



Israel Seminar

SCHOLARS AS BRIDGE-BUILDERS
JCRC Faculty Study Tour to Israel

March 13-19, 2017



Israel Seminar Contact List:

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Dan Panorama Tel Aviv

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Mamilla Hotel Jerusalem

Shlomo Ha-Melekh St 11,

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Monday, March 13

Welcome to Israel

- 12:25 pm** Landing at Ben Gurion Airport. VIP assistance through passport control and baggage claim
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm** Depart airport and travel to Tel Aviv
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm** Lunch at **Haj Kahil restaurant**
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm** Check in to hotel
- 5:30 pm** **Jaffa – the Gateway the Land of Israel:** Visit Jaffa, the southern part of Tel Aviv and the area where its Arab neighborhoods reside. We will tour the old part of Jaffa and explore the ancient port, the site from which the Prophet Jonah fled from God, where Peter restored Tabitha to life and stayed with Simon the Tanner.
- 8:30 pm** Opening Dinner **“Introduction to Israel”:** A Framework for understanding Israel with **Avi Ben-Hur** at **Deca restaurant**.
- Overnight** **Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv**



Tuesday, March 14

Tel Aviv and The Mediterranean Coastline

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 – 10:30 am

Meet with **Dalia Rabin, Chair of the Yitzhak Rabin Center**. The Center is the national institute, established by the Knesset in 1997, that advances the legacy of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a path-breaking, visionary leader whose life was cut short in a devastating assassination. Lunch box at Rabin Center.

10:30 – 11:30 am

Travel to Alfei Menashe

11:30 – 12:15 pm

Israel's Narrow Waistline: An overlook from Alfei Menashe towards the Mediterranean Coastline to discuss the issues of the West Bank.

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Travel to Givat Haviva. Lunch boxes en-route

1:30 – 5:00 pm

Visit **Givat Haviva** and meet with CEO **Yaniv Sagee and Lydia Aisenberg**. Givat Haviva is a non-pro fit organization founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in Israel. Givat Haviva educational institute implements comprehensive educational programs for Jewish and Arab students that foster learning, understanding, and imparting of tools for a shared society in Israel. The visit will include a tour and view point of the nearby Arab village **Barta'a**, which was divided following the 1949 War. The story of Barta'a symbolizes many of the struggles and daily challenges faced by Arab towns located on the border between the West Bank and Israel and allows for a fascinating insight into this complex issue.



5:00 – 5:45 pm

Drive to Tira

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Meet with **Dr. Dalia Fadila**, the first female Dean of an Islamic college in Israel. Dr. Fadila is the Director of Al-Qasemi College for Science and Engineering in Baqa al-Gharbiyye and heads the School for Practical Engineers at the College. She also lectures at the Lauder School for Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.

8:00 pm

Dinner at **Goshen restaurant** with **Asaf Brimer**, CEO and founder of **Moona – A Space for Change**. A former IDF pilot and aviation industry consultant who served in the IAI (Israel Aerospace Industry) for 6 years; he left the military and the industry in January 2013 to work for social change and promote a better society for Arabs and Jews in the Galilee region, where he lives today.

Overnight

Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv



Wednesday, March 15

Jerusalem and the West Bank

8:00 – 9:00 am

Breakfast; Check out of hotel

9:00 – 10:15 am

Travel to Jerusalem

10:15 – 12:30 pm

Tour and visit the **Knesset**. Meet with **MK Hilik Bar** from the Zionist Camp party, and **MK Amir Ohana** from the Likud party

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Lunch at **Ima restaurant**

1:45 – 3:00 pm

The Historic Nucleus: Visit the **City of David**, the ancient capital of Jerusalem, established 3,000 years ago by King David. The visit will include areas recently opened to the general public and the newly-opened tunnel ascending toward the Temple Mount.

Meet with representatives of the **City of David Foundation** which manages this important site, and strives to strengthen the Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

3:00 – 5:30 pm

The Old City of Jerusalem: Venturing into the alleyways of the **Old City**, visit the religious and cultural focal points for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The tour will include an overview of the **Temple Mount**, Dome of the Rock, El Aksa Mosque, and the Christian Quarter with the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, site of Jesus' Crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection according to Christian tradition. Continue through the **Jewish Quarter** including the Cardo and the main square. Finish the tour with a stop at **The Western Wall**.



5:30 – 7:30 pm

Check in to hotel; Time for shopping

7:30 pm

Dinner with **Dr. Uki Maroshek**, Educational Director of **Adam Institute of Democracy and Peace**, and **Amal Abu Ramadan** and **Vardit Kaplan**, representatives of **Women Wage Peace**, a movement placing the option of a political resolution for the Israeli Palestinian Conflict at the forefront of the public agenda and discourse. The movement gathers people from the left and right, secular and religious, Arab and Jewish.

9:30 pm

Cocktails after dinner – bring your guests for drinks. At **La Guta restaurant**.

Overnight

Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem



Thursday, March 16

Ramallah and the West Bank

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 am

Meet with **Gadi Baltiansky**, the Director General of “**Education for Peace Ltd.**”, the Geneva Initiative headquarters in Tel Aviv. Baltiansky served as Press Secretary to Prime Minister Ehud Barak between 1999 and 2001.

10:00 – 12:00 pm

A visit to The **Van Leer Jerusalem Institute**. Meet **Haifa Sabbagh** and **Dr. Sarah Ozacky-Lazar** who will introduce two programs: "Values and Citizens" and "Promotion of the Arab Society in the Academia".

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Travel to Rawabi

1:00 - 3:00 pm

A tour of **Rawabi**, the first planned city built by and for Palestinians, guided by **Nimala Kharoufeh**, Co-founder of Ashams for Self Development. The tour will be followed by lunch.

3:00 - 3:30 pm

Meet with **Bashar Masri**, founder and manager of the company that was created to build Rawabi.

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Meet with **Dr. Khalil Shikaki**, Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, followed by a short tour of Ramallah. Meet with **Riman Barakat**, Co-CEO of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information.



5:00 – 6:00 pm

Travel back to Jerusalem

8:30 pm

Dinner at **Anna restaurant** with **Prof. Naomi Chazan**, an Israeli academic, activist, and politician. Prof. Chazan is currently the Dean of Politics and Social Studies department at the College of Tel Aviv.

Overnight

Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem



Friday, March 17 Jerusalem

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 am

Travel to Yad Vashem

9:00 – 11:30 am

Yad Vashem – Remembering the Holocaust: A comprehensive tour of the Historical Museum, The Children's Memorial and the Hall of remembrance

12:00 – 1:30 pm

A tasting tour with **Arava Allon** through the **Machane Yehuda** fresh produce market and grab some lunch on the way. Hear the stories of the many different ethnic backgrounds of the vendors who bring the wares to the market and see the influence from the incredible diversity of cultures.

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Tour of Jerusalem led by **Dr. Shaul Arieli**. Dr. Arieli, born in Ashkelon (1959), is considered to be an 'encyclopedia' of the Israeli-Palestinian political process, and is one of Israel's leading experts on the demarcation of the future Israeli-Palestinian border and the route of the Separation Barrier.

4:00 – 5:20 pm

Time to relax and freshen up

5:20 pm

Welcome Shabbat at **the Western Wall**

6:30 pm

Traditional **Shabbat Dinner** with a local Jewish family from Jerusalem

Overnight

Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem



Saturday, March 18

Masada and the Dead Sea

7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 – 9:30 am	Travel to Masada via the Dead Sea
9:30 – 11:30 am	Take the cable car to the top of Masada and explore this unique archaeological site through myth and symbolism as a reflection of Israeli society.
12:00 – 3:00 pm	Lunch and swim at the Crown Plaza Hotel Dead Sea
3:00 – 5:00 pm	Travel back to Jerusalem
Evening	Dinner on your own
Overnight	Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem



Sunday, March 19

A View from the South

7:30 – 8:30 am

Breakfast; Check out

8:30 – 9:30 am

Meet with **Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman**, President of the **Shalom Hartman Institute**. Donniel is the founder of some of the most extensive education, training and enrichment programs for scholars, educators, rabbis, and religious and lay leaders in Israel and North America.

9:30 - 11:00 am

Travel to Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council

11:00 - 12:30 pm

Overlook on the **Gaza Strip**, including a briefing on the recent conflict and current situation with Hamas as well as the impact on the surrounding Israeli communities.

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Lunch and tour of the city of **Sderot**, including a stop at the police station to view the accumulated missiles and rockets from the recent tensions between Israel and Gaza.

Visit the **Protected Playground**: The harsh reality of rocket attacks in Sderot has called for a creative solution - an indoor protected playground that offers activities and fun for kids of all ages. The playground boasts an indoor climbing wall, bouncy castles, a small soccer pitch and much more, and is aimed at providing the children of Sderot with a safe alternative to playing outside.



1:30 – 3:30 pm

Meeting and tour at **Sapir College** hosted by **Prof. Omri Yadlin**, President of Sapir College, and relevant faculty. Meet with **Dr. Julia Chaitin**, from the School of Social Work and **Dr. Ruthie Eitan**, Director of Foreign Affairs.

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Travel to Neve Shalom

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Visit the **Neve Shalom Village** – also called “**Oasis for Peace**” or “**Wahat al-Salam**” - the only community in Israel where Jews and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel live together in equality and peace. The School for Peace (SFP) at Neve Shalom was established in 1979 as the first educational institution in Israel aimed at promoting broad scale change towards peace and more humane, egalitarian and just relations between Palestinians and Jews.

7:30 pm

Final dinner and time for discussion

Depart for airport; VIP Assistance at check-in

**** Final Program subject to change based on confirmation of speakers, sites, and experiences**

Speaker Biographies



Tuesday, March 14

— Avi Ben Hur

A Brooklyn native, Avi Ben-Hur moved to Israel in 1983. Between 2003-2008 Avi was the Director of the Archaeological Seminars School for Israeli Tour Guides. In 2008 Avi participated in re-writing the curriculum of the National Guiding courses for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. As a "Scholar in Residence", Avi has lectured, taught and facilitated workshops in the US, Warsaw, Prague, Berlin and Greece. Between 1996-2000, Avi taught in Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies.

As a guide, Avi has specializes in working with organizations focusing on political issues (such as AIPAC, LFI, CIJA, Peace Now, etc.), inter-faith programs and Holocaust studies. Avi is also a seminar educator for the Florence Melton School of Adult Education in Israel, Prague, Berlin and Greece. At present, Avi is on the faculty of the University of Haifa Tourism School, is an examiner for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and is the scholar in residence of Classrooms Without Borders.

— Dalia Rabin

Since 2004, Dalia Rabin has served as chairperson of the Yitzhak Rabin Center, a thriving national institute dedicated to ensuring that the legacy of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin continues to impact Israeli society through experiential educational programming and museum exhibits.

Before leading the Rabin Center, Dalia served in the Knesset from 1999-2002. In March 2001, Dalia was appointed deputy minister of defense. Prior to her government service, Dalia, an attorney by profession, served as a legal advisor to the General Federation of Labor (the "Histadrut") from 1997-1999.

Dalia worked in the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office from 1980-1994, specializing in labor law and defense-related cases. Dalia has served on the Board of Directors of a number of companies and organizations, including Visarti, Maman, Israel Salt Industries, Metis Capital, Elbit, AKUM and Peelim. She is also the President of the Center for Arbitration and Conflict Resolution. Dalia received her LLB from Tel Aviv University, after completing her compulsory service in the IDF at the rank of sergeant.

— Yaniv Sagee

Yaniv Sagee has been the of Executive Director of Givat Haviva as of in September 2012. For over twenty years, he has been a key figure in various organizations connected to education in general, and youth movements in particular, in Israel.

Yaniv is a native of Kibbutz Ein Hashofet where he currently lives. After his initial army service, Yaniv became the shaliach for Hashomer Hatzair and Kibbutz Aliyah Desk in

Chicago. Upon returning to Israel, he worked in Ein Hashofet's dairy, before being asked to take the post of general secretary of the kibbutz. At the age of 26, this made Sagee the youngest, kibbutz member to hold such a position in a veteran kibbutz.

After serving as general secretary for two years, Yaniv worked from 1995 - 2000 at a local high school, first as a teacher, and then as the boarding school principal. From 2000 – 2005, he became the head of Hashomer Hatzair, and then became the chairman of the National Council for Youth Movements in Israel for three years. From 2005 - 2009, he assumed the post of general secretary of Ein Hashofet for a second time. He then served as the central shaliach for the Givat Haviva Educational Foundation, Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, and the Kibbutz Movement of North America.

During his extensive career, Yaniv also volunteered his expertise to endeavors such as: the steering committee of the Partnership 2000 team of the local Megiddo Municipality, advising and directing decision-making at Kibbutz Pelech, a young kibbutz in the Galilee, and leading the implementation of a project to renovate and preserve Jewish sites in Poland with the National Council for Youth Movements.

Yaniv's experiences have engendered his working cooperatively with Ministers of Education, Department of Education vice chairmen, Knesset members, mayors and regional council members, Arab municipal leaders, kibbutz movement general secretaries, and directors of Partnership 2000. Yaniv received his B.A. from Tel Aviv University in Jewish philosophy and General Studies which included education, Israeli history, and philosophy. He is married to Galia, a theatre director, teacher, and educational counselor. They have three children.

— Lydia Aisenberg

Lydia Aisenberg is an accomplished freelance journalist, writer, informal educator and special study tour guide. Born in 1946, Lydia originates from South Wales, Britain. Making aliya to Israel in the 1960s she became a member of Kibbutz Mishmar HaEmek in the Jezreel Valley – a collective community founded in 1922, a member of the Hashomer Hatzair movement, and still adheres to the cooperative ideology in present times (2017)

The mother of five and grandmother of nine (so far) Lydia has been involved with the Givat Haviva Center for Shared Society in Wadi Ara for the last 30 years. She has travelled extensively abroad on speaking engagements as a member of Israeli Jewish-Arab delegations of educators attending peace conferences in Europe and Scandinavia and has worked with overseas partner organizations in North America and Europe to build educational programs with an emphasis on the people to people aspect of conflict resolution.

— Dalia Fadila

Dr. Dalia Fadila is the founder of Q Schools: English Language and Human Development and President of Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science. In the period between 2000-2011, Dr. Fadila acted as the academic manager of Al Qasemi Teacher Training College. She is also a fellow member of the "EU Visitors Program," and "US International

Leadership Visitors' Program". Dr. Fadila is an expert on organizational development and educational entrepreneurship in developing societies and an international speaker on the issues of Arab women and education. She has led and managed national and international seminars and projects on issues of gender, culture, identity and education. Of deep concern to her are promoting quality education for Arab students through establishing an alternative schooling system, and empowering Arab women as educators, entrepreneurs and leaders. She has established private schools for teaching English called Q Schools - English Language and HR Development that propose a unique approach to learning/teaching English suited to Arab students and stemming from the need of these students to develop personally and professionally.

Dr. Fadila is currently also a faculty member of the International School for Leadership and Diplomacy at IDC-Inter Disciplinary Center in Hertzlya and member of the governmental civil-service higher committee, President Revlin's committee for a shared society, and the advisor to the Knesset on Arab education issues.

— Asaf Brimer

Asaf Brimer is the CEO and Founder of Moona – a Space for Change. A former IDF pilot and aviation industry consultant, he served in the IAI (Israel Aerospace Industry) for 6 years. Brimer left the military and the industry in January 2013 to work for social change and promote a better society for Arabs and Jews in the Galilee region, where he lives today. Asaf holds a BA in Economics and Management from Haifa University; BA in Law (LL.B) from the Interdisciplinary Center and MBA from the Academic Campus College.

Wednesday, March 15

— Member of Knesset Amir Ohana

Amir Ohana was born in 1976 in Beer Sheba, where he was raised. In 1994, Ohana enlisted in the IDF and served as senior investigations officer in the Military Police, as commander of the traffic accident investigators course, as commander of the Military Police base and as commander of the Karni Crossing into the Gaza Strip. Ohana currently serves as captain in the IDF reserves. Following his military service, Ohana was recruited to the General Security Service, and held positions related to intelligence and the fight against terror. Ohana serves as chair of the Likud Pride Group, which promotes, within the Likud party, equality of freedoms for the LGBT community. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Tamdor - Eretz Yisrael Loyalists Group in the Likud, and is also a member of the Manof Forum for young liberals in the Likud. Since December 2015, Ohana has served as a MK in the 20th Knesset on behalf of Likud. He is a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the House Committee. He also chairs the lobby for Shaping the Gun Carrying Policy in Israel, is a member of the lobby for Medical Cannabis and serves as the co-chair of the Israel-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group. Ohana lives in Tel-Aviv with his partner and is the father of two.

➤ Elad

Elad (an acronym for "to the city of David") is an Israeli organization that works to strengthen the Jewish connection to Jerusalem, establishing a Jewish presence and tourism in the City of David, Silwan and in the neighboring regions. The organization works to achieve its goals by tourism, education and research, archaeological excavations, buying houses and land in Silwan, or selling Amidar homes, to accommodate Jews. Most of the activity took place until the new millennium national park in the City of David, which belongs to the Nature and Parks Authority and is operated by the association.

➤ Amal Abu Ramadan & Vardit Kaplan – Women Wage Peace Movement

Amal Abu-Ramadan and Vardit Kaplan, a Muslim Palestinian citizen of Israel and a Jewish citizen of Israel, respectively, both from Tel Aviv/Jaffa, are active leaders of the Women Wage Peace movement and will share the movement's vision, challenges, accomplishments and future actions. Discussion moderated by John Davenport, Director of Peace and Justice Studies Program.

Women Wage Peace is an inclusive, non-partisan, and rapidly growing movement of thousands of women in Israel advocating the implementation of a non-violent, honorable and acceptable political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was initiated in November, 2014 following the most recent war with Gaza. It consists of Jewish and Arab women, secular and religious, Ethiopian, Russian and other immigrants with diverse political views and affiliations, from every part of the country. The movement's unanimous call is for the return of the vision of peace to public discourse through diplomacy. It aims to dramatically boost the number and diversity of Israelis supporting and acting for a negotiated agreement, mobilize the government, and to increase the number of women participating in all peace-related activities (as mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1325).

Thursday, March 16

➤ Gadi Baltiansky

Gadi Baltiansky is the Director General of "Education for Peace Ltd.", the Geneva Initiative headquarters in Tel Aviv. Between 1999 and 2001, he served as Press Secretary to Prime Minister Ehud Barak. In this capacity, he was in charge of the public aspects of Israel's security and foreign affairs in general and the peace process in particular. He was an official member of the Israeli negotiating teams opposite Syria and the Palestinians and, as such, participated in numerous summits, meetings and events in the international arena. From 1995 to 1998, Baltiansky served as Press Counselor at the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC, prior to which he served as advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister (1994-5), Vice Consul in Miami, Florida (1991-3) and assistant to the Director General (1990-1). He previously worked as a journalist in Yediot Aharonot. He holds an M.A. in public administration from Harvard University and a B.A. in political science and international relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

➤ Haifa Sabbagh

Haifa Sabbagh is the Director of Education Programs at the Van Leer Institute. Sabbagh holds a BA in sociology and an MA in education. Worked several years in the International Red Cross as a field officer in charge of Jericho, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. Joined the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in 1995. Develops and manages education projects on a broad range of topics and develops learning materials in democracy and civics that are suitable for the entire spectrum of Israeli society.

➤ Dr. Sarah Ozacky-Lazar

Dr. Sarah Ozacky-Lazar received her MA and PhD from the Department of Middle Eastern History at Haifa University, and her BA from the Departments of Arabic Language and Literature and History of the Islamic Countries at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has been engaged in research and instruction in various academic institutions, focusing on the Arab minority in Israel and its relations with the state.

For almost two decades Dr. Ozacky-Lazar was a lecturer and researcher at The Jewish-Arab Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, and served as its co-director from 1998-2005. During her tenure the Center received the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education (2001). Ozacky-Lazar published numerous studies and articles on the Arab population in Israel and its relations with the state. Following an international conference held in 2012 at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, she edited (with others) a book entitled Landscape Architecture and Environmental Policy, published in 2013 by Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany. A book she edited with Jousef Jabareen, entitled Conditional Citizenship: On Citizenship, Equality and Offensive Legislation, was published by Pardes Publishing House and the Jewish-Arab Center, University of Haifa in 2016. This book is the fruit of a discussion group which was active at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in 2013-2015.

Her book (with Yoav Stern) entitled Locals: Conversations with Arab Citizens in Israel was published in 2016 by the Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University. At The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute she ran the joint Israeli-Palestinian Environment and Regional Sustainability Forum in 2008-2012, and currently she (together with the Council of Higher Education) runs the Forum for the Promotion of the Arab Society in the Academia and edits The Van Leer Platform: An Electronic Magazine on Palestinian-Israeli Relations in Israel.

➤ Bashar Masri

Born and raised in Nablus, Palestine; Bashar Masri currently chairs the Board of Massar International, a company he founded in 1994 upon his permanent return to Palestine. Masri established Massar ("path" in English) as the first step in realizing his conviction that robust private sector initiatives could lead to Palestinian economic development and growth. Over the past two decades, Massar has navigated its own path through its challenging political environment, growing to include more than 30 companies in the fields of real estate, financial services, journalism, advertising, and information technology. As private sector leader, the Massar Group not only employs thousands of Palestinians, but

also serves as testament to the indomitable spirit of the Palestinian people.

In accordance with his belief in the private sector's ability to effect positive change, Mr. Masri broke ground on Rawabi City in 2008. As the first Palestinian planned city and the largest private development project ever undertaken in Palestinian history, this inspirational initiative has already made a positive economic and social impact on the Palestinian people. The city's motto, "Live, Work, Grow," embodies Mr. Masri's vision of an environment in which Palestinian society can develop into its full potential. Built by Palestinians, for Palestinians, Rawabi provides modern infrastructure and services to its growing number of residents and business while incorporating elements of traditional architecture and Palestinian culture. Ultimately, Mr. Masri will measure Rawabi's success in its creation of sustainable, long-term growth in the Palestinian economy, specifically by catalyzing and inspiring further bold initiatives that bring opportunity and progress to the Palestinian people.

Masri also serves on numerous boards including the Board of Directors of Palestine Development and Investment (PSE: PADICO), the Board of Trustees of An-Najah National University and a member of the Deans' Council of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy's School of Government.

➤ **Dr. Khalil Shikaki**

Dr. Khalil Shikaki has directed the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah since 2000, and has conducted more than 100 polls among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1993. A world-renowned expert on Palestinian public opinion and a widely published author, he has taught at several institutions, including Birzeit University, An-Najah National University, the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and the University of South Florida. He also was a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., in 2002, and he is a Senior Fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. He holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

➤ **Dr. Sabri Saidam**

His Excellency Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Sabri Saidam was born in Damascus in 1971. He was educated in Britain with a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine; and a certification in Human Development from Oxford University. He is married and has two children.

He became the youngest serving minister since the establishment of the Palestine National Authority. He's also the youngest serving minister of Education and Higher Education.

His Excellency served as the Executive Chairman of Partners for Sustainable Development -NETKETABI. He is a founding member of Partners for New Beginning - Palestine Chapter and also served as a senior lecturer at Birzeit and Khadouri Universities on Innovation Management. He has also served as an Advisor to the Palestinian President on Telecommunications, Information Technology and Technical Education. Furthermore, he is a former minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology and a founding and ex-board member of the Palestine Education for Employment Foundation www.

efefoundation.org (working to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship).

Dr. Saidam is a Board member of Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD) and an ex-board member of Hisham Hijawi College for Vocational and Technical Education - Al-Najah University.

In 2006, Dr. Saidam led the telecom market liberalization in Palestine by introducing the second mobile phone operator. He also led the introduction and ratification of the Palestine Telecom Regulatory Authority (PTRA) law and introduced a series of initiatives including the e-Government Initiative, the National Academic Network, Falastinyia (enhancing women participation in the ICT market), Palestine Education Initiative (PEI); with a wide international partnership. He also co-enhanced Cisco's role in Palestine which led to the establishment of its \$10m investment initiative.

Mr. Saidam helped launch .PS and its governing body, the Palestinian National Internet Naming Authority (PNINA). He founded the award winning Palestine Digital Library in 2004 and the Palestine e-Republic in 2007 and also co-founded the Internet Society-Palestine Chapter {ISOC-PS}, PC & Net 4 All (for providing PCs and internet connectivity to deprived citizens) and the Birzeit Innovation Group {BIG}, for innovation and technology. Until recently, Dr. Saidam was a member of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

➤ Prof. Naomi Chazan

Professor Naomi Chazan is Dean of the School of Government and Society at the Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo. She completed three terms as a Member of Knesset on behalf of the Meretz (Democratic Israel) party in February, 2003. During her parliamentary career (1992-2003) she served as Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, and as a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee (concentrating on issues of the peace process and Israel's foreign relations), the Economics Committee, the House (Knesset) Committee, the Education Committee, and the Committee on the Status of Women. She was considered one of Israel's top legislators during this period, specializing in human rights, gender equality, and consumer affairs.

Born in Jerusalem, Naomi Chazan hold B.A. and M.A. degrees from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is Professor Emerita of Political Science and African Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she served as Chair of the Harry S Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. She has been a Visiting Professor of Government at Harvard University, a Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, and the Robert Wilhelm Fellow at the Center for International Studies at MIT, and has lectured at dozens of universities and research institutes throughout the world. She has authored and edited eight books on comparative politics and written numerous articles on Arab-Israeli relations, Israeli politics, African politics, and women and politics.

Naomi Chazan served as President of the New Israel Fund between 2009-2012. She also was chair of SHATIL (the Empowerment and Training Center for Social Change Organizations in Israel). In the past, she chaired HEMDAT, The Association for Freedom of Religion in Israel. She served as Vice-President of the International Political Science Association and was a member of the Executive Committee of Parliamentarians for Global Action. She is among the founders of the International Women's Commission for an Israeli-Palestinian

Peace, the Israel Women's Network, the Israel Women's Peace Net, the Jerusalem Link and Engendering the Peace Process, and is active in a variety of professional, human rights, and peace organizations.

Friday, March 17

— Shaul Arieli

Shaul Arieli, born in Ashkelon in 1959, is considered to be an 'encyclopedia' of the Israeli-Palestinian political process, and is one of Israel's leading experts on the demarcation of the future Israeli-Palestinian border and the route of the Separation Barrier. Arieli served as commander of a brigade in the Gaza Strip. As part of his military service he was responsible for the preparation of the official negotiations with the Palestinians, as head of the Interim Agreement Administration under the Rabin government, and head of the Peace Administration in the Barak Government. Since retiring from the IDF in 2001, Arieli has dedicated himself to advancing an Israeli-Palestinian permanent status agreement, and was amongst the leading negotiators in the process that brought about the Geneva Initiative in December 2003.

In recent years, Arieli has been active in a wide array of activities aimed at renewing the political process and upholding ethical standards in the IDF's actions in the Palestinian territories. He assists by advising in legal campaigns and providing expert opinions to different organizations and authorities. In a number of petitions to the High Court of Justice against the delineation of the separation barrier, Arieli has acted as a "Friend of the Court" in his capacity as a board member of the Council for Peace and Security. In this capacity, he has managed to convince the court to obligate the Security apparatus to alter the delineation in a manner which would provide the necessary security to Israelis whilst ensuring the least possible damage to the Palestinian population, as well as safeguarding the prospects of renewal of the peace process.

Lately, Arieli has embarked upon a public campaign against the "Leiberman Plan" and the idea of including a "population exchange" in a permanent status agreement with the Palestinians. Arieli's work on this issue presents detailed and logical arguments, backed up by relevant statistical data, which expose the idea as being not only inhumane and in contravention of human rights and democratic principles, but also legally impossible, impractical and inefficient even according to the approach of those who propose it.

Sunday, March 19

— Prof. Omri Yadlin

Professor. Omri Yadlin is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the Tel Aviv University Law School and the Tel Aviv University Industrial Engineering Department. He earned his LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees at Boalt Hall School of Law at U.C. Berkeley, and afterwards he joined the Tel Aviv University Law Faculty. Prof. Yadlin teaches and engages in research in the areas of Corporations, Securities Regulation and Economic Analysis of Law. In addition to Tel Aviv, Yadlin taught at the law schools of U.C. Berkeley and Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 2008, Prof. Yadlin joined the Sapir Academic College, where he founded and managed the Sapir Law School. In 2014 Prof. Yadlin was nominated the President of the Sapir college.

➤ Dr. Julia Chaitin

Julia received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology/Behavioral Sciences from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Beer Sheva). She held two post-doctorates in conflict resolution/peace-building: in 2000 – 2001 as a senior researcher with the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME) – a joint Palestinian Israeli non-governmental organization (NGO) that undertakes collaborative peace research and in 2001 – 2002 as the Lentz Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Peace and Conflict Resolution Research at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. From 2003 – 2006, Julia was Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies at Nova Southeastern University (Florida).

Julia is a researcher/practitioner who specializes in the social-psychological aspects of massive social trauma on victims and their descendants. Her work focuses on: (1) the long-term impact of the Holocaust on survivors and their families and on Jewish-Israeli young adults; (2) joint Palestinian-Israeli research on the impact of the conflict on peoples in the region and (3) issues of ethnic belonging and identity among refugee/immigrant populations. She specializes in qualitative research, basing her work on narrative research, ethnography, storytelling and inter-group facilitation.

Since 2006 she has been a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the Sapir College and a senior staff member at the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) – an NGO that works on peace and sustainable human development between Jews and Palestinians within Israel and between Israel/Palestine.

➤ Dr. Ruthie Eitan

Dr. Ruthie Eitan is a professor of German History with emphasis on the 18th century German Nationalism. Had taught for a quarter of a century and was parallel responsible for implementing and promoting external programs for security personal by BGU. Since 2003 at Sapir College, acting as professor and mainly as the Director of the Foreign Affairs Unit, Liaison to the IDF and board of trustees. Her focus is on enabling the internationalization of the college by endorsing bilateral exchange programs and introducing the college to new enterprises.

ISRAEL TIMELINE



The Emergence of the Jewish People 2000-1000 BCE

Monotheism and the creation of the Israelites

According to the Hebrew Bible, Abraham was the first person to recognize the existence of God, who demanded moral and ethical behavior of his human creations. In a covenant made between Abraham and God (signed and sealed through male circumcision), the almighty promised to give the Land of Canaan - the Land of Israel to the Jewish people and to make them a great nation. Much of the Biblical narrative describes the struggles of the Israelites to adhere to God's ethical vision and to maintain their sovereignty in the Promised Land.



United and then Divided: The First Temple Period 1000-586 BCE

The Struggle for Monotheism continues under Jewish sovereignty in the Land

In the wake of King Saul's failure to live up to God's expectations, a ruddy shepherd boy - David - is chosen to be the almighty's anointed king. His son Solomon will build the Temple to the one God on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem. Following his death, the monarchy will split into two kingdoms - Judea in the South and Israel in the North. Turning away from God's commandments, the Jews are punished with destruction and exile at the hands of the Assyrians and Babylonians.



The Early Second Temple Period - 586 BCE - 4 BCE

The Return from Babylonian exile - rebuilding the Temple - the Maccabean Revolt - Herod the Great

The Second Temple Period was the most tumultuous yet creative time in Jewish history. In the course of less than 600 years, the Jewish people regained and lost their national sovereignty, rebuilt their Temple only to see it destroyed and founded the largest world religion - Christianity.



The Late Second Temple Period 4BCE - 70 CE

The centrality of the Temple in Jerusalem, the rise of Christianity and the Destruction of the Holy City

For Jews around the world two thousand years ago, the Temple in Jerusalem was the focal point of their spiritual and national life. As socioeconomic gaps widened within Jewish society, the priestly aristocracy and abusive Roman rule became less and less popular. As Messianic expectations for a redemptive figure rose, Jesus entered the scene and changed history.

ISRAEL TIMELINE



The Late Roman Period – 73 CE – 324 CE

From the fall of Masada to the Bar Kochba Rebellion and on to the Christianization of the Empire

The mass suicide of the Jewish defenders of Masada in 73 CE hailed the end of the First Jewish Revolt against the Roman Empire (66-73 CE). Led by the false messiah – Simon Bar-Kochba, the Jews rebelled again in 132. According to the Roman historian Dio Cassius, by the end of the three-year insurrection the Romans had killed 600,000 Jews. In 313, Constantine the Great legalized Christianity in the Empire, thereby changing history.



The Byzantine Period – 324 CE – 638 CE

The Christian Roman Empire rises and the Talmud is completed

Constantine the Great advanced Christianity as the official state religion of the Eastern Roman Empire moving its capital from Rome to Byzantium. By the year 400 CE, the Jerusalem Talmud was completed in Tiberias and Christianity was the dominant religion in the Land of Israel. Magnificent churches were built all around the Holy Land, while synagogues with mosaics were constructed in Jewish communities around the country. At the end of the period, a new power rose in the South – Islam.



The Early Muslim Period – 638 CE – 1099 CE

The Muslim conquest of the Land of Israel and the slow Islamization of the region

Within a few short years following the death of Mohammed, Islamic forces conquered Jerusalem in 636. By 691 CE the Dome of the Rock was completed, establishing Jerusalem as the third holiest site to Islam. The Muslim rulers issued edicts of tolerance towards Jews and Christians, allowing the former to resettle in Jerusalem and the latter to maintain their churches.



The Crusader Period – 1099 – 1291

The Catholic Crusaders conquer the Holy Land and struggle with Islam for supremacy

Four years after Pope Urban II called for a crusade to liberate the Tomb of the Resurrection in Jerusalem from the Islamic infidels, French and German Knights conquered the City in 1099. The Crusader conquest was accompanied with the slaughter of many Jews and Muslims. Jews were prohibited from living in Jerusalem, but some of the greatest rabbis of the era lived in Acre, until the Muslim Mamluks laid waste to the Crusader kingdom Crusader Kingdom in 1291.

ISRAEL TIMELINE



The Mamluk Period 1291 – 1517

The Mamluks devastate the Crusader Kingdom re-establishing Muslim rule till modern times

In 1260, the Mamluk general Baibars stopped a Mongolian invasion into the Land of Israel just south of the Sea of Galilee. By 1291, Mamluk forces had defeated the Crusaders and systematically destroyed all of the coastal cities. After an initial repression of Jews and Christians, the Mamluks became more tolerant and Jews were able to live in peace in the Land.



The Ottoman Period 1517 – 1917

The Ottoman Turks rule for 400 years, taking Israel from the Middle Age to Modernity

With the conquest of the Mamluk capital in Cairo in 1517, four hundred years of Ottoman rule began. In the wake of the Spanish expulsion of its Jews in 1492, the Ottoman Turks invited them to live in the empire. This brought a significant migration of Spanish/Sephardic Jews to the Land of Israel, rejuvenating the declining local Jewish community. The end of the era marked the Jewish renaissance and return to the Land of Israel known as Zionism.



The British Mandate Period 1917 – 1948

The British commit to and enable the establishment of an embryonic Jewish state in Palestine

By October 1918, the British had vanquished the Ottoman Turks from Palestine. Within four years, the League of Nations authorized Britain to fulfill their promise of facilitating the establishment of a Jewish National home in Palestine. The Arabs of the country continued to reject any compromise over Jewish land purchases and immigration, which ultimately led to the British retreat from Palestine and their commitments to the Jews in the Land.



The State of Israel 1948

The Jews declare independence and national sovereignty for the first time in 2000 years

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The UN Partition plan of November 1947 to divide Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs was accepted by the former and rejected by the latter. Within twenty-four hours an inter-communal war ensued for the next six months. On May 5th, 1948 the Jews declared statehood and were invaded by five Arab states within a day. Israeli forces prevailed and a Jewish and Democratic state arose from the ashes after 2000 years of Jewish exile.



Israel 1949 – the Present

A vibrant Israeli – Jewish and Democratic State in a hostile region

From 1949 to the present the great challenges facing Israel include the absorption of massive waves of immigrants, finding a solution to a scarcity of natural water sources, creating a cohesive national identity among the disparate sectors of Israeli society, defining the relationship between religion and state and surviving in a hostile environment while searching for peace.



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