



Cantors Assembly Completes Historic Mission to Poland and Israel



Cantor David Propis touches the sacred Torah scroll held by Cantor Chaim Frankel during a ground-breaking memorial at Auschwitz.

In June of 2009, members of the Cantors Assembly, the world's largest organization of professional cantors, returned from a historic mission to Poland and Israel. Approximately 100 cantors were joined by their congregants and community members in this ground-breaking mission connecting with 1,000 years of Jewish history in Poland and 4,000 years of history in Israel.

The mission was led by Cantor Nathan Lam of Los Angeles and Cantor David Propis of Houston, and coordinated by Seffie Epstein of Ayelet Tours.

For nearly two years, Mr. Epstein met and worked with Polish and Israeli government officials, Jewish institutions and organizations, and communities in both Israel and Poland to create a memorable itinerary for the mission. Numerous special events and opportunities were organized in order to make this mission a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Highlights of the historic tour included the Cantors Assembly concert of Jewish music in Warsaw's famous National Opera House. The concert featured members of the Cantors Assembly

accompanied by the national orchestra and chorus, and was a sellout success. Polish dignitaries attending the concert included the President of Warsaw and the Israeli Ambassador to Poland.

Ceremonies were also held at the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial, and the Nosyk Synagogue, one of the few synagogues that survived the brutal Nazi occupation. The evening featured services led by Cantors Ivor and Joel Lichterman, whose father was the last Cantor at the Nozyk prior to World War II. A second concert was held at the Ida Kaminsky Jewish State Theater in Warsaw.

On the fourth day of the mission, the group of participants visited the former concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau for a momentous prayer service on the grounds where over one million Jews died during the Holocaust. It was the first time that a Torah reading had been allowed at the location, and the importance of the occasion was felt by all who attended.

"After Torah reading, we made a circle, a *sukkat shalom*—a canopy of peace—around the survivors among us, wrapping them in our tallitot. The survivors in the middle, their children in the next circle, then unwrapping the Torah and enveloping them in it, then the rest of us with our tallitot (*Jewish prayer shawls*). That was one of so many powerful moments of this day," wrote Cantor Elizabeth Shammash of Pennsylvania in the blog she kept during the mission.

In Krakow, the Cantors performed a Fourth of July Americana concert at the Krakow Philharmonic Hall. Open to the



Cantor Nathan Lam, Mission Leader, talks to the cantors and community members at Shabbat dinner in Poland.

public, the concert was an enormous success.

The Cantors also participated in the Krakow Jewish Music Festival, a city-wide event that draws both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. Thousands of Polish community members were present for the closing night musical extravaganza, where members of the Cantors Assembly performed a traditional Saturday night Havdallah ceremony.

Throughout the mission to Poland, Professor Stephen Berk of Union College provided insightful lectures highlighting the connection between Poland's Jewish past, present and future.

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Benny Sivan of IGT, Seffie Epstein, Mission Coordinator and Ayelet Tours Executive Director, with Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, Ayelet Tours President Diane Rubtchinsky, and Ayelet Tours Vice President Jeff Rubtchiinsky.

Ayelet Conferences



ACC Brings Spirit and Song to the Windy City



ACC/GTM members enjoy a memorable concert at their 2009 Convention in Chicago.

Ayelet Tours was proud to coordinate the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) and Guild of Temple Musicians (GTM) June 2009 Convention in Chicago, IL.

With over 200 registrants in attendance, the conference was a successful blend of study, celebration, and citywide activity. Throughout the five-day event, music and song were heard throughout the Chicago Westin hotel.

The conference kicked off with a keynote address by Rabbi Daniel Freeland, who spoke about the reinvention of the American Reform synagogue. Many other talks, study sessions and panel discussions were held throughout the convention, offering convention-goers plenty of opportunity to connect with their peers while learning about developments in the Reform movement.

Convention activities included an architectural boat tour highlighting Chicago's beautiful and historic buildings, and a memorable joint concert featuring Soul Children of Chicago and members of the ACC.

Ayelet Tours looks forward to coordinating the ACC/GTM 2010 Convention at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Making the journey yours.

In the coming year, Ayelet Tours will be offering unbelievable opportunities to discover Jewish history and heritage worldwide. Visit our website and discover the Jewish world that awaits!

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CA Mission to Poland and Israel, cont'd



Hundreds of CA Mission participants walk down the tracks of the Birkenau concentration camp in Poland

The mission traveled from Poland to Israel, where their days were filled with concerts, ceremonies, and focused touring opportunities.

An outdoor concert was held in the community of Ariel, where the mayor extended warm greetings to the organization's members and hundreds of local residents attended.

Special programming at a local Israeli Air Force base featured a documentary film in which

members of the IDF flew over the former Nazi concentration camp in an act of heroism and commemoration.

A memorable ceremony was also held at Israel's Yad Vashem memorial, with special readings and performances.

The mission was an unforgettable two-week journey for the cantors and community members who traveled with them. The unique capacity of the cantors to

express themselves through beautiful, meaningful song and prayer enabled them to serve as ambassadors of good will in a truly unique way.

The Cantors Assembly and Ayelet Tours look forward to planning future missions to other countries, where they will reconnect with their Jewish heritage and celebrate Jewish identity with the

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

USCJ
United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism
December 5 - 10, 2009
Cherry Hill, NJ

CCAR
Central Conference of
American Rabbis
March 7 - 11, 2010
San Francisco, CA

RRA
Reconstructionist
Rabbinical Association
March 13 - 18, 2010
New Orleans, LA

ACC/GTM
American Conference
of Cantors/
Guild of Temple Musicians
June 26 - July 2, 2010
Memphis, TN



Two Unique and Exciting Ways to Discover Israel and Jewish History Worldwide

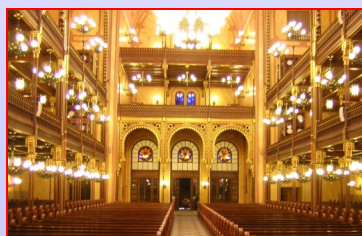


History is what the Traveling University is all about. With the insightful guidance of Prof.

Stephen Berk, these tours combine learning and camaraderie, resulting in enduring friendships and unparalleled experiences. There is a heightened sense of Jewish consciousness and pride that is felt by all who experience the Jewish past through travel and learning.

Some of the mission highlights include:

- Lectures by Prof. Stephen Berk throughout
- Connecting with local Jewish communities worldwide
- SO MUCH MORE!



Ayelet Tours is proud to be the official tour operator for all Hadassah National Missions to Israel. Hadassah Missions have been designed to provide you with an impressive overview of Israel. The love of Israel and love of Hadassah are combined with exciting adventures and celebration, producing a stimulating and exhilarating Israel experience.

Some of the mission highlights include:

- Visiting Hadassah projects throughout Israel
- Briefings by journalists and political leaders
- In-Depth tours of major sites and cities countrywide
- SO MUCH MORE!



UPCOMING TRAVELING UNIVERSITY TOURS:

CHINA

March 14 - 25, 2010 \$5,099.00 LAND & AIR per person

FRANCE & ENGLAND

July 19 - August 3, 2010 \$6,999.00 LAND ONLY per person

EASTERN EUROPE & ISRAEL

June 20 - July 9, 2010 - Visit our website for details!

EASTERN EUROPE

November 1 - 11, 2010 \$4,599.00 LAND & AIR per person

UPCOMING HADASSAH MISSIONS:

Young Judea Family Mission - December 22 - 31, 2009

Winter in Netanya - January 11 - March 7, 2010

Hadassah Mid-Winter Mission - January 19 - 24, 2010

Hadassah HLA Mission - February 21 - March 2, 2010

Greater Philadelphia Purim Mission February 22 - March 2, 2010

Physician's CME Mission: Concept to Cure - March 1 - 5, 2010

Hadassah Nurses Council - March 11 - 18, 2010

Spring in Netanya - April 11 - May 9, 2010

Hadassah Associates Mission - April 17 - 27, 2010

See Israel with Hadassah & Song - April 17 - 28, 2010

ReDiscover Israel with Hadassah - April 29 - May 10, 2010

Hadassah Family Mission - June 28 - July 9, 2010

Hadassah Family - August 17 - 26, 2010

Ayelet The Jewish World Awaits

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IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE. IT'S ISRAEL.



This November, 36 leaders from ORT America will travel to South America with Ayelet Tours. The mission members will visit ORT sponsored schools and institutions in Montevideo (Uruguay), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Santiago (Chile). In addition, the group will enjoy wine tasting at a Chilean winery, a visit to an Estancia Ranch to spend time with the gauchos (cowboys) of Argentina, learn to Tango, and visit the many Jewish sites of South America.



For the 2nd year in a row, Harvard Law School's Jewish Student Union will coordinate a law student mission to Israel with Ayelet Tours. The 40+ mostly non-Jewish Harvard Law students that participate on the trip will meet with high level officials in Israel from the political, economic, technological and academic realms. They will also get the chance to tour Israel and see firsthand the situation on the ground. Ayelet Tours also works with Brandeis University and other colleges to coordinate unique experiences that help shape the conversations among future world leaders.

MAKING THE JOURNEY YOURS.

ISRAEL IS A COUNTRY FULL OF POSSIBILITIES. Whether you are visiting the country for the very first time, rediscovering the land with friends and family, or celebrating a milestone occasion in the Jewish homeland, Ayelet Tours will provide you with an experience that will exceed your expectations. We are dedicated to offering the highest level of service from the moment you contact us to the moment you return from your tour, and it is this professionalism and care that has made us a leader in our industry.

Our **group tours** offer a vast array of options, so that you can customize your Israel experience and tailor it to your own specifications. Our **private tours** are personalized to suit your every wish. Contact us today and **DISCOVER ISRAEL YOUR WAY.**

BAR/BAT MITZVAH AND FAMILY TOURS

CELEBRATE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY ON THIS FUN FILLED, ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE THROUGH ISRAEL!



Highlights include: Jeep Tours, an archaeological dig, kayaking on the Jordan river, the amazing Western Wall Tunnels, Masada and the Dead Sea, Yad Vashem, and so much more!

December 23, 2009 - January 3, 2010
February 10 - 21, 2010 * April 28 - May 9, 2010
June 16 - 27, 2010 * June 23 - July 4, 2010
July 7 - 18, 2010 * August 18 - 29, 2011
February 16 - 27, 2011



IN DEPTH SERIES

EXPERIENCE ISRAEL'S PAST AND PRESENT WITH A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR WITH AN EXPERT GUIDE!

You choose the date and length of your tour!

9 nights * 11 night s * 12 nights * 14 nights
with optional Eilat/Petra Extension

HIGHLIGHT SERIES

PERFECT FOR THE FIRST-TIME TRAVELER, DISCOVER ALL OF ISRAEL'S "MUST SEE" SITES AND CITIES!

8 days/ 7 nights with weekly departures