



Women of the American Technion Society

Mission to Israel

TUESDAY, MAY 31 – FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022

MISSION CO-CHAIRS: *LINDA KOVAN & JANEY SWEET*
NATIONAL PROGRAM AND MISSION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:
CATHY DEUTCHMAN & DEBBIE VANDERVEER

(Program subject to change. Speakers to be confirmed.)
(as of May 20, 2021)

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 – ON THE WAY TO ISRAEL

- Depart the U.S.

Overnight: Flight

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 – THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY

- Various arrivals at Ben Gurion International Airport. All participants will receive VIP meet and greet service at the plane to assist with arrival formalities and to ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- Transfer to Haifa and check into the hotel.
- Meet your Tour Educator, who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- Welcome to **WATS! Technion Touch** led by **Mission Co-chairs, Linda Kovan and Janey Sweet**, and **National Program and Mission Sub-Committee Co-chairs, Cathy Deutchman and Debbie Vanderveer** and **greetings from the Technion**. Get to know your traveling companions for the coming week over a **private dinner**.

Overnight: Dan Carmel, Haifa



AMERICAN
TECHNION
SOCIETY

From **VISIONARY EDUCATION**
to a **WORLD** of **IMPACT**

Mission to Israel

Thursday, June 2, 2022 – THE TECHNION IMPACT

- **Breakfast** at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bountiful buffet.
- After breakfast, depart the hotel for the Technion.
- Visit the **Technion - Israel Institute of Technology**, a world-leading science and technology university. Through applied science research and education, Technion people, ideas, and inventions make immeasurable contributions to the world. During our day-long visit (lunch included), we will learn first-hand about Technion's:
 - unparalleled global connections via international partnerships
 - commitment to making the world a better place by contributing to life-saving medicine as well as tackling pressing global issues in environment, energy, and water
 - academic excellence and consistent rank as one of the world's top universities, leading in chemistry, medicine, engineering, and computer science education
 - advancement of Israel as the "Startup Nation," shaping the future of the State of Israel
 - role in nurturing the 21st-century talent pool
 - innovation in next-generation curriculum to prepare Israel's future high-tech leaders
- Enjoy a visit and **dinner at a Druze village** on Mount Carmel for a glimpse into the lives of this community. We'll talk with a member of this minority group which, despite being famed for its contribution to the Israeli Defense Forces, remains largely unknown to many Israelis. We'll gain insight into their background and beliefs as we learn about their complex but close relationship with the State of Israel. Then we'll enjoy the tastes of Druze culture with a **home hospitality dinner where we will be joined by Druze Technion professors and students.**
- Return to the hotel.

Overnight: Dan Carmel, Haifa

Friday, June 3, 2022 – A MOSAIC OF ISRAELI SOCIETY

- Check out of the hotel.
- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel, followed by a **Technion Touch** program.
- Visit the **Zippori National Park**, known for its extraordinary ancient mosaics and its central role in Jewish life after the destruction of the Temple. We'll see remnants of a Roman theater and a Jewish residential quarter from the times of the Mishna and Talmud, as well as a Crusader castle and a Byzantine-period synagogue. Perhaps the highlight of the park is the Dionysus House, a Roman villa with a mosaic floor that includes the "**Mona Lisa of the Galilee.**"
- **A Way Forward in the North:** Visit **Sindyanna of Galilee** and sample some of their award-winning olive oil. We'll learn how this non-profit organization is producing fine, fair-trade products and creating economic opportunities for Arab women, one of Israel's most underemployed sectors. The tour will include:
 - Talking with one of the **basket weavers** about her life and work. We'll see how she uses traditional and modern weaving techniques and find out how Arab and Jewish women are coming together to learn and revitalize this long-established local craft.
 - A Palestinian Arabic meal prepared by the women of Sindyanna. Our **lunch** will include maqluba (a rice dish), mujadara (a lentil concoction), salads, yogurts and more.
- Check into the **Carmel Forest Spa Hotel**, the largest health spa in Israel, nestled among beautiful gardens and a magnificent grove in the heart of the Carmel Forest Reserve.
- Enjoy **dinner** at **Carmel**, the hotel's main restaurant and one of the best healthy gourmet restaurants in Israel.
- **Technion Touch:** Post-dinner conversation with a **Technion professor or graduate.**

Overnight: Carmel Forest Spa, Haifa

Mission to Israel

Saturday, June 4 - SPA DAY AND/OR TOURING

- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel.
- **Relax** at the spa and enjoy treatments and the facilities.
**Spa costs are not included in package; lunch on own at spa.*
- Optional morning and afternoon **tours**:

Morning:

- **The Heights of Generosity:** Wander through **Ramat HaNadiv** (Heights of the Benefactor), a 3-mile nature park and garden. The benefactor was Baron Edmond de Rothschild. At his elaborate burial crypt, we'll learn how this member of the international banking family rescued many struggling Jewish settlements in the early years of the Zionist movement, including Zichron Ya'acov.

Afternoon:

- **There's Art in Them Thar Hills:** Experience the **Ein Hod artists' colony** in the foothills of the Carmel Mountains. Founded by a leading Dadaist painter, Ein Hod is now home to artists working in every cultural medium imaginable. Sculptor and painter Dan Ben-Arye will be our guide as we explore the galleries and studios and talk with artists about their techniques and inspiration.
- **Technion Touch Tour** – to be determined.
- **Three Stars in the Israeli Sky:** At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal **Havdallah** ceremony followed by a celebratory **Shavuot dinner**.

Overnight: Carmel Forest Spa, Haifa

Mission to Israel

Sunday, June 5, 2022 – LIVING ON THE EDGE

- Check out of the hotel.
- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel.
- **Northern Borders, Northern Battles:** Drive along the Lebanese Border for powerful views and insights into the realities facing Israel in the Galilee. With Hezbollah flags visible from across the border, get a glimpse into Lebanon and learn about the issues along Israel's border and the role that the IDF plays in deterrence and keeping Israel's adversaries at bay. Meet with **Lt. Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi**, a former senior intelligence officer with the Israel Defense Forces and founder of the Alma Research and Educational Center, who will brief us on Israel's geopolitical and security situation.
- Enjoy **lunch** at one of the Kibbutzim up north, and join the Kibbutz members for their traditional **Shavuot celebration in the fields.**
- As you drive south on the Trans-Israel Highway, there will be an opportunity to see the **Security Barrier** which runs along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and to learn about the barrier's effects on Israeli security and Palestinian communities.
- **Giving Thanks for the Holy City:** The **Kotel** (Western Wall), is widely considered to be Judaism's holiest existing site. It will be the ideal location as we celebrate our arrival in Jerusalem with a special ceremony and the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing of thanksgiving.
- **Dinner** at a local restaurant/venue.
- Late check in to your hotel in Jerusalem.

Overnight: Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Mission to Israel

Monday, June 6, 2022 – THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel.
- **Women’s Voices, Women’s Words: Dr Rachel Korazim** will introduce us to some of the great female Israeli poets. We will listen to them connecting to the land, reading Torah, and expressing various societal opinions in beautiful poetic voices. Dr. Korazim is a renowned scholar and educator who examines Israel through its song, poetry, and literature.
- Take a walking tour through Jerusalem’s **Old City** and the **Jewish Quarter** and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
 - The **Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
 - King Hezekiah's “**Broad Wall**,” a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
 - **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.
 - The “**Four Sephardic**” **Synagogues**: These synagogues, housed in one complex, are both a cohesive whole and a beautiful example of the diversity of Sephardi Jewish life in Jerusalem. Built at different times, they served distinct communities and roles, had differing styles of prayer, and were inspired by a variety of architectural and cultural influences. Together, they were a center for the Old City’s rapidly growing Sephardi population from the 19th century.
- Free time for relaxing, exploring, shopping and lunch on own.
- **Jerusalem and the Cross: Hana Bendcowsky**, Director of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations, will take us on a tour of the communities and holy sites of the Old City’s **Christian quarter**. We’ll experience the long history and astonishing variety of Christian groups in Jerusalem, and contemplate the complex situation facing Christian minority groups living in Israel and the modern-day Middle East
- **Dinner** at one of the restaurants at the **Mamilla Mall**, an upscale shopping street and the only open-air mall in Jerusalem, located outside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City.
- Experience the **Tower of David Night Spectacular**. The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a nighttime show which is a celebration of sight and sound. Amidst the archaeological remains in the Citadel’s courtyard and to the sound of original music, the story of Jerusalem unfolds through multi-sensory, giant, breathtaking virtual reality images.

Overnight: Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Mission to Israel

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 – PEOPLE OF VALOR

- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel.
- **Women in Israeli Politics and Public Life — Fighting to be Seen and Heard:** Panel discussion with **Rachel Azaria**, an activist, former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, and former Member of the Knesset; **Esti Shushan**, an activist, filmmaker, and founder of the “No Voice, No Vote” movement; and **Anat Hoffman**, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC).

Morning tour option 1:

- **Sacrifice and the State:** Visit **Mount Herzl**, Israel’s national cemetery, to discuss key events in the nation’s history and to honor those who fell while fighting for the state. Our visit will include stopping at the graves of Israeli leaders including Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and Shimon Peres, and learning how they dealt with the great questions confronting the State. We will also visit the grave of Theodor Herzl, the founder of the modern Zionist movement.

Morning tour option 2:

- Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience.

All:

- Enjoy **lunch** via a **multi-cultural tasting journey** through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem’s **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop.
- Explore behind-the-scenes of the wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its eclectic collection ranging from archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls to Jewish life and art, European art, contemporary Israeli art, and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.
- **The Six Days That Changed Jerusalem:** Learn about the battle that shaped modern Jerusalem and explore the lives of the IDF soldiers who fought and died in it. In June 1967, one of the bloodiest and most important encounters of the Six Day War took place at **Ammunition Hill**. The tour will include:
 - The newly opened **Ammunition Hill Museum**: Personal accounts by soldiers, artifacts, and animated re-enactments of the battle that took place here in 1967 provide a moving account of a seminal event in Israel’s history.
 - Hear the personal stories of those who were lost. The **Commemoration Hall** is a powerful, poignant tribute to the IDF soldiers who were killed during the battle.
 - **Dinner** onsite. **Technion Touch: A Technion professor or graduate will join us.**

Overnight: Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 – THE STORY OF TEL AVIV

- Check out of the hotel.
- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel.
- Drive to **Tel Aviv**, also known as “a city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- ***Navigate Your Way Through the Labyrinth of Israel Politics***: Journalist **Tal Shalev**, chief political correspondent for *Walla! News*, one of Israel’s largest news websites, will give us an introduction into the country’s turbulent political scene where coalition governments and powerful ideological divisions are a fact of life.
- ***From Shuk to Chic***: Take a **tasting tour** through a local favorite: **Shuk Hapishpishim** – the **Jaffa Flea Market**. Combining traditional dishes from the Bulgarian, Bukharan, Middle Eastern, Persian, North African and Eastern European kitchens with offerings from hip new cafes and restaurants, the market is a delicious illustration of the diversity of the Israeli culinary scene.
- ***From Hebrew City to Hebrew State***: Walk along the newly opened **Independence Trail** and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.

OR

- Visit **ANU – Museum of the Jewish People**, the largest Jewish museum in the world, and join a fascinating journey that portrays the story of the Jewish people through the generations and up to the present time. The Museum represents all parts of the Jewish people and highlights the creative works and cultural riches of a variety of communities in different periods of history.
- Check into the hotel.
- ***Israel on a Plate***: If you want to learn how to cook like an Israeli, this **cooking workshop** at **The Cooking Experience** is the real deal. In a unique Ottoman-era manor house graced with Italian marble pillars and painted floors, learn the secrets of the Israeli kitchen. Guided by an expert chef, work together to create a variety of culinary selections, and then enjoy the results for **dinner**.

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Mission to Israel

Thursday, June 9, 2022 – INNOVATION 24/7

- Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** in the main dining room of the hotel.
- **Technion Touch: When Technology Meets Style:** Dialogue with **Technion alumna Yael Vizel**, co-founder and CEO of Zeekit, an award-winning fashion startup that enables online shoppers to virtually “try on” clothing before purchasing. Zeekit uses real-time image processing technologies such as computer vision, deep learning, and artificial intelligence and incorporates them into the world of fashion. Zeekit has recently been acquired by Walmart. Yael was chosen by *Globes* as one of the 70 most bright and promising young professionals in Israel in 2018, and by *Forbes* as one of Israel’s 50 Power Women in 2019.
- **What’s in Style? Israeli Fashion Today:** Enjoy a showcase of Israeli fashion and jewelry design - and shopping opportunities! Led by fashion expert **Galit Reismann**, we will explore Jewish and international influences on local style in **Neve Zedek**, one of Tel Aviv’s first neighborhoods outside of Jaffa. Stroll through this stylish area with its boutiques, galleries, and the Suzanne Dellal Center - Israel's world-class home of contemporary dance.
- **Understanding the City Through Its Food:** There’s no better way to experience the energy of Tel Aviv than to join locals lunching at the **Carmel Market**, which sizzles with food options from all over the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Choose from one of our recommended restaurants and eateries, then use your **voucher** to create your own taste of Tel Aviv.
- **What’s Going on in Bohemian Tel Aviv?** Join an expert on Tel Aviv’s alternative scene for an urban adventure and **graffiti tour**. Explore the latest street art and find out what it reveals about life, ideas, and ideology in Israel’s cultural capital.
- Late check out of hotel for those departing this evening.
- **Farewell dinner** at the **Panthera Club**, a one-of-a-kind club and coworking space in Tel Aviv for professional women and entrepreneurs. Our last **Technion Touch**, led by **Mission Co-chairs, Linda Kovan and Janey Sweet**, and **National Program and Mission Committee Co-chairs, Cathy Deutchman and Debbie Vanderveer**, will be an opportunity to reflect on the past week.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your return flight to the U.S.

Friday, June 10, 2022 – UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

- Return home or transfer to Haifa for Technion’s Board of Governors Meeting.