Register online at: www.keshetisrael.co.il/forms/keshet-billing

Israel Travel Adventure
Touching the Spirit & Soul of Israel
October 19 – 29, 2014
Sponsored by: Community Scholar Program, Congregation B’nai Israel & Temple Beth El
Co-sponsored by: Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County

If you dig beneath the surface of Israeli life you will find a new spirit alive in the country. It is the spirit of young and old, drawing on ancient roots and a very Israeli willingness to improvise, daring to re-invent what it means to be Jewish in the land of Israel. Join us as we set off on an adventure of all five senses that will take us back to the time of David and catapult us forward into the 21st Century as we dare to “touch the soul of Israel”. This unique overseas adventure is brought to you by Community Scholar Program, Congregation B’nai Israel of Tustin and Temple Beth El of South Orange County in co-sponsorship with Jewish Foundation of Orange County. Group Leaders: Arie Katz, Rabbi Elie Spitz and Rabbi Peter Levi.

Sunday, October 19, 2014
Departure

• Departure from LAX for Israel – El AL 006 1:15 PM PST. You are welcome to make your own flight arrangements, but we ask that you plan your arrival and departure to coincide with our program. Note: If you choose to use frequent flyer miles, you get a free domestic stop-over as well as a free international stop-over included with your ticket. So for example, you can stop in New York and in Rome on the way to or from Tel Aviv. Also note, a stop-over of less than 24 hours in any location is not counted against your 1 free domestic and 1 free international. So, you can spend 23 hours in London on the way to Tel Aviv and 4 days in Rome on your way back.

Monday, October 20, 2014
TOUCHDOWN IN THE WHITE CITY – TOUCHING THE SOUL OF ISRAEL

• Arrive in Tel Aviv at 1:45 PM (Tel Aviv has a Mediterranean climate with dry hot summers and mild winters - average expected temperature when we arrive 79 degrees with lows in the mid-60s - http://www.israeltravelmagazine.com/weather/weather-in-tel-aviv).
• Welcome to Israel: Stop at the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv - and to our journey in Israel.

• Check in to hotel, walk on the Yarkon, Tel Aviv’s beach promenade, say a “Shehecheyanu” and dip your toes into the Mediterranean (average water temperature for October is between 77-81 degrees). Rabbi Peter will lead those who dare into the waves for a full body “mikvah” dunk – men bring your speedos (this is Tel Aviv after all).

• Welcome wine and cheese reception with musical guests from Beit Tefila Israeli (program participants will get signed CDs from BTI) *Special guest: Rabbi Esteban Gottfried, Rabbi and Director of Beit Tefillah Israeli. Beit Tefilah Israeli is a young, growing community in Tel Aviv, which offers a meaningful option for spiritual gatherings on Shabbat and Holidays (Avodah), study sessions (Torah) and a ground for social action (Gemilut Hasadim) based on a sense of belonging, shared values and communal activities. The services combine live music, modern poetry and literature with the traditional prayer book. The members and participants of Beit Tefilah Israeli consist of Tel Avivian men and women — singles and families with children from various lifestyles, who seek to infuse their Jewish-Israeli identity with various forms of expression. Most of us lead a secular lifestyle. Our aim is to deepen and enrich the Jewish-Israeli identity amongst the secular sector, to build an Israeli community that is inspired by Jewish tradition and which adapts itself to the urban Israeli setting. We wish to renew the notion of prayer and to form a new Israeli liturgical language. Beit Tefilah Israeli has become a welcoming place for people in the Tel Aviv area who are looking for ways to explore the world of Jewish communal and spiritual life. http://www.kbyonline.org/Beit-Tefilah/

• Sunset is 6:03 PM

• Dinner on your own (if you are still hungry after the reception) in the City that does not sleep

Overnight: Tel Aviv (Carlton Hotel on the Beach)

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Food for Thought

• Sunrise is 6:49 AM (wake up for an early walk on Tel Aviv’s beach promenade)

• Breakfast at the hotel

• Morning tour of the new Yitzhak Rabin Center dedicated to the history of society and democracy in Israel. The life of the late Prime Minister serves as a time thread connecting the faces and events of modern Israeli history. Learn the parallel stories of Palmach fighter turned diplomat / Prime Minister and the movement towards independence from the 1920s to 2005. ** Private conversation of the Ms. Dalia Rabin, Chairwoman of the Rabin Center and daughter of the late Prime Minister on the topic: “The Challenge of Leadership in Israel”.
http://www.rabincenter.org.il/Web/En/Museum/Default.aspx
• Lunch at Liliyot Restaurant - Israel @2014: Touching the soul of Israel with social historian Paul Liptz of the Tel Aviv University. Professor Liptz, a social historian, is on the faculty of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, has taught for more than three decades at Tel Aviv University, is Director of Education at the Saltz International Education Center, and has lectured and conducted workshops all over the world. His expertise is in modern Jewish history, Israeli society, and politics of the Middle East. Liliyot Restaurant is one of the leading culinary institutions in Tel Aviv in particular and in Israel in general. Noam Dekkers, one of Israel’s top chefs, presides over the kitchen. Dekkers acquired his experience in the kitchens of Raphael, Barcarola (three years), and Mul HaYam. Liliyot Restaurant's uniqueness lies in its social action initiative for the rehabilitation of youth at risk, in collaboration with Elem — the Organization for Youth at Risk in Israel. Every year Liliyot Restaurant trains and employs 15 high school drop-outs, who receive instruction, supervision and employment for a period of up to a year and a half. http://www.liliyot.co.il/eng/liliyot/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=76

• Free time in the afternoon to shop, rest, walk on the beach with optional afternoon walking tour (additional charge applies): Tel Aviv Food Safari led by Inbal Baum: Markets, Markets, Markets, visit the Nachalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Market, the Carmel Outdoor Market and the Levinsky Food Market, including a tasting bonanza of foods from all over the Mediterranean Basin. http://www.gemsinisrael.com/e_article000047900.htm

• Sunset is 6:02 PM

• BlackOut – The Ultimate Culinary Experience of Dining in the Dark. In total darkness you will be served various dishes, escorted by blind waiters. When the eyes do not engage in the eating process, one’s ability to taste and smell food sharpens. There is so much to be “seen” when eyes are closed… Dining at BlackOut is one of the three outstanding experiences offered to the visitors of the “Nalaga’at” Center. The Center - the first of its kind in the world, seeks to promote interaction between deaf-blind, deaf, and blind individuals and people able to hear and see, regardless of cultural or social distinctions. http://www.nalagaat.org.il/blackout.php

Overnight: Tel Aviv (The Carlton on the Beach)

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Tel Aviv for the Senses

• Sunrise is 6:49 AM

• Optional early morning walk (additional charge applies) with Yona’s Walking Tours (www.yonawise.net/meet_your_guide.html) in the old port city of Jaffa, one of the oldest cities in Israel and one of the oldest sea ports in the world. Legend claims it is named for Noah’s son Jefet, who is said to have settled there after the flood. Still others cite the

- Breakfast at the hotel

- Morning choice of (a) walking tour of **“Neve Zedek: Oasis of Justice”** - The first Jewish neighborhood outside Jaffa, which became the cultural bed of writers and poets. Listen to the stories of the first settlers. Today Neve Zedek is the home of the several of Israel's leading dance companies. [http://www.yonawise.net/tours.html](http://www.yonawise.net/tours.html), or (b) guided visit to the **Ayalon Institute** in Rehovot, a pre-state clandestine munitions factory, for a glimpse at the ingenuity and creativity of Israel's pre state armed forces. [http://www.gemsinisrael.com/e_article000012009.htm](http://www.gemsinisrael.com/e_article000012009.htm).

- Lunch at the hotel with **Bill Berk** on the topic: **Pop Artists and the New Israeli Spirituality in Music and Poetry**. Rabbi Bill Berk, mentor to Rabbi Peter Levi, served for twenty-three years as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Chai in Phoenix, Arizona. During his time there Temple Chai grew from a congregation of 80 families to 1,120 families. Rabbi Berk did pioneering work in the area of recovering prayer and Kabbalat Shabbat, adult learning, assisting Jews with special needs, developing the caring/healing congregation, and using retreats to strengthen community. In 2003 he won the Covenant Award which is given to three top Jewish educators in North America. From 2004 to 2010 Rabbi Berk was the Director of the Center for Rabbinic Enrichment for the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Rabbi Berk joined Keshet in September 2010.

- Afternoon Program: **Israeli Art at the Cutting Edge** – a special program in conjunction with the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and leading galleries in Tel Aviv, including meetings and dialogues with artists and curators such as Adi Ness (who re-creates Biblical scenes and stages snapshots from within Israeli society to create commentary on contemporary Israeli and Jewish life at HaMakom – a new and creative cultural center in Tel Aviv). [http://www.tamuseum.org.il/](http://www.tamuseum.org.il/)

- Sunset is 6:01 PM

- Free evening in Tel Aviv –
  - Explore the Tachana, Tel Aviv's newly renovated old train station and now a center of boutiques and good food, and one of Tel Aviv's blooming hot spots
  - Meander through the Old City of Jaffa.
  - Stroll down Rothschild Boulevard, with its many cafés and bars.
  - Experience Tel Aviv Port, with its restaurants and clubs.
  - Explore the newly gentrified Neve Zedek neighborhood.
o Saunter down the Tel Aviv Beach Promenade.

- Late night in Tel Aviv: meeting with art collector **Bill Gross** from Tiferet Shalom followed by tour of the collector’s private collection (limit is 20 please RSVP when you register for the trip if you would like to participate).  

**Overnight: Tel Aviv (The Carlton on the Beach)**

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**Thursday, October 23, 2014**

*Tel Aviv to Jerusalem: “Is There an Israeli Culture?”*

- Sunrise is 6:50 AM
- Breakfast at the Hotel, Check out
- **“Is there an Israeli Culture?”** - Dialogue with scholar **Ruth Calderon** at ALMA, the Home for Hebrew Culture in Tel Aviv which, in their own words is “engaging Israeli and worldwide Jews in learning Jewish heritage, classical texts, and Hebrew culture, offering creative programs and events with contemporary perspectives and pluralistic insights”.  
  [http://alma.org.il/?lang=en](http://alma.org.il/?lang=en)

- **Biblical Lunch at Neot Kedumim** - the Biblical Landscape Reserve in Israel is located halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. This unique recreation of the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail allows visitors to see life as it was lived by our ancestors 3,000 years ago. More than a "garden" showing various plants, Neot Kedumim embodies the panorama and power of the landscapes which shaped the values of the Bible and provided the rich vocabulary for expressing those values.  

- Travel to Jerusalem, stop at the Haas Promenade for an overlook of the Old and New City of Jerusalem and the traditional “shehechiyanu” blessing

- Check in at the **Mt. Zion Hotel** - a boutique hotel in a spectacular historical setting, the unique Mount Zion Hotel overlooks Biblical landscapes and exudes a distinct, incomparable charm. The Mount Zion Hotel can be found on the outskirts of the Old City in west Jerusalem, and this premier location provides guests with stunning views of, among other features, David's Tower, Mount Zion, and the Hinnom Valley. The hotel is within easy walking distance of the city's main cultural, historical, and religious sites, and offers easy access to the best restaurants, shops, and public gardens. As a living part of Jerusalem's proud history, the Mount Zion Hotel reflects an eclectic combination of cultural styles, making a stay in this beautiful hotel part of the complete Jerusalem experience.  
  [http://www.mountzion.co.il/](http://www.mountzion.co.il/)

- Jerusalem has a Mediterranean climate that is mild with dry, hot summers and moderate seasonality - average expected temperature when we arrive 67 degrees with lows in the mid-50s (remember to pack warm clothes for the cool evenings)  
• Midrash Creation with the Kol HaOt Jewish Arts project with artist David Moss and Rabbi Matt Berkowitz.  http://www.kolhaot.com/

• Sunset is 5:58 PM

• Welcome to Jerusalem dinner at Teanim Restaurant, located on the ridge overlooking the Old City.  Built inside the famous Zionist Confederation House, Teenaim reminds us that we are in the Middle East with its architecture and stunning views of the 16th century walls surrounding the Old City.  www.teanim.rest-e.co.il/.

• Post dinner choices include a walk into the Old City with Rabbi Levi and Rabbi Spitz or visit the Night Spectacular at the Tower of David Museum: The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a night time show - a celebration of sight and sound - that depicts the story of Jerusalem.

  Overnight: Jerusalem (Mount Zion Hotel)

  Friday, October 24, 2014
  Old-New Jerusalem

• Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan at Sundown

• Sunrise is 6:49 AM

• Breakfast at the Hotel, overlooking the Old City

• Optional early morning activity from 7:00 – 9:00 AM, participate in (or view) Women of the Wall Rosh Chodesh service. Women of the Wall, or Nasbot Hakotel in Hebrew, is a group of Jewish women from around the world who strive to achieve the right, as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall (Kotel) in Jerusalem, Israel. The Western Wall is Judaism's most sacred holy site and the principal symbol of Jewish people-hood and sovereignty, and Women of the Wall works to make it a holy site where women can pray freely.  http://womenofthewall.org.il/rosh-chodesh/

• Morning choices – choose one: (a) Geopolitical Tour of Jerusalem exploring the various positions regarding the future of Jerusalem and the geopolitical realities on the ground, including drive around the seam zone, with an in-depth study seminar on the ramifications of current developments with Col. (Res.) Danny Tirza, one of the seam zone’s designers; (b) Guided morning tour of the The Davidson Archeological Park and the Western Wall Tunnel Tour or (c) Guided early morning tour of the Machane Yehudah Open Air Market as residents prepare for Shabbat. Machane Yehuda is West Jerusalem’s public market. The stalls sell some of most delicious food in the world. Fresh from the field tomatoes, fresh form the tree figs. Whatever is in season. Whatever is good to eat: spice stalls, dried fruits (go for the Majool dates), halva, humus, baklava - all made fresh. There are food stalls with tables where you can eat a meal. And food stalls that cook for take-out.
Because Jews came to Israel from all over the world, you can find here the tastes of Russia and of Morocco, of Kurdistan and of Cairo.


- Candle lighting at 5:18 PM

- Shabbat services at the Hotel led by Rabbi Ruth Kagan and Nava Tehillah. One of the new scenes in Jerusalem on Shabbat is the "emerging prayer and study" community known as Nava Tehila, led by Rabbi Ruth Gan Kagan. Musical, meditative, and totally open to varieties of Jewish spiritual expression in real time, Nava Tehila is a bit like an alternative universe where musicians create an ambient feel, rooted in Middle Eastern and Indian spiritual mantras as well as their own contemporary Israeli musical tastes. [http://www.navatehila.org/35897/About-Nava-Tehila1](http://www.navatehila.org/35897/About-Nava-Tehila1)

- Tasty Shabbat Dinner at Hotel with special guest from Nava Tehillah and with "Lone Soldiers". Israel’s Lone Soldiers are those whose families live abroad and who chose to leave their countries of origin to serve the State of Israel. These soldiers know that as the Jewish State, Israel is their home and thus theirs to protect. Many choose to serve in combat positions, enduring grueling training, exercises, missions and operations, all to ensure it remains safe. [http://www.fidfl.org/page.aspx?pid=282](http://www.fidfl.org/page.aspx?pid=282)

Overnight: Jerusalem (Mount Zion Hotel)

**Shabbat, October 25, 2014**
**Shabbat in the City of Peace**

- **Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan (Parashat Noach)**

- Sunrise is 6:50 AM

- Breakfast at the Hotel, overlooking the Old City

- Morning text study with Rabbi Bill Berk – Heroes Who Made Shabbat-Shabbat that Made Heroes

- Choice of walking tour or suggested services:
  - **The Same Old Sites with Brand New Lenses**: Guided walk through the streets of Jerusalem, using the writings of Jerusalem’s poets and authors, such as Yehuda Amichai, S.Y. Agnon and others.
Kehillat Zion (Masorti), the new initiative of Rabbi Tamar Elad Applebaum, who saw the need for a different kind of community in the Baka neighborhood of Jerusalem - "musical, egalitarian, traditional and innovative"; a community incorporating both Ashkenazi and Sefaradi customs, ritual poetry from across the generations, and the tunes of the land of Israel. Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum is the founder of ZION: An Eretz Israeli Congregation in Jerusalem; and Vice President of the Masorti Rabbinical Assembly. Her work spans and links tradition and innovation, working toward Jewish spiritual and ethical renaissance. She devotes much of her energy to the renewal of community life in Israel and the struggle for human rights. Rabbi Elad-Appelbaum served as rabbi of Congregation Magen Avraham in the Negev; as a congregational rabbi in the New York suburbs alongside Rabbi Gordon Tucker; and as Assistant Dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem. In 2010 she was named by the Forward as one of the five most influential female religious leaders in Israel for her work promoting pluralism and Jewish religious freedom.

http://hamirpesetsheli.blogspot.com/2013/05/a-new-community-in-baka-jerusalem-zion.html

Shir Hadash (Modern Orthodox, located at Cheyl Nashim #4 in the Katamon Hundreds of Jerusalemites from across the city and across the religious spectrum come together to enjoy weekly services, fellowship and learning. The Jerusalem Post ranked Shir Hadash as one of the two most popular Synagogues in all of Jerusalem – and the only one in the top ten without a permanent building – while Israel National News called services at Shir Hadash “the hottest spiritual event” in the city.


Yakar (Modern Orthodox, located at 10 Halamed Hey Street) Nestled on the peaceful streets of Old Katamon, this synagogue offers a unique prayer experience. A traditional Orthodox service fuses with modern melodies created by the 'Rabbi of Love,' Shlomo Carlebach. Worshippers sing each prayer with an impressive spiritual fervor. Be prepared for spontaneous eruptions of dance and song. Yakar attracts a young-professional and adult gathering from all walks of the Jewish religious spectrum. Yakar's synagogue strives to be a twenty first century "shtiebel". By this we mean a place that is both intense and intimate; a place of spiritual quest where a person might hear in himself or herself an echo of the Divine. Yet, at the same time, a place which relates its inner search to the reality of the world around it. A spirituality not born at the expense of the mind; a learning characterized by questioning and by search, not by platitudinous piety.

http://www.yakar.org/english/show.asp?id=21825

Shira Hadasha (Orthodox Feminist located in the ICCC at 12 Emek Refaim Street, http://www.shirahadasha.org.il/english/index.php?page=25). We are a community of observant men and women in Jerusalem, who have been drawn together by a shared desire to create a synagogue where we could increase participation of congregants, and particularly maximize the involvement of women in our services and in the administration – all within the rules and rituals of Orthodox Judaism. Our emphasis
on greater participation encourages regular congregants and visitors to join in harmonious singing, and it was therefore only natural that we should adopt the name of **Shira Hadasa** – ‘a new song’. We have no official Rabbi, rather a Halacha Committee composed of several ordained and learned lay members. Inclusion of women in our services includes the following:

- As in other Orthodox congregations, men and women pray separately on either side of a mechitza (divider) that runs down the middle of our space, and our bima is situated in the center, affording equal access from both sides of the mechitza.
- Women lead the optional parts of the service, such as Kabbalat Shabbat and Pesukei Dezimra, and girls too lead an’im zemirot – all from the women's side of the mechitza – and recite Kaddish.
- Women are called to the Torah, read from the Torah and make Kiddush. Women too are honored by the congregation on Simchat Torah.
- Jewish life-cycle events for women – baby-girl naming, bat-mitzvah, pre-wedding Shabbat kallah and giving birth – are all celebrated within the synagogue service.


- **Shabbat lunch at the Hotel with Lone Soldiers.**

- **Late afternoon leisure (we’ve had quite a busy 6 days, time to relax a bit, take a nap)**

- Seudat Shlishit with special guest Yossi Klein Ha Levi on the topic: “Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation”. *Much has been made over the years, and rightly so, of the messianic fervor that swept Israel after its spectacular victory in the 1967 war. The conquest of Sinai from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, all in a biblically epic six days, seemed to religious Israelis — and many secular ones — like a miracle, a sign that God wanted to reunite his people with their promised land. Not long afterward, settlement beyond the 1967 borders began. Yossi Klein Halevi, adds an important dimension to this story by focusing on Israel’s near-defeat in the next war, in 1973, as the catalyst for the settler movement and much else that has shaped Israel in the past 40 year.* [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/26/books/yossi-klein-halevis-like-dreamers-focuses-on-1973-war.html?_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/26/books/yossi-klein-halevis-like-dreamers-focuses-on-1973-war.html?_r=0)

- **Havdallah overlooking the Old City - **Shabbat ends at 6:34 PM (Sunset is 5:56 PM)

- **Free evening in Jerusalem, the German Colony or along Ben Yehudah Pedestrian Mall**

- **Note: Clock changes by 1 Hour – remember to change times on watches! We gain one hour!!**

**Overnight: Jerusalem (Mount Zion Hotel)**
Sunday, October 26, 2014
Touching History

• Sunrise is 5:50 AM!! Yes, it is the best day of the year, one extra hour of sleep…. (at least for Arie)

• Breakfast at Hotel. Optional table talk with Uri Regev, the President and CEO of the educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, “Hiddush - Freedom of Religion for Israel” and of its Israeli counterpart, “Hiddush – For Freedom of Religion and Equality”, founded in 2009. For seven years he served as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, a global umbrella organization of the Progressive, Reform, Liberal and Reconstructionist movements, serving more than 1,200 congregations and communities in 42 countries on six continents. As head of the World Union, Rabbi Regev worked to strengthen modern, pluralistic Jewish life and democracy in the Jewish state and throughout the world. http://www.hiddush.org/

• Morning options:
  o (a) Private tour of Yad Vashem—the world’s foremost Holocaust Museum, emphasis on the implications of the Shoa for Israel and diaspora Jewry in the 21st century. http://www.yadvashem.org/
  o (b) Touch history by participating in Temple Mount Sifting Project (established with the purpose of sifting all the debris removed from the Temple Mount and to try to retrieve as many artifacts as possible, using the wet-sifting technique). http://templemount.wordpress.com/brief-introduction-to-the-project/

• Lunch and cheese tasting at the Shvil Halzim Goat Farm on Tal Shachar, wine tasting at the Ella Winery at Kibbutz Netiv Halamed Heh established by a Napa Valley vineyard owner in order to create a true-blue Israeli winery

• David: King, Hero, Individual – from the strategic height of Tel Azeka, we will explore the story of David and Goliath and the seminal moment in which David changed from a shepherd to a hero of the Jewish people. In addition to the story of Davie and Goliath, revisit the conflict between King Saul (and not yet king) David and David’s ascendancy to monarchy.

• Sunset is 4:55 PM

• Jerusalem Dinner Theater: Babel’s Daughter. Chaya Lester masterfully takes you along for the ride on her epic spiritual journey from the Bible Belt to the Holy Land. This incomparable evening offers a tour-de-force of the best food and entertainment that Jerusalem has to offer. In keeping with the tradition of classic Dinner Theater, a full-on feast will be served as part and parcel of the show. http://www.babelsdaughter.com/
Overnight: Jerusalem (Mount Zion Hotel)

Monday, October 27, 2014
Back to the Future

- Sunrise: 5:51 AM

- Breakfast at the Hotel, overlooking the Old City – optional table talk with Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, Co-Founder of Nefesh B’Nefesh who has served as the organization’s Executive Director since 2002. [http://www.nbn.org.il/about/leadership/529-rabbi-yehoshua-fass.html](http://www.nbn.org.il/about/leadership/529-rabbi-yehoshua-fass.html)

- Morning Tracks:

  (a) **Living as an individual and Serving a Nation: Two Case Studies Abraham and Rachel.** In the morning we will focus on the **Binding of Isaac** with a text study overlooking **Mount Moriah** from atop **Goldman Promenade**; following which we turn to the topic **“Rachel’s Last Journey”**, which will include a text study and visit to **Rachel’s Tomb**.

    Lunch on own, please bring your Shekels

    In the afternoon we will focus on **The Prophet Jeremiah, from Prophet of Doom and Imprisonment to Jewish Hero** with a guided walk along the Northern Ramparts of the Old City, concluding in **Zedikiah’s Cave**. We will then continue to the north east and visit the site of Biblical **Anatot**, Jeremiah’s home village, followed by a visit to **Ein Fara Spring in Wadi Quelt**.

  (b) **Masada & the Dead Sea:** Pack bathing suits, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and towels for a day of adventure in and around the Dead Sea. Ascend by cable-car or walk up the **Snake Path to Masada**, Herod’s mountain palace and the site of the Jewish Zealots’ last stand against the Roman legionnaires. Discuss Masada’s role as a symbol of Jewish defense and its current significance in modern Israel. Text study atop Masada: **Elazar Ben Yair and the Zealots of Masada & Yochanan Ben Zakai and the Rabbis of Yavneh**.

    Lunch on own, please bring your Shekels

    Experience sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline **Dead Sea**. Remember those speedos you used on day one in the Mediterranean. **Tip 1: shaving not recommended prior to immersion. Tip 2: do not get any of the Dead Sea water in your mouth.**

- Sunset is 4:54 PM

- Early dinner on your own in Jerusalem, or join a dinner at **Eucalyptus (14 Hativat Yerushalayim)** (pay as you go):
(a) Dinner with Rabbi Elie Spitz and two favorite CSP one month scholars – Avigdor Shinan and Yair Zakovitch who will talk about their best-selling recent book: “From Gods to God”. The ancient Israelites believed things that the writers of the Bible wanted them to forget: myths and legends from a pre-biblical world that the new monotheist order needed to bury, hide, or reinterpret. Ancient Israel was rich in such literary traditions before the Bible reached the final form that we have today. These traditions were not lost but continued, passed down through the ages. Many managed to reach us in post-biblical sources: rabbinic literature, Jewish Hellenistic writings, the writings of the Dead Sea sect, the Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and other ancient translations of the Bible, and even outside the ancient Jewish world in Christian and Islamic texts. The Bible itself sometimes alludes to these traditions, often in surprising contexts. Written in clear and accessible language, this volume presents thirty such traditions. It voyages behind the veil of the written Bible to reconstruct what was told and retold among the ancient Israelites, even if it is “not what the Bible tells us.”

(b) Dinner with Rabbi Peter Levi and Anat Hoffman on the topic of Women of the Wall. Anat is executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. Previously, she held a seat on the Jerusalem City Council, where for fourteen years she stood in opposition to the policies of the city’s right-wing and ultra-Orthodox administration. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of tikkun olam, which literally means repairing the world.

Eucalyptus - Chef/owner Moshe Basson is famous throughout Israel and beyond as a "food archaeologist" who reconstructs the home-style dishes of Jerusalem's many cultures and traditions. His menu includes a remarkable array of herbs, spices, and cooking techniques like nothing else in the country, and has been praised by food critics worldwide. Signature dishes include figs stuffed with chicken in tamarind sauce; sorel soup; ingria (a meat stew with sweet-and-sour eggplant); a wonderful lamb stew served under a pita dough crust; lamb served over smoked green wheat; and interesting ethnic fish dishes. http://www.the-eucalyptus.com/welcome

Overnight: Jerusalem (Mount Zion Hotel)

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
The New Jerusalem

• Sunrise: 5:52 AM

• Breakfast at the Hotel, overlooking the Old City. Optional table talk with special guest Gidi Grinstein, founder and president of the Tel Aviv-based Reut Institute, a non-partisan, non-profit strategy group that focuses the efforts of Israel and the Jewish diaspora. http://reut-institute.org/en/Content.aspx?Page=Team&MemberId=15
• Morning choices:

  o (a) **National Museum, Outward and Inward View** – visit to the renewed Israel Museum, one of the most creative and innovative museums in the world, for a look at the changes, expansion and streamlined vision incorporated since the museum’s re-opening and for a close look at contemporary Israeli art for further insights into the way we see ourselves and the way we share ourselves with the world; [http://www.english.imjnet.org.il/page_1465](http://www.english.imjnet.org.il/page_1465)


• Lunch on your own

• Afternoon choices:

  o (a) **Is the Two State Solution Still Viable?** Meet with Gershon Baskin, founder of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) and the person responsible for the secret back channel between Israel and Hamas that successfully negotiated the release of Israeli abducted soldier Gilad Shalit. Travel with Mr. Baskin to Al Quds University in East Jerusalem, for a tour of the university, followed by dialogue with Professor Mohammed Dajani and colleagues; or

  o (b) **Building a Jewish Society in a Modern State**: a special study program at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

• Sunset is 4:53 PM

• **Gourmet progressive Jerusalem dinner**: enjoy the mosaic of tastes on Israel with an appetizer, main course and dessert in different restaurants, cooked up by the country’s best chefs; we will supply the suggested itinerary and you head out for an adventure!

• Late night option: small group visit to home of mixed media assemblage artist Jo Milgrom. Milgrom calls her work “visual midrash,” referencing the Jewish literary tradition of supplementing the biblical narrative with commentary, often in the form of colorful homilies. [http://forward.com/articles/105612/your-trash-her-treasure/#ixzz2kO8I4oNY](http://forward.com/articles/105612/your-trash-her-treasure/#ixzz2kO8I4oNY)

**Overnight: Jerusalem (Mount Zion Hotel)**
Wednesday, October 29, 2014
A Jerusalem Farewell

- Sunrise: 5:53 AM

- Breakfast at the Hotel, overlooking the Old City (final time to enjoy the view from our beautiful hotel)

- **Israel as Portrayed in Israeli Films**: meet with students and teachers from Ma’ale Film School for a discussion and screening of “up and coming” Israeli movies and actors. It is the only film school in the world devoted to exploring the intersection of Judaism and modern life. Ma'aleh films are screened regularly at film festivals world-wide and consistently win top awards. Ma’aleh uses film to enrich the lives of some of Israel’s most marginalized populations, creating a first of its kind Video Therapy Program for at-risk youth, Ethiopian immigrants, terror victims and adults with special needs. [http://www.maale.co.il/default.asp?PageID=66](http://www.maale.co.il/default.asp?PageID=66)

- **Taking Control, Change from the Ground Up**: Lunch on your own at one of the new chic “socially responsible” restaurants, located in the heart of Nachalot. Meet with Rabbi Aaron Leibovitz, founder of the movement to detach kashrut licensing by the Rabbanut, from kosher establishments.

- Return to Hotel for final shopping, strolling, packing or just relaxing. Consider visiting Jerusalem House of Quality ([http://www.art-jerusalem.com](http://www.art-jerusalem.com)), a building from the 30's of the 20th century that was built in an eclectic style with a structure of a modern Khan. In its origin it was a part of St. Johns hospital, and since 1968 it is a complex of artist's workshops and art galleries.

- **Late Check out**

- Making Sense of it all – opportunity for conversation on experiences, feelings and thoughts for the future.

- Sunset is 4:53 PM

- Festive farewell dinner at **Anna Ticho House**. This restaurant, built inside one of Jerusalem’s oldest homes, contains the art of Anna Ticho and the walls tell the story of Anna and her famous husband, Dr. Avraham Ticho. Dr. Ticho was the first ophthalmologist to work in the Middle East. [http://www.AnnaTichoHouse@ilMuseums.com](http://www.AnnaTichoHouse@ilMuseums.com)

- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for flight back to the USA

- Overnight Flight back to Orange County, CA with our Neshama Yetera (our new extra soul) on El Al 005 Departing on Thursday October 30th at 1:10 AM, arrival at LAX at 7:00 AM Thursday morning.