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ISRAEL
forever.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
ALTERNATIVE
SPRING BREAK
TO ISRAEL

www.jnf.org

ASB 2

March 6 – 14, 2010

Saturday, March 6

Departure from New York Meet together with 40 other American college students and young professionals, as you embark on a journey to do your part in building the Land of Israel. Together you will learn about the challenges of creating sustainable settlements in Israel's desert regions, the issues that face Israeli "development towns" on the periphery, environmental issues and - with JNF - take real steps toward continuing the reality of a Jewish State.

Sunday, March 7

Arrival in Israel! After a brief snack and refreshment, together you travel south to the Negev desert to begin your seven-day adventure on this incredible JNF Alternative Spring Break Program!

Travel South to the Negev Desert where we will begin our program in Yerucham, one of Israel's original Negev development towns.

Check in and Orientation You and your peers begin to learn about each other and review the goals and highlights of the program. Learn about each other, where you come from, and what brought you to this program

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Monday, March 8

Travel to Srigim/Li'on A communal settlement in the Yehudah Plains (just north of the Negev Desert) area of Israel.

Hugey Sayarut Meet with Lavi Zamir the Director of Hugey Sayarut, a JNF sponsored elite youth movement which focuses on preservation and activities in nature. Many of their activities are designed to bring Israel's economically underprivileged in touch with Israel's natural beauty.

Work Project A restoration and renovation project at Hugey Sayarut's headquarters and activity campus at Srigim.

Picnic Lunch After a hard of meaningful work, you will have time to salads and pita, unwind, relax, talk with Hugei Sayarut members and reenergize for the afternoon ahead.

Project Reflection

Visit to the Hirbat Madras Caves Guided by the experts of Hugei Sayarut explore these caves that were once Jewish settlement.

Dinner

Group Discussion

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Tuesday, March 9

Travel to Be'er Sheva – "The Capital of the Negev"

"Earth's Promise" Meet with Noga Zohar, the Director of *Shavuat Ha'adamah* (Earth's Promise), which works with economically-disadvantaged Ethiopians in Be'er Sheva. Their current project is to take vacant parcels of land filled with garbage and debris, and with your help and the help of others in the neighborhood, clean the plot, lay down compost, and then gave out parcels of land on to Ethiopian families to farm. This urban farming is a twenty-first century version of Ben Gurion's dream to settle the desert, as well as a way to restore self pride and improve quality of life. In this particular project, you will continue the work of previous JNF Alternative Break groups in building an "urban sanctuary" along-side the community gardens, where families can relax and play together while working the land.

Lunch

Continuation of the Work Project

Discussion and Reflection and a follow-up conversation with Shavuat Ha'adamah and residents and group reflection

Travel to Sderot

Visit to the JNF Sderot Indoor Playground On March 14, 2009, one of JNF's latest project - an indoor playground for the children of Sderot - was open for business and children can now enjoy sporting activities, a gaming center, and other features of this playground in a beautiful, underground structure safe from outside rocket threats.

Dinner

Group Discussion

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Wednesday, March 10

"Coloring Mitzpe" After meeting with Victor Saban from Amidar, a state-owned provider of subsidized and rent-controlled housing and learning about the day's work, you will head out to your work site—a neighborhood in Mitzpe Ramon, where you will spend the day painting murals on walls in community public spaces and apartment buildings, improving the quality of life for residents.

Lunch

Continuation of Work Project

Project Reflection

Late Afternoon Hike in Nahal Haverim

Making the Desert Bloom Sixty years ago, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion proclaimed that the success of the new state will depend upon its ability to "make the [Negev] desert bloom." We will watch the sunset over Nahal Zin at Ben Gurion's Grave as we discuss whether or not his dream has (or will) become a reality.

Return to the Guest House for Group Discussion

Dinner

Meeting with Students from Yerucham Learn about growing up and living in a development town and how students from this region strive for a better life for themselves and their community.

Overnight: Beyachad Guest House – Yerucham

Thursday, March 11

Depart from the Negev Desert This morning you leave the Negev, where you have seen communities struggle to create something out of little. Set out toward the center of the country – a fertile agricultural region – to see how we can deal with the problems of excess production.

Table to Table Spend the morning and early afternoon in a field outside of Kfar Schiller, gleaning a harvest that will be donated to soup kitchens and food pantries throughout Israel later that day.

Project Reflection and Discussion

Lunch

Travel to the Jerusalem Area

Check in and time to Relax

Night Out On the Town After time to rest, freshen up and eat dinner, we will head to downtown Jerusalem on foot for a fun night out at the end of a long week of hard work!

Independent Dinner

Overnight: Caesar Hotel – Jerusalem

Friday, March 12

Jerusalem "Green Project" at Bustan Hama'ayan Spend the morning working with community activists who decided to make a garbage dump into an urban green space in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem neighborhood. Together you will build paths and terraces and help to maintain this nature sanctuary which provides a peaceful place for the residents of this hectic and at times stressful city.

Shopping No trip to Israel would be complete without a shopping stop at Jerusalem's famous Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall and Machane Yehuda Market (the *shuk*)

Independent Lunch

Shabbat Preparation After working and shopping you will return to our hotel with time to rest and prepare for a special Shabbat in Jerusalem

Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat We will welcome in Shabbat together with communal singing and lighting the Shabbat candles. You will then have the option of attending Shabbat services at a local traditional synagogue, attending our own egalitarian services in the hotel, or attending a discussion about Shabbat, also with our group.

Shabbat Dinner We will all come back together after Kabbalat Shabbat for a festive dinner followed by a "Shabbat party" in which we will tell stories about the week, sing, enjoy Israeli snacks, and take advantage of having time to relax together.

Overnight: Caesar Hotel – Jerusalem

Shabbat, March 13

Optional Worship

Shabbat Rest - *Menuchah*

Shabbat Workshop on Justice and Judaism Learn about the weekly Torah reading and discuss how it relates to the work you have been doing all week in Israel.

Shabbat Lunch

Closing Discussion You've taken the time to learn and do community service in Israel. How do you take these learned ideas and values home to your community?

Havdallah

Final Dinner Enjoy a final meal together after a week of hard work and fun!

Travel to the Airport

Sunday, March 14

Depart on a 1:00 a.m. flight back to the U.S.

Contact Numbers

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|---|--------------------|
| JNF USA Office | 212-879-9305 x245 |
| Shorashim USA Office | 312-267-0677 |
| Shorashim Israel Office (as dialed from US) | 011 972 2 6216393 |
| Michal Tamim (as dialed from US) | 011 972 52 8330552 |
| Bus Number (as dialed from US) | 011-972 52 5668829 |
| Shoshana Hill (as dialed from US) | 011-972 52 5255216 |