

February 2017 Message from Rabbi Dubin

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I write to report on the progress that our JCNWJ Israel Trip Planning Committee has already made in just our first two meetings so far.

During our first meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, it was decided that the 11-day trip will take place during the summer of 2018, and that it will be designed to appeal to people of all ages, from child to senior citizen. In addition, recognizing this will be the first Israel experience for some participants while others will have already been there before, we will be sure to schedule appropriate activities so that everyone can remain engaged throughout. And finally, we will make sure that those who wish to extend their stay to enjoy additional travel on their own, either before or after the JCNWJ trip, will be able to do so.

On Sunday, January 23, 2017, when the Committee came back together for our 2nd meeting, we were honored and excited to welcome Ehud Klinger, from [ARZA World Travel](#). ARZA, by the way, stands for the “[Association of Reform Zionists of America](#).” It was a pleasure to have Ehud with us, and very helpful to have his insight as we began the hard work of trying to figure out what kind of trip would be most appropriate to who we are as a community. The beauty of working with ARZA World Travel is that they will customize the trip exactly to our needs.

As I write this update to you, Ehud is hard at work writing up a proposed itinerary – based on what he learned from our meeting – for us to consider. Once we have reviewed his recommendations and tweaked as necessary, we will then begin the process of sharing our progress in more detail with the community. At that point, of course, we will take feedback and continue the tweaking process as needed (if needed!). In the meantime, if you have input you would like to offer already at this point, I invite you to share it with me at RabbiDubin@jcnwj.org.

One final note about our Planning Committee: Allow me to offer a public note of thanks to Lynne Kowski and Roy Loomis for stepping up to co-chair the effort. Lynne and Roy bring a wide array of leadership talents and skills to the organizing effort, and we are grateful. I have a feeling you will be hearing more from them over the coming months.

On a second – yet clearly related – topic, as we are now in the beginning stages of our 18(ish)-month period of preparation, I am happy to announce that I will be teaching a weekly Adult-Ed Hebrew course, open to all. There is no requirement that students will commit to joining us in Israel (though we’d LOVE it if you do!). While participation certainly will offer students some of the tools necessary to communicate in Israel in Modern Hebrew, primary curricular emphasis will be placed on the

teaching of the Hebrew of Torah and prayer. A detailed invitation to register will be coming out soon.

I look forward to the next 18 months of preparation, as we gear up for this most wonderful journey together.

Todah Rabah,
Rabbi Dubin

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