants or skirts
- 3-4 pairs of shorts of modest length
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sweater, sweatshirt or light jacket
- Appropriate attire for Shabbat
- Sun hat – baseball hats work well
- Small backpack for daily use
- **Sunglasses and sun block**
- Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, sun block, medications, favorite shampoo and soap, feminine hygiene items, **more sun block**

## Money

- Bring money for food at the airport.
- Spending money is at the parent's discretion, but \$200 should be the maximum. ALL expenses are covered while participants are with our group, and this would only be for gifts and souvenirs. We will have an opportunity to change dollars into shekels when we arrive in Israel.
- In addition, we ask that you bring \$75 cash in a sealed envelope with the student's name written outside. As many expenses have increased, we will use this money for gratuities, and an additional activity that we would like to plan. If this is a challenge, please let us know ([tkeller@akivacleveland.org](mailto:tkeller@akivacleveland.org)).

## Emergency contact information

**Amnon Ophir – 972-054-234-1213 (Israeli cell phone number)**

**Lisa Goodman (JEC) - 216-299-5803 (local Cleveland contact for emergencies)**

**Tina Keller and Rabbi Scott Roland – Israeli phone number will be sent to parents when we get to Israel**

**Phones: participants have no need for cell phones while in Israel.** They will have access to our group phones (Amnon's, Tina's, Rabbi Scott's and our guide) at all times – day or night. Parents may also call our group phones at any time – day or night.



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Congratulations Cohort 12, it is almost Israel trip time!

You are about to embark on an incredible journey, experiencing all that Israel has to offer. As a graduate of icnext, I am telling you it was one of the most amazing trips I've experienced, and I learned so much about myself. While in Israel you will have plenty of time to be independent, explore new places and meet new people. But remember as a member of icnext you represent the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, and are supported by our community.

While you may not realize it now, it is a huge privilege to be on this trip. Since this is an educational mission there are high expectations of you - and it is assumed you will act accordingly. This is an educational experience - not a tour or camp trip - requiring responsibility and maturity. As you all know, you signed an agreement to be respectful and abide by the rules laid down by icnext. It is almost guaranteed that you will be faced with a moment where you have temptations to disregard the rules. You may be trying to impress or fit in with someone, or think it is the better, more fun thing to do at the moment. But remember that your actions not only reflect on you, but also icnext as an entire program.

You will grow as a Jew, and I promise you you'll have so much fun. It will be the trip of a lifetime. You will make new connections and travel to amazing places. Savor every moment while there, and take advantage of this opportunity.

Make this an unforgettable experience for all the right reasons!

Sincerely,  
icnext 2022 Israel Mission Alumnae

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## What is Home?

### By the icnext 12 students

1. **Home connects us to Judaism** - A place where Jewish values, beliefs and practices are learned and acted upon often through prayer and ritual.
1. **Home as a Physical Place** -A house, a room, or the land of our birth. It is essential to a person's individuality, a form of self-expression, and a source of happiness and pride.
2. **Home as Shelter that provides Safety and Security** - Beyond the mere location of a building or structure, home as a refuge is a place where we feel safe and secure, find acceptance, comfort, renewal, and are at peace in our world.
3. **Home as identity** - Home is an essential part of who we are, connecting the past to the present, filled with memories. It reflects who we are as individuals and inspires creativity - it is a place where we feel free to be our true selves.
4. **Home as Self-expression** - Home is an outward expression of personal style and people enjoy showing their home to friends. Most say decorating, renovating, and making a home beautiful, neat and organized can make one feel at home.
5. **Home outdoors** - For many people, nature creates an "at-home" feeling - their home away from home. This could be land, water, a playing field, etc.
6. **Home in community** - People believe the community where they live is as important as the structure they call home. Taking a walk in your neighborhood, talking with neighbors, or hanging out locally is a community where relationships flourish. This creates a sense of belonging.
7. **Home is an emotional state** - Without a feeling of home, most people say they would be lost. This home is more a state of mind than a physical place. For people around the world, home is more than the physical place where they reside. It's a place within their hearts.

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## Active Listening

As part of icnext we want to develop our communications skills – listening, developing your point of view, and communicating your point of view. It concentration and determination to be an active listener, and to hear what people are REALLY saying.

- Listen
- Respond supportively
- Challenge – not to argue but to make their point stronger. Ask “what if” and “what about . . .” questions

### *About Active Listening*

- a conscious effort to hear not only the words that another person is saying but, also the complete message being communicated.
- you must pay attention to the other person very carefully.
- You cannot become distracted by whatever else may be going on around you, or by forming counter arguments while the other person is still speaking.
- Nor can you allow yourself to get bored, and lose focus on what the other person is saying.
- If you're finding it difficult to concentrate on what someone is saying, try repeating his or her words mentally as he/she says them.

### *Becoming an Active Listener*

#### 1. Pay Attention

Give the speaker your undivided attention, and acknowledge the message. Recognize that non-verbal communication also “speaks” loudly. Acknowledgement can be something as simple as a nod of the head or a simple “uh huh.” You aren't necessarily agreeing with the person; you are simply indicating that you are listening.

#### 2. Show That You're Listening

Use your own body language and gestures to show that you are engaged. Look at the speaker directly and nod occasionally. Smile and use other facial expressions. Make sure that your posture is open and interested.

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### 3. Provide Feedback

Our personal filters, assumptions, judgments, and beliefs can distort what we hear. As a listener, your role is to understand what is being said. This may require you to reflect on what is being said and to ask questions.

Reflect on what has been said by paraphrasing. "What I'm hearing is... ," and "Sounds like you are saying... ," are great ways to reflect back. Ask questions to clarify certain points. "What do you mean when you say... ." "Is this what you mean?"

### 4. Defer Judgment

Interrupting is a waste of time. It frustrates the speaker and limits full understanding of the message. Allow the speaker to finish each point before asking questions. Don't interrupt with counter arguments.

### 5. Respond Appropriately

Active listening is designed to encourage respect and understanding. You are gaining information and perspective. Be candid, open and honest in your responses and assert your opinion respectfully.

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## icnext Cohort 12 Interviews about the Meaning of Home

### Opening Personal Reflection:

- While we are in Israel, what will you miss about your home - name at least 10 things.
- Do you have a feeling of connection to Israel?
- If yes, describe this connection (things like you have family living there; you were raised with a love of the country; you have been learning about it your whole life; etc.)
- If you do not have a feeling of connection, describe your reasons for traveling with us to Israel.
- Describe the picture of Israel you have in your mind right now.

Using ideas from the following definitions of home, compose 10 or more GOOD questions that you would ask an Israeli to understand how they feel about home:

1. **Home connects us to Judaism** - A place where Jewish values, beliefs and practices are learned and acted upon often through prayer and ritual.
2. **Home as a Physical Place** - A house, a room, or the land of our birth. It is essential to a person's individuality, a form of self-expression, and a source of happiness and pride.
3. **Home as Shelter that provides Safety and Security** - Beyond the mere location of a building or structure, home as a refuge is a place where we feel safe and secure, find acceptance, comfort, renewal, and are at peace in our world.
4. **Home as identity** - Home is an essential part of who we are, connecting the past to the present, filled with memories. It reflects who we are as individuals and inspires creativity - it is a place where we feel free to be our true selves.
5. **Home as Self-expression** - Home is an outward expression of personal style and people enjoy showing their home to friends. Most say decorating, renovating, and making a home beautiful, neat and organized can make one feel at home.
6. **Home outdoors** - For many people, nature creates an "at-home" feeling - their home away from home. This could be land, water, a playing field, etc.
7. **Home in community** - People believe the community where they live is as important as the structure they call home. Taking a walk in your neighborhood, talking with neighbors, or hanging out locally is a community where relationships flourish. This creates a sense of belonging.
8. **Home is an emotional state** - Without a feeling of home, most people say they would be lost. This home is more a state of mind than a physical place. For people around the world, home is more than the physical place where they reside. It's a place within their hearts.

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## How to interview about home:

1. Commit to learning with an open mind
2. Ask a question in order to understand the 'other'
3. Listen to answers without interrupting
4. Ask a follow-up question - this is a question based on an answer to the prior question
5. Reflect
  - What was an assumption that you had that might need re-thinking?
  - What challenged you?
  - What did you learn that connected to what you already believed to be true?
  - What extended the way you were thinking in new directions?

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# Voicing a Third Narrative: How October 7 Jolted These Palestinian-Israeli Peace Activists Into Action

**Ibrahim Abu Ahmad and Amira Mohammed host 'Unapologetic,' a new podcast that aims to amplify the voices of Palestinians in Israel who are seeking peace. They explain why the peace camp in the Middle East needs a far greater sense of urgency**

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Allison Kaplan Sommer

Apr 11, 2024

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Amira Mohammed and Ibrahim Abu Ahmad had been exploring the idea of launching a podcast for months, when Israel was devastated by the October 7 terror attack and mobilized for war with Hamas.

The war made their decision for them, jolting these two Palestinian-Israeli peace activists into action. As days passed and the conflict unfolded, they increasingly felt that voices like theirs were missing in the national conversation – and soon it became clear that they weren't the only members of their community feeling this way.

"We felt a sense that there was a lack of understanding between the Palestinian and Israeli peace community over how to make sense of what was unfolding, and how to convey it to the public and talk about it in a way that incorporated all the layers of what was happening," says Abu Ahmad, 31.

Almost all of the Israeli peace organizations focusing on shared society and coexistence are Jewish-led, with Jewish co-founders or primary donors, he notes. "We had conversations with Palestinian peace activists who felt their voice was not being heard and not being represented even in the peace community."

After hearing this, he felt it was more vital than ever to create a platform to amplify the voices of Palestinians in Israel who are seeking peace and engaging in dialogue.

"I called Amira and said 'We're doing the podcast,'" he recounts.

Six months later, their English-language podcast "Unapologetic" has thousands of listeners around the world hearing what the two podcasters describe as a "third narrative": the unique personal and political perspective of Palestinian citizens who live in Israeli society and are committed to seeking peace and reconciliation, and what they hope is the creation of a community.

"Our goal is to create a very clear, defined third narrative: To be a place for people who cannot find themselves in one of the two classic narratives of being either pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian," he says. "These polarizations have gotten to the point where being pro-Israeli means you're also anti-Palestinian – and being pro-Palestinian means you're anti-Israeli."

"We want to move to a place where you can show that you can be pro one side, while also having the capacity to show empathy to the other; to understand and accept the other's existence. Being on one side or the other is fine. But we also need to be able to create discussions and have a conversation with the other – and to have a space for compassion for acceptance and nuanced conversations. In our polarized world, that is unfortunately not happening enough."

## Uniquely qualified

As veteran peace activists and educators, Mohammed and Abu Ahmad feel uniquely qualified to hold these conversations – which, podcast style, contain a blend of entertaining chat, personal anecdotes and grappling with difficult questions as they compare and contrast their experiences and opinions.

It's one thing to declare that Palestinian Israelis are diverse – it's another to hear two young members of the community banter about the way they [celebrate Ramadan](#) and tease each other about levels of observance. Mohammed, 24, who grew up in a traditional Muslim family in East Jerusalem, always fasts on Ramadan; Abu Ahmad, a Muslim from Nazareth, began sneaking treats behind his mother's back at a young age and no longer fasts.

She studied medical imaging at Jerusalem's Al-Quds University, preparing for what she thought would be a career in health care. But after participating in peace-building programs as a young adult, her ambitions took a different turn and she began to work in the organization whose program she had experienced.

"I knew I had a passion to help people," she says. "It was [in 2021 during the 11-day war](#), in which we experienced the last escalation between Israel and Gaza – that's when I decided that

the political situation was affecting my life too directly for it to be a side job. I decided I needed to work in it full time."

Today, Mohammed specializes in peace organizations that bring together Palestinians, Israelis and people from the wider Arab world. Her primary role is as a program coordinator for an organization that was founded with the goal of connecting forward-thinking Israeli and Palestinian emerging leaders with like-minded peers across the Arab world.

Abu Ahmad thought he might want to be a political analyst or an academic when he went abroad to study international relations, first at the American University in Cairo and then at James Madison University in Virginia.

His political awakening came as a student in Cairo, where he saw the [Arab Spring](#) in 2011-12. "Seeing a million people on the streets and a revolution happening put me in a place of 'This is what I want to do,'" he recounts. "I saw how people can make change. And I was like: Okay, I need to find out how I can contribute."

Like Mohammed, it was participating in peace programs that led him to his career, and today he also works at the same organization as Mohammed.

The pair stress that their podcast stands independently from their day job, and that they are speaking on it not as representatives of any organization but as individuals. As of now, it is self-funded.

"We wanted to do it on our own as a statement that we don't need a Jewish partner or Israeli partner to talk about peace, or to talk about us wanting a peaceful solution to this conflict overall. We're doing it on our own as Palestinians," Abu Ahmad explains.

It wasn't clear from the outset that the podcast would be in English: Abu Ahmad and Mohammed weighed launching it in Arabic or Hebrew. But after witnessing the international reaction to the war, it became a no-brainer.

"We were extremely, extremely disappointed and appalled by the amount of Islamophobia and antisemitism and anti-Arab hate abroad, and the number of hate crimes happening in the name of Palestinians and Israelis," Mohammed says. "I guess we expected a strong reaction from the international community, but not to this extent."

As peace activists, they say it was frustrating to see that while "on one hand there was so much passion coming from the international community, showing their solidarity and support and desire to help, it was translated negatively," Mohammed adds. "Instead of becoming voices that advocate a solution – not even for peace, but even just for a solution to stop the violence overall – it was simply cheering for one side over the other on who's going to 'win.' We wanted to address that syndrome; that's why we decided to do the podcast in English."

The show made its debut on October 28 and its first six episodes were primarily devoted to conversations between the two hosts processing what was unfolding locally and internationally, and how it was affecting their lives.

"On October 7, I was horrified by what had happened and I was worried about all of my Arab and Jewish friends," Abu Ahmad recalls. "I was trying to make sure who was – God forbid – at the [Nova \[trance music\] festival](#), watching videos and trying to check on my friends and family. On October 8, I left central Israel, where I live now, and returned home to Nazareth for



three weeks because I was worried about the retaliation directed at our community.

"That's something that didn't happen to me alone. Countless other people from the Arab community who are from the north left Tel Aviv on October 8 for a significant period of time."

Asked if moving back home was really necessary, Abu Ahmad responds: "Of course. Sometimes it shocks me that the Jewish community in Israel is surprised when I talk about it. Of course we were worried that we were also going to be targeted. I remember the first time after I returned to Tel Aviv and I spoke Arabic in public – I saw looks of fear. And you just never know when that look of fear will turn to a look of hate or [act of] vengeance."

## **Restoring the P-word**

The podcast is the latest incarnation of a mission that is hardly new. It is what the peace and reconciliation work of their generation of activists is all about, and also part of some of the hard conversations they have on the podcast: where the peace movement has gone wrong and what can be improved.

"The goal is to bring some hope back and restore the word 'peace,' which has all but disappeared from the rhetoric of Israelis and Palestinians," Abu Ahmad says. "In recent years, it has been all about how to manage the conflict rather than solve it. We want to move into a place that leaves behind the old references and we also want to bring in a sense of urgency: we don't believe that the peace community has been urgent enough in the past. That's something that needs to change now. We can't just talk about only ending one war, and even the slogans of the past about ending the occupation – that's not good enough. Simply ending the occupation is not sufficient. We need to end

the conflict altogether: find a real long-term solution to the whole conflict, so we don't have another war or another occupation."

Mohammed chimes in: "We want to promote tolerance nuance, and all the other buzzwords that have lost their meaning. We need to remember that what we had on October 6 wasn't peace: there was an ongoing conflict, and people were suffering and continuously dying because of it."

The podcast features carefully chosen guests whose words and activity reflect this way of thinking.

"The goal, I think, is to give a voice to the people who lead by example," Mohammed explains. "People who aren't scared by the ramifications of speaking up and talking about their belief in hope and peace. It's very easy to say that war is wrong. Condemning and criticizing is also really easy. But to reflect nuance and diversity and complexity – that's the challenge. And that's what we aim to bring to the table."

They know that theirs is not the recipe for a hit podcast and, as the name of their show reflects, they aren't apologizing for their approach.

"I'm sure we would have many more listeners if we were just bashing Israelis or bashing Palestinians," Mohammed says. "If we were more polarized and more toward one direction and didn't try equally to criticize and support both Israelis and Palestinians toward a shared vision of a peaceful reality in the future, we could be much more popular."

Peaceniks they may be, but the pair don't always agree – with each other or their guests. And arguing is part of the point.

"We don't always need to agree with one another or the guests that we bring in, and that's good and important," Abu Ahmad notes. "We need to set an example of being able to talk and discuss stuff with people who sometimes we don't agree with. There will be people that will judge us. People on the pro-Israel side will say we're anti-Israeli, and some people on the pro-Palestinian side will say we're anti-Palestinian. For us, that feels like we're doing something right.

"Both polarized sides see us as outsiders because they're looking for us to identify only with their side. We're adamantly against that. And the people that are following us and listening are the people who believe in our message – I believe there are many who are thirsty for it," he continues. "We will continue onward, regardless of the show's popularity and how much attention it gets or doesn't get. We want to show that our community exists. And we need to make it bigger and bigger."

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# MATKOT (PADDLEBALL)

ICNEXT  
A GIFT OF CONFIDENCE



Again summer, again we take  
out matkot (beach paddles)  
In the land with no rain, there's  
no grass but there is a game  
Again the temperature rises,  
and there are no ladies  
Because in the face of such  
heat, even the Secret Service  
won't work  
Again summer, again we take  
out matkot (beach paddles)  
A game without winners and  
losers  
Playing near the setting sun, to  
save the ball  
Because beaches are for  
remembering times gone by

The paddles make noise with  
the rubber ball of the sea  
Like the rubber bullets (1) of  
dispersing a crowd  
But the instructions aren't  
written in blood (2)

11  
They are written with the  
waves of sand castles  
From matkot I learned how to  
pick a side  
I learned to strengthen my  
backhand, and that I prefer  
together to alone

My heart goes to frisbee, which  
flies every day between the  
ladies  
But at night, a man doesn't  
have anyone  
16  
From matkot I learned to count  
to ten  
And the ball always taught me  
about the force of gravity  
When the ball fell into the  
water, I learned to swim  
And when it hit the sunbathers,  
I learned to say "sorry"

The paddles make noise with  
the rubber ball of the sea  
Like the rubber bullets of  
dispersing a crowd  
But the instructions aren't  
written in blood  
They are written with the  
waves of sand castles Another  
"Artik" salesman swindling  
Another victim of a plastic  
(Keter) chair fight (3)  
Another Arctic Monkeys  
imitator, disrespecting the  
classic guitar  
Drinking like Static and Ben El  
(4),

Peeking like Shisel and Arik (5),  
Who framed Roger Rabbit? The  
sea turtle swallows gum,  
Grey metallic graffiti  
Na na na Nachman Bialik,(6)  
A monkey sips RC Cola,  
Kototi overdosed on acid  
Tzovototi plays Pe'er Taasi (7)  
At full volume with the bass, a  
Turkish guy crushes me at  
backgammon  
Flies like Jackie Chan in Rush  
Hour  
Aladdin Persian carpet  
"Sit Booboo sit," "Lassie Come  
Home," a dog with  
Sampras with Andre Agassi  
40  
Cohen featuring Yoav Eliasi (8)  
A man of real estate with the  
heart of Atlantis (9), Rastafari  
like Haile Selassi (oy oy oy)  
The paddles make noise with  
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