

*Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel*

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## **Anshei Sphard – Beth El Emeth Congregation** ***Experience Israel Trip***

**LED BY RABBI JOEL FINKELSTEIN**

**& Cantor Aryeh Samberg**

**November 30 – December 11, 2008**

### **ITINERARY**

*(As of February 11 - Subject to Change)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Site/Program</b>	<b>Meals/Lodging</b>
Sunday <i>November 30</i>	5:10 PM Departure from Memphis on Delta flight #1211 arriving Atlanta 7:28 PM. Connect to Delta flight #152 departing 10:40 PM.	
Monday <i>December 1</i>	<b><i>Bruchim Haba'im - Welcome to Israel!</i></b> 5:25 PM arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport  Opening program and <b>welcome dinner</b> at a Middle Eastern Restaurant in the Yemenite Quarter of Tel Aviv. Check-in at our hotel on the shores of the <b>Mediterranean Sea</b> .	<u>Welcome Dinner</u>  Renaissance Hotel <i>Tel Aviv</i>
Tuesday <i>December 2</i>  <i>To be free in our own land....</i>	Begin our trip in <b>Tel Aviv</b> examining the struggles leading up to the birth of the State of Israel in 1948 with a visit to <b>Independence Hall</b> , where the State of Israel was declared. Then, "join" a Palmach unit at the <b>Palmach Museum</b> , dedicated to this elite force of the <b>Haganah</b> . Take time to have lunch and explore Tel Aviv on your own, especially the <b>Nahalat Binyamin Street Crafts Fair</b> . In the late afternoon, head north for check-in at Kibbutz Lavi; after dinner at the hotel, we'll meet with <b>Kibbutz Members</b> and learn about contemporary kibbutz life.	Lunch on your own  <u>Dinner at Hotel</u>  Kibbutz Lavi Hotel
Wednesday <i>December 3</i>  <i>Freedom Needs Defending</i>	Visit and stand in solidarity with <b>IDF soldiers</b> guarding Israel's northern border. Then, head to <b>Kiryat Shemonah</b> , Israel's northernmost city; visit one of the vital social service projects sponsored by the <b>Memphis Jewish Federation</b> . After lunch on your own, delve into the complex security and water issues on the <b>Golan Heights</b> with a <b>nature hike</b> at the headwaters of the Jordan River at the beautiful <b>Tel Dan Nature Reserve</b> , which also incorporates the ancient Biblical City of Dan. View Israel's border with Syria on the Golan before dinner on the shores of the <b>Kinneret</b> .	Lunch on your own  <u>Dinner at Decks</u>  Kibbutz Lavi Hotel
Thursday <i>December 4</i>	Optional early morning walking tour of <b>Kibbutz Lavi</b> <i>including their world famous synagogue furniture factory</i> ). Head to the ancient Galilean capital of <b>Tzipori</b> with its magnificent synagogue & mosaics. <i>This is where Rav Yehudah Hanasi compiled the Mishnah 1,800 years ago.</i> Ascend to <b>Tzfat</b> , city of the Jewish Mystics for lunch on your own. Then explore the narrow alleys and synagogues and examine how the mystical traditions that emerged in Tzfat 500 years ago impacted on the entire Jewish world. Meet a <b>Kabbalistic Artist</b> in his studio. After time to shop the colorful galleries on your own, have a gourmet dinner with <b>live Jewish music</b> in the Tzfat artist colony.	Lunch on your own  <u>Tzfat Dinner</u>  Kibbutz Lavi Hotel

<p>Friday <i>December 5</i></p> <p><i>Up to Jerusalem</i></p>	<p>Ascend to <b>Jerusalem</b> and celebrate our arrival at the <b>Haas Promenade</b> with the magnificent views and the stories of <i>Akedat Yitzhak</i> and David's establishment of the city as the capital of the People of Israel 3,000 years ago. Lunch on your own in the <b>Machaneh Yehudah Outdoor Market</b>. Later, after check in at our hotel, we'll make our way to the Old City and join thousands in welcoming <b>Shabbat</b> at the <b>Kotel</b>. (<i>weather permitting</i>). <b>Festive Shabbat dinner</b> at the Hotel.</p>	<p>Lunch on your own</p> <p><u><b>Shabbat Dinner</b></u> <u>at the Hotel</u></p> <p>Dan Panorama Hotel <i>Jerusalem</i></p>
<p>Shabbat <i>December 6</i></p> <p><i>Shabbat in Jerusalem</i></p>	<p>Enjoy the special atmosphere of Shabbat in Jerusalem by participating in Shabbat <b>prayers</b> at one of Jerusalem's many synagogues. <b>Shabbat Buffet Lunch at the hotel</b>. In the late afternoon we'll come together for a <b>walking tour</b> to the famous <b>windmill</b> and the first neighbourhood built outside the Old City walls by <b>Sir Moses Montefiore</b> followed by <b>Havdalah</b>. Evening and dinner on your own in Jerusalem.</p>	<p><u><b>Shabbat Lunch</b></u> <u>At the Hotel</u></p> <p>Dinner on your own</p> <p>Dan Panorama Hotel <i>Jerusalem</i></p>
<p>Sunday <i>December 7</i></p> <p><i>Jerusalem Through the Ages</i></p>	<p>Step back 3,000 years to the days of <b>King David</b> with a visit to the most recent excavations in the <b>City of David Archaeological Park</b>. Next, we'll consider the mysteries of <b>Mt. Zion</b> and then enter today's <b>Old City</b>. Explore the restored <b>Jewish Quarter</b> and examine the life of the city through the ages including the rooftops, the <b>Cardo</b> and the <b>Kotel overlook</b>. Lunch and shopping time on your own. Later, step back 2,000 years to the days of the Second Temple at the <b>Davidson Southern Temple Mount Excavations</b> and <b>Kotel</b> tunnels.</p>	<p>Lunch and dinner on your own</p> <p>Dan Panorama Hotel <i>Jerusalem</i></p>
<p>Monday <i>December 8</i></p> <p><i>Veshavu Banim LeGevulam</i></p>	<p>Visit the innovative <b>Yad LaKashish</b> Lifeline for the Elderly including the workshops and gift shop. Then, head to the restored Jewish settlements in the <b>Gush Etzion</b> suburbs of Jerusalem; visit and learn at <b>Yeshivat Har Etzion</b> where young men combine their army service with the study of Torah. After a tour and lunch at the <b>Gush Etzion Winery</b>, we'll see the Kibbutz Kfar Etzion audio visual presentation and learn what a <b>"settlement"</b> is. Bus tour and observation outlook in <b>Efrat</b>. Heading back to Jerusalem, we'll stop for <b>Tefilat Mincha or Arvit</b> at <b>Kever Rachel</b> (Rachel's Tomb). Evening and dinner on your own in Jerusalem.</p>	<p><u><b>Winery Lunch</b></u></p> <p>Dinner on your own</p> <p>Dan Panorama Hotel <i>Jerusalem</i></p>
<p>Tuesday <i>December 9</i></p> <p><i>What Price Freedom?</i></p>	<p>Early morning departure to <b>Masada</b> where the last Jewish freedom fighters faced the mighty Roman Empire 2,000 years ago; examine the troubling issues presented by the Masada story. Descend by cable car or the Snake Path for lunch and a <b>Dead Sea "float"</b> at the <b>Ein Gedi Spa</b>. Later, return to <b>Jerusalem</b> and celebrate our re-arrival with the views of the city at <b>Mt. Scopus</b> overlooking the city. Evening and dinner on your own in Jerusalem. (<i>The Israel Museum is open until 9 PM</i>).</p>	<p><u><b>Ein Gedi Lunch</b></u></p> <p>Dinner on your own</p> <p>Dan Panorama Hotel <i>Jerusalem</i></p>
<p>Wednesday <i>December 10</i></p> <p><i>From Out of the Crucible</i></p>	<p>After check-out from the hotel, visit and stand in solemn memory at <b>Yad Vashem</b>, Israel's central memorial to the victims of the <b>Shoah</b> including the Children's Memorial, the Avenue of the Righteous and the new Historical Museum. After time for lunch and last minute shopping on your own in Jerusalem, meet <b>Ethiopian Jewish</b> Immigrants at a community program supported by the <b>Memphis Jewish Federation</b>. Later, head to the <b>Neot Kedumim Biblical Nature Reserve</b> for hands-on learning about the connection between our Jewish heritage and the land of Israel. Summary session and <b>Farewell Dinner</b> before transfer to <b>Ben Gurion Airport</b> for Delta flight #153 departing at 11:25 PM.</p>	<p>Lunch on your own</p> <p><u><b>Farewell Dinner</b></u></p>

Thursday <i>December 11</i>	5:40 AM arrival in Atlanta. Connect to Delta flight # 1497 departing at 9:11 AM, arriving in Memphis at 9:36 AM.	<i>Next year in Jerusalem!</i>
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All Breakfasts and meals are included in the package price

Program will be staffed by a Keshet tour educator

