

## **American Conference of Cantors Solidarity Mission to Israel Dec. 9-14, 2023**



### **Day 1: Saturday, December 9, 2023: DEPARTURE**

- Depart the United States. Nov 26 – LY008 JFK-TLV 11:50pm – 5:10pm

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### **Day 2: Sunday, December 10, 2023: BRUCHIM HABAIM – OUR MISSION BEGINS**

- 5:10pm: Arrival. Greeting and assistance by Ayelet representative and boarding our bus with our guide and security guard\*.
- 6:30pm: Our first stop is at **V'Ahavta**, the progressive community of Shoham. We sing together and light Chanukkah candles with **Rabbi Rinat Sfanía** and the her community, before sharing our welcome dinner together.
- 8:30pm: We transfer to Jerusalem where we check into our hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

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### **Day 3: Monday, December 11, 2023: THE WESTERN NEGEV**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- 9am: Drive to Gaza Border Region (Western Negev), with visits to some of the following, depending on security restrictions at the time of travel:
  - **Shaar Hanegev** – we meet with **Rabbi Yael Vurgan**, leader of the **Shaar Hanegev progressive community**. We will sing together with members of the community as we all stand as one.
  - **Ashkelon** – special program with the City of Ashkelon – We sing with families who remained in the city and view some of the damage caused by the Hamas rockets.
  - **Netivot** - A town at the entrance to the War Zone. Here we visit one of the special kitchens set up to serve the thousands of soldiers involved in the war.



- Possible visit to **Kfar Aza, Nahal Oz or Ein Hashlosha** – although these communities are much closer to the border with Gaza and chances for visiting are currently low.
- Visit one of the **moshavim** in the Western Negev whose foreign farm workers left Israel due to the war. **We volunteer in their fields, orchards and/or packing houses.**
- We continue to **Beer Sheva** to meet with the local community also bombarded with rockets on a daily bases. We sing together before returning to Jerusalem.
- We are joined in Jerusalem by our fellow **Israeli cantors of the HUC for dinner and Chanukkah candle lighting.** We have informal discussions about the challenge of caring for distraught communities at this time.

Overnight: Jerusalem

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#### Day 4: Tuesday, December 12, 2023: JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8AM: The Gaza Story, with **Col. Res. Grisha Yaakubovitch**, who served in the IDF Civil Administration in the Gaza region.
- 9am: Visit **Hadassah hospital** to meet with wounded soldiers and sing with them as one.
- 10:30 am: Visit the **Hamal Hayerushalmi** in the **Sam Spiegel Film School complex** – the Jerusalem Civil Coordination Center, for a briefing with Adir Schwartz, a Jerusalem community leader and one of the founders of the center. This is followed by an opportunity to take part in the **volunteer effort.** <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-768100>
- Possible meeting with **Magen David Adom** to hear about their heroic work during and after the October 7<sup>th</sup> Massacre.
- 12:30pm: Time for lunch on own.
- 2:30pm: Visit **Evacuees** from the Western Negev in Jerusalem or Dead Sea Hotel to share our song and pastoral skill.
- 7 pm: **Dinner and Chanukkah candle lighting** with the Jerusalem Progressive communities and discussion of their experience at this challenging time.

Overnight: Jerusalem

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#### Day 5: Wednesday, December 13, 2023: TOUCHING BASE IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- 10am: Visit the **Hostage Task Force Center** in Tel Aviv for an understanding of what is being done to raise awareness of the hostage situation, concluding with a meeting with one of the families.
- 12pm: Lunch on your own in the **Sarona Market.**



- 1:30pm: Visit the **Ahim Laneshek Volunteer Center** in the Tel Aviv EXPO grounds, with an **opportunity to help** with massive effort to help soldiers in both the south and the north, and share songs and prayers of comfort.
  - 5pm: Meeting with **Rabbi Meir Azari of Beit Daniel** at Mishkenot Ruth Daniel where many residents from Sderot have been relocated. We join together for **farewell dinner, Chanukkah candle lighting and sing along** in central Israel with **Beit Daniel** as we consider the impact we have had during our time in Israel.
  - Transfer to Ben Gurion airport for our return flight home landing tomorrow morning, Dec 15th - LY001 TLV-JFK 12:45am – 5:45am
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### Day 6: Thursday, December 14, 2023: ARRIVE BACK IN THE USA

- Morning arrival at JFK. The Memories Last Forever

#### \*Security points for travel to Israel at this time:

- All itinerary planning and implementation will be carried out in conjunction with the guidelines set out by the IDF Homefront Command and Israeli police.
- During all programming and travel, special attention will be given to making sure that safe and protected spaces are in close proximity at all times.
- All itineraries will be subject to change at a minutes notice, based on security authorities recommendations.
- An armed guard will be present with the group during all programming times.
- There will be limited free time, depending on the groups location. All free time opportunities will be in locations with safe and protected spaces in close proximity.
- Although Israel is at war at the moment, free and open travel is still possible in most areas of the country. When traveling near the southern or northern borders or in the West Bank, additional security precautions will be taken.
- All participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability pertaining to the state of war and the limits of our ability to keep them safe.
- All participants must secure travel insurance.

\*\*\* all meetings are and will be finalized as time gets closure

