



CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

JERUSALEM 2009 CONVENTION

FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 1, 2009

DAY ONE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

BRUCHIM HABAIM

- Arrival and individual transfers to Jerusalem (*not included*).
- Check-in at various hotels and register for the convention.
- **Festive Welcome Dinner** at Blaustein Hall, Merkaz Shimshon, with special guest, the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Nir Barkat (*pending confirmation*).

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

TIKKUN OLAM

- Breakfast at the various hotels.
 - *Shacharit* or optional *T'filah* with Women of the Wall.
- 9:00 a.m. **CCAR Business Meeting.**
- 10:00 a.m. Explore the social justice challenge in Israel while participating in a myriad of *Tikkun Olam* tracks throughout the country, with the following options:
- **Bedouin Issues in the Negev:**
 Depart from Jerusalem; briefing on the bus on the way south will be given by Vivian Silver, Executive Director of the *Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development*. Meet with Kher Albaz, Director of Social Services in the Segev Shalom Council for a briefing on the general situation of the Bedouins in the Negev. Drive to Abu Kaf, one of the newly-recognized Bedouin villages in the Negev to meet with Jabber Abu Kaf, a local leader and with Amran Kalaji, Mayor of Abu Basma; tour the village and discuss transforming an unrecognized Bedouin village into an incorporated community, the role of the authorities and the role of the local community. Drive to Hura and after greetings from the mayor or Hura, a local spiritual leader and the group representative, together with representatives of the local Bedouin community divide into small discussion groups, according to the following issues: (i)+(ii) spiritual leaders and heads of local municipalities; (iii) Bedouin academics and employment, (iv) Community empowerment and voluntarism; (v) social justice.
 Drive to Laqiya, one of the seven recognized Bedouin villages in the Negev. Along the way there will be an opportunity for questions and answers regarding what we saw at the previous stops. Meet with Amal Elsana Alh'jooj, Director of *AJEEC - Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation*. Meet with women organizations from Laqiya and Sidre to discuss the matter of the empowerment and economic development of women.



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- **Inter Religious Coordinating Council in Israel:**
Introduction by Rabbi Ron Kronish followed by a dialogue at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer with Lutheran Bishop Younan, the American Archbishop of Jerusalem and Muslim clerics.
 - **Keren Be Kavod – Nutrition and Foreign Worker Programs :**
A detailed program is in planning.
 - **Rabbis for Human Rights:**
Introduction to Rabbis for Human Rights given by Rabbi Arik Ascherman, followed by a text study with members of Rabbis for Human Rights - *Masechet Atzmant* (Independence Tractate); follow with a tour of the security barrier around Jerusalem and visit to outlying areas where suicide bombings took place, led by Rabbi David Forman; visit to the Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan and a final summary of the day.
 - **The Elderly and Terror Victims:**
This program is being planned in cooperation with The Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, the One Family Fund and the JDC. A detailed program is in planning.
 - **The Environment and Water Issues:**
Depart Jerusalem and begin a guided visit and exploration of Nahal Soreq for a glimpse at some of the efforts undertaken in the past few years at water purification and re-use; visit the Palmachim Beach and the Shafdan Water Treatment Plant, bike ride along the Yarkon River, following the successful clean-up of one of Israel's most polluted water sources.
 - **The Reform Mechina:**
A detailed program is in planning.
 - **Women and Family Issues**
This program is being planned in cooperation with Start Up Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Foundation and the JDC. A detailed program is in planning.
 - Return to the various hotels.
 - **Blood drive** at the David Citadel Hotel, organized by the **American Friends of Magen David Adom.**
 - Dinner on your own in Jerusalem.
- 8:00 p.m. **A Night at the Movies:** Israeli Movie night program at the **Jerusalem Cinematheque:**
- Opening remarks by a representative of the Cinematheque and screening of a collection of rare and powerful footage from life in the Land of Israel in the first half of the 20th century.
 - Screening of the film “Zrubavel”, in the presence of its director, Shmuel Bero.
 - Dialogue with director Shmuel Bero and a representative of the Israel Association of Ethiopian Jews.

Overnight: Jerusalem



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DAY THREE: Thursday, February 26, 2009

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the various hotels.
- *Shacharit.*
- 9:00 a.m. **K'sharim** Build connections with your Israeli counterparts - rabbinic students, academics, activists, lay members of IMPJ congregations - while traveling between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in small individualized groups.
- 12:15 p.m. Arrival at **Mishkenot Ruth Daniel** in Jaffa.
 - Light lunch.
 - **Welcome to Tel Aviv:** Greetings by Rabbi Meir Azari and Mayor Ron Huldai (*pending confirmation*).
- 1:30 p.m. **Celebrating Tel Aviv's 100th Anniversary** Various tracks in Tel Aviv with the following options:
 - **Arab/Jewish Unity Walk – *Multiple Histories and Narratives:*** Follow two guides, one Arab and one Jewish, as they take you on a journey through their city, recounting two different stories of history, memory, loss and hope. Listen to their different narratives as they share them with you and with each other.
 - **Gertrude in the Big City:** Who is Gertrude? How do you do a Shpagat? Where is the lost treasure buried? Who married her Scottish lover? Why are there cows in the middle of Tel Aviv? Follow the story of the 18th century German Templar neighborhood, through the life of the famous sports teacher Gertrude.
 - **Our Bread and Butter – *The Bakeries of Jaffa:*** In the alleys of Jaffa we will follow the wonderful smells and tastes of bread and hear about bread's place in traditions, faiths and daily rituals across cultures and religions. Through our visits to the bakeries that are an integral part of the texture of Jaffa life, we'll come to understand the saying "Im ein lechem, ein Torah" (If there is no flour, there is no Torah).
 - **Tel Aviv From Port to Port:** A guided exploration of the Tel Aviv Story, beginning at the Jaffa Port and concluding at the Tel Aviv Port, making use of stories, dramas and the unknown from the days of the Bible through the founding of Tel Aviv, the War of Independence and the present day.
 - **Tel Aviv's Markets, Markets and More Markets:** From Spices to Clothes and Alte Zachen to Home Made Food, explore the special world of Tel Aviv's markets, with the Levinsky Spice Market, the Betzalel Clothing Market, the Carmel Open Air Market, Shuk Ha Pishpishim (the Jaffa Flea Market) and the Home Made Food Market at Dizengoff Center, with tasting and surprises throughout.



- **The Education Revolution in Tel Aviv** (at Mishkenot Ruth Daniel): Meet with Jewish educators who teach Reform curriculum in secular public schools in Tel Aviv and learn of the interesting connection between the Los Angeles – Tel AvivA partnership and its impact on the secular school system, with Reform educators, Maya Vamosh and Michal Kantor.
- **The Jewish Revival of the Oh So Secular City of Tel Aviv** (at Mishkenot Ruth Daniel): A detailed program is in planning.
- **The Story of Tel Aviv through the Trumpeldor Cemetery – *Creating Reality: The Visionaries and Builders***: Guided visit through the Trumpeldor Cemetery for a glimpse at the lives of some of the dreamers and builders of Tel Aviv, including the great writer Haim Nahman Bialik, Tel Aviv’s legendary mayor Meir Dizengoff and the great Zionst thinker, Ahad HaAm.
- **Under the Tree of Love – *Stories of Love and Courtship in Romantic Neve Tzedek***: Meander through the magical valleys of the picturesque Neve Tzedek and trace the shadow of lovers – among them Rabbis and scholars, poets and writers – famous as well as forgotten figures. We will discover historical love stories that took place in Neve Tzedek, talk about love without borders, tragic love, unrequited and requited love.

4:30 p.m. Arrival at the Jaffa port.

- Tasting of Israeli culture followed by **Nalaga’at** Deaf-Blind Theatre Company performance of *Not by Bread Alone*.
- Dinner on your own in Tel Aviv with an opportunity to:
 - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** with its many cafes and bars
 - Experience the **Tel Aviv Port** with its restaurants and clubs
- Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem



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DAY FOUR: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009

ELU VA ELU DIVRI ELOHIM HAYIM

- Breakfast at the various hotels.
- *Shacharit.*
- 9:00 a.m. Participate in an enormous **National Beit Midrash** at Binyanei Haumah, learning with great teachers from a wide spectrum of Israeli Jewish life and studying in small groups with Israeli students in movement and non-movement adult b'tei midrash. Lunch is included.
- Return to the various hotels.
- Afternoon Visit and pray with members of the IMPJ as the convention goes out and about to a variety of congregations, including home hospitality dinner with the following communities:
 - **Achvat Yisrael**, Rishon Lezion - Rabbi Saar Shaked
 - **Beit Daniel**, Tel Aviv - Rabbis Meir Azari, Galia Sadan & Gilad Kariv
 - **Brit Olam**, Kiryat Ono - Rabbi Adi Cohen
 - **Congregation Darchei Noam**, Ramat HaSharon - Rabbi Stacey Blank
 - **Har-El**, Jerusalem - Rabbi Ada Zavidov
 - **Kehilat Bavat Ayin**, Rosh Ha'Ayin - Rabbi Ayala Sha'ashua Meron
 - **Kehilat Birkat Shalom**, Kibbutz Gezer - Rabbi Miri Gold
 - **Kehilat Kol HaNeshama**, Jerusalem - Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman
 - **Kehilat Natan-Ya, Netanya** - Rabbi Mira Raz
 - **Kehilat Ra'anana, Ra'anana** - Rabbis Tamar Kolberg, Danny Meyer Gili Zidkiyahu
 - **Kehilat Tzur Hadassah**, Tzur Hadassah - Rabbi Ofer Sabath Bet Halachmi
 - **Kehilat Yozma**, Modi'in - Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon & Rabbi Nir Barkin
 - **Ma'alot Tivon Congregation**, Tivon - Rabbis Corrie Zeidler Uri Themal
 - **Mevasseret Zion Congregation**, Mevasseret Zion - Rabbi Maya Leibovitch
 - **Ohel Avraham**, Haifa – Student Rabbi Gabi Dagan
 - **Or Hadash**, Haifa - Rabbi Edgar Nof
 - **Sulam Ya'akov**, Zichron Ya'akov – Student Rabbi Dalia Tivon-Legziel

Overnight: Jerusalem



DAY FIVE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the various hotels.
- Spiritual walks, study sessions and walking tours of Jerusalem.
- T'filot at Merkaz Shimshon
- Shabbat luncheon at Beit Shmuel sponsored by the HUC-JIR Rabbinic Alumni Association, including D'var Torah with HUC-JIR Rosh Yeshivah, Rabbi David Ellenson.
- Afternoon study sessions and walking tours of Jerusalem.
- *Ben Kodesh Lechol* Havdallah.
- Free evening in Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SIX: SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

WHERE TO ISRAEL @ 2009

- Breakfast at the various hotels.
- *Shacharit*.
- **Where To Israel @ 2009:** A morning of questioning and insights while meeting with political commentators and academics, with the following options:
 - **Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem: What is the Relationship?**
A view into the complex realities of daily life in Jerusalem focusing on the Seam Zone, demography and possible directions for the future, at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies.
 - **Israel and Iran: How has Iran become Israel's Arch Enemy?**
The Iranian Nuclear Threat, the Hezbollah Proxy and the Hamas Mini-State, at the Truman Institute at the Mt. Scopus campus of The Hebrew University.
 - **Identity in the Jewish State:**
A special program exploring various layers of identity within the Israeli populace, at the Van Leer Institute.
 - **A constitution for the Jewish State:**
Explore the quest for an elusive constitution, through meetings and dialogues with leaders in the constitutional effort, under the auspices of IRAC.
 - **Pluralism in Israel:**
Delve into the challenges and triumphs faced by the Reform Movement in its efforts to advance Pluralism in Israel, with IRAC and the JDC.



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- **The Settlements...40 Years Later:**
Guided visit and dialogues in Gush Etzion for a glimpse at the first settlements established after the Six Day War and at what has developed into Gush Etzion over the past 40 years.
- **The Haredi Israel:**
A unique opportunity to enter inside the Haredi world, including an academic introduction and a dialogue with a Haredi thinker, in the Geulah/Meah Shearim area.
- **Israel and the Media @ 2009:**
A seminar on Israel and the media in the wake of the 2009 Gaza operation.
- Joyous closing event at Sakoya at **Kibbutz Ma'ale HaChamisha**, including lunch, and concluding with a presentation by one of Israel's well known political analysts.
- Return to Jerusalem.



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