



Israel Program for Fellows December 20 – 30, 2009

The Israel Program for Project Incite fellows is an opportunity to engage in innovative approaches to Israel education on the ground in Israel. The program is designed for fellows to see and experience different contexts and methods of engagement in order to begin to develop their own unique approach to their project specifically, and Israel education as a whole.

The objectives of the Israel program:

- To continue learning and to apply the theoretical framework put forward by the SIT team from the initial retreat.
- To allow fellows the opportunity to explore and experience aspects of Israel education and to reflect upon how these experiences may be applicable or replicable in their professional settings.
- To engage fellows on the challenges they face in Israel education and to present some tools for creative responses to those challenges.
- To make people-to-people connections in an effort to understand the role of the individual both in the educational process and in the overall development of personal connections between Jews around the world to Israel and Israelis.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following methods will be used:

- A half-day training session and several short update sessions with the SIT Team in Israel focusing on the continued importance of innovation tools in the development of fellows' projects.
- Sessions with creative Israel educators designed to give examples of programs and activities at unique sites which may serve as touchstones for future projects.
- Meetings with unique Israeli figures who will present a personal narrative of "their" Israel in order to convey some of the ways in which people bring to life complex themes.
- Articulation of the thematic outline throughout the Israel Experience: the different sites and people will address topics in association to the overall trip.
- Each activity recognizes in itself the necessity to anticipate its follow-up as a tool for understanding applications and methods for teaching and experiencing Israel.

This program relies on the experiences of fellows to guide the course of learning. In some cases, fellows will take a frontal role in presenting to the cohort a site or a person (or group of people), which conveys a unique story. In other cases, fellows will be asked to lead discussions or shape the interaction with educators who join the group. In every aspect, fellows will engage didactically with the material and each other to create an experience that is uniquely theirs.

Itinerary

Sunday, December 20

Check-in at JFK International Airport at 3:00 p.m. (Debbie's cell phone for delayed passengers)

Departure from JFK – 6:20 p.m., EL AL Flight 002

Monday, December 21

Arrival to TLV at 11:30 a.m.

Reception with refreshments and light lunch

Check-in to the Carlton Hotel – Tel Aviv

SIT Introductory Program at the TLV Hub – the Tel Aviv-based hub for social/environmental entrepreneurs. (<http://www.the-hub.co.il/>) We will spend some time reviewing our innovation training with SIT. The session will be followed by a short presentation and discussion with some of the leaders at the TLV-Hub.

Fellow Session #1 – Ice Breakers

Dinner and Discussion at the Hotel Review the itinerary and discuss the goals of the program.

Evening Walk to Old Jaffa (optional) Enjoy a stroll along the Mediterranean to the Old City of Jaffa

Overnight: Carlton Tel-Aviv

Tuesday, December 22

A Discussion and Study Session with Aryeh Ben-David, founder of *Ayeka*, Jewish Spiritual Education (<http://www.ayeka.org.il/>). This session – using both creative and traditional teaching methods and Jewish texts that span generations – is an engagement with each other and ourselves – as individuals and as Jews – that explores our passion for Jewish education.

Lunch in Ramat Aviv Area

Palmach Museum with Maya Raviv The Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv presents an extraordinary narrative in both some innovative and traditional ways (http://www.palmach.org.il/show_item.asp?itemId=8569&levelId=42859&itemType=0). One of its unique aspects is the use of characters that guide the participant through the story. After experiencing the exhibit, We will have the opportunity to meet with an actor from the exhibit and learn how she became her character. More recently, Maya has been involved in a musical project dedicated to focusing attention on kidnapped soldier Gilad Schalit (<http://www.shorashim.org/mabat-einecha-song-gilad-schalit>). She will explain about the project and play the song.

Dinner in Tel Aviv

Israel through Literature and Film: An Evening with Etgar Keret His short stories and films have become *de rigueur* in teaching modern Israeli literature in our classrooms, youth groups, clubs, etc. As the son of Holocaust survivors - his brother is a leading figure in the legalization of marijuana movement and his sister is a settler deep in the Judean hills – he represents modern Israeli in a way that few can. The pop-cultural icon will share some of his recent work in film and literature (<http://www.etgarkeret.com/>).

Overnight: Carlton Tel Aviv

Wednesday, December 23

“Becoming Israel” Session with Joshua Yarden (project InCite Coach) at The Rabin Center. This creative text study of Jacob's midnight struggle with a man on the bank of the Jabbok River will focus on the discovery of human potential. Who is Jacob fighting with when he discovers that he will become Israel and how does his struggle define him? Likewise, how do our difficult encounters reveal our hidden potential and define our identities? What does it mean, as individuals and as Jewish educators, to be part of the People of Israel?

The Yitzhak Rabin Center is dedicated to improving the shape of Israeli society by ensuring that the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin continues to impact the youth and the people of Israel. The Center is comprised of a national archive; education department with a wide array of experiential programming working with youth, students and soldiers; and the museum depicting the development of Israeli society and democracy. Not yet open to the public, we will have the opportunity to explore the museum and some of the programs of the Center with its Educational Director (<http://www.rabincenter.org.il>).

Lunch – Dr. Shakshouka in Jaffa

“Declaring Independence” Seminar with Mark Lazar The renowned informal educator will take us on a simulated journey through historical sites in Jaffa and Neve Tzedek, culminating with the Declaration of the State of Israel. After we experience this informal approach to historical narrative, we will take a step back to look at experiential Jewish education in a broader context. See Mark's bio and work at: http://www.doingzionism.org/resources/expand_author.asp?id=8

Dinner at the Hotel

Israeli Arts and Education: A Multimedia Session with Omanoot As an organization, Omanoot presents the diversity and complexity of Israeli society and its citizens by showcasing mainstream and alternative artwork developed by all major sects or religious practices within Israel regardless of political affiliation or ethnicity. (<http://www.omanoot.com/>)

Overnight: Carlton Tel Aviv

Thursday, December 24

Participants will be split in two groups with each half rotating between time for personal meetings and the SIT Training.

SIT Training at the Carlton Hotel

Session A : 9:00 – 12:00

Session B: 13:00 – 16:00

Jewish Lens Project With Zion Ozeri An introduction to a project that connects Jewish texts, values, and images. (www.jewishlens.org)

Dinner and Performance at “Nalaga’at”, the Deaf-blind Acting Ensemble founded in order to integrate deaf-blind people into the community, and promote their needs and aspirations and provide them with the opportunity to express themselves and exercise one of the most basic rights – to contribute to society. By performing on the stage, the actors of the “Nalaga’at” Theater Deaf-blind Acting Ensemble are given an opportunity to express themselves in a creative manner and give their audience a meaningful experience (<http://www.nalagaat.org.il/>).

Overnight: Carlton Tel Aviv

Friday, December 25

Travel to Petach Tikvah

The Amazing Race – Tel Aviv Edition The organization *Barchovot* ('In the Streets') leads interactive encounters and challenges on the streets of Tel Aviv. They do their work with students, youth groups, and corporations in order to achieve team building skills (<http://www.barchovot.com/>).

Travel to Jerusalem

Lunch

Check in to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat (we will be leaving the hotel about 90 minutes before Shabbat, but will be returning on foot after Shabbat comes in).

“Speaking with the Kotel” with Zohar Raviv an interactive experience with a fundamental site to the Jewish people. Zohar will help us to encounter this site in a new way (and a way that we can bring to other sites and activities) by placing emphasis on the “conversation” that occurs between site and individual. Afterwards, we will bring in Shabbat together in the Old City.

Worship Options

Fellow Session #2 – Shabbat Dinner at the Hotel

Fellow Session #3 – Oneg Shabbat at the Hotel

“Personal Narratives” A Discussion with Michael Soberman, Director of Israel Experience, Canada A discussion and exercise on how to weave personal narrative into your teaching and programs.

Overnight: Prima Royale Jerusalem

Shabbat, December 26

Worship options

Lunch with Teachers and Scholars You are invited into the homes of Jerusalem teachers and scholars who will share with you their passion for teaching and learning in the informal context of a Shabbat lunch.

Shabbat Study session with Mosaica – The Center for Inter-religious cooperation (<http://www.mosaica.org.il/>) and Havdallah with Lookstein Fellows

Fellow Session #4

Free night

Overnight: Prima Royale Jerusalem

Sunday, December 27

“Jerusalem - Sacred Places Old & New” with Scott Copeland The city of Jerusalem is an ancient and intricate weave of sacred sites. Typically, we only consider the shrines of traditional religions – like Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - as sacred sites. Our morning will be an attempt to examine and expand the meanings of sacred site – places marked as concrete embodiments of a community's or culture's pinnacles of meaning – both within the context of traditional religious sites, as well as in the context of contemporary Israeli life. How is sacred place constructed? How do cultures express their central values and tell their foundational stories through architecture and design? What does this suggest about the place of memory, of history, of story as central elements of constructing identity and community in both ancient and modern times? From an overlook on the Mt. of Olives to the Model of 2nd Temple Jerusalem at the Israel Museum and to Mt. Herzl we will explore and expand the meaning of sacred sites.

Lunch in Ein Karem

Memory and Society at Yad Vashem with Rachel Korazim Yad Vashem represents, in part, Israel's attempt to grapple with its painful memories of the Holocaust. The complexities and challenges are reflected in the exhibits, the memorials, and the overall design. Participants will be given an inside look at the new Museum, and several memorials. A renowned Jewish educator and teacher of teachers, Rachel Korazim will give us her unique perspective on

Screening of Select Films at the Ma'aleh Film School founded in Jerusalem with the primary purpose of providing religiously observant Jews with the opportunity to receive the training that would prepare them to become engaged in the world of Israeli film and television production.

Overnight: Prima Royale Jerusalem

Monday, December 28

Travel to the Judean Desert

Fellow Session # 5 – Bus Activities

“Negotiating Boundaries - Center and Periphery in Jewish Discourse” with Zohar Raviv

This session – at sites in the Judean Desert – will examine a number of topics from within the "Post-Destruction Era" (70 CE ff), including: the turbulent shift from biblical to rabbinic Judaism and its impact on the creation of Jewish meanings as we experience them today , Jerusalem vs. Qumran (Rabbinic Judaism vs. the Essenes), Jerusalem vs. Galilee (Ideology vs. Pragmatism), Jerusalem vs. Nazareth (Rabbinic Judaism vs. Early Christianity).

Return to Jerusalem

Dinner at the Hotel

Introduction to PresentTense with Aharon Horwitz, founder of PresentTense which builds the Jewish Community's next generation of pioneers by equipping them with the tools and networks they need to change the world and inspire the Jewish People (<http://presentense.org/>) .

“Reclaiming the ‘Z’ Word” with Gil Troy (Historian and Author of *Why I am a Zionist* blog at: <http://cgis.jpost.com/Blogs/troy/>) and Aharon Horwitz at the PresentTense Hub

This discussion, with two leading Jewish thinkers and activists, will raise many questions about what Zionism looks like today and can look like in the 21st century and beyond. We believe that the issues that will be raised are central to an understanding of what it means to be Jewish and what it means to be a Jewish educator in the world today. We envision that the conversation will be challenging and inspiring as it will force many to ask questions of themselves that often remain unanswered and unasked.

Overnight: Prima Royale Jerusalem

Tuesday, December 29

Fostering Unity with Forsan Hussein at the Jerusalem YMCA As the first Muslim to stand at the head of the organization founded to put Christian principles into practice that is located in the Jewish State, Forsan finds himself at the crossroads of faith, politics, and society. Influenced himself by coexistence projects – most notably a Palestinian-Israeli Soccer camp – he has dedicated himself to articulating and formulating plans of action for fostering unity.

SIT Closing Workshop at Beit Shmuel
Fellow Session #6 – Closing Program
Final Dinner in Jerusalem

Wednesday, December 30

1:00 a.m. departure from TLV – EL AL Flight 001

Contact Numbers

Shorashim USA Office	312-267-0677
Shorashim Israel Office (as dialed from US)	011 972 8 9561050
Avishai Krauss (as dialed from US)*	011 972 52 5668880
Bus Number (as dialed from US)**	011 972 52 5668521

* **For Emergency Contact (24 hours).**

** **Please note that the group is often in areas where mobile reception is limited**