

THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM (WUPJ) PRESENTS:

IGNITING THE MUSICAL JEWISH SOUL IN THE CARIBBEAN

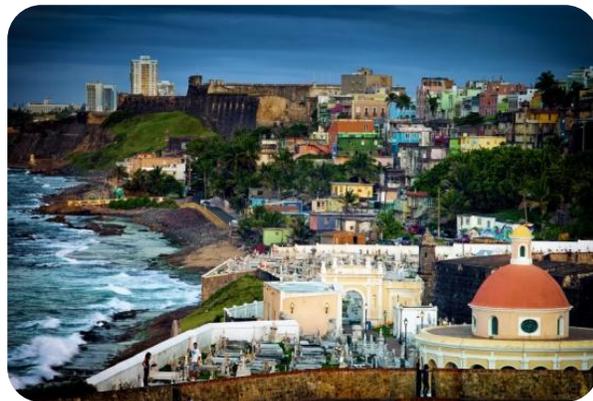
Featuring the musical talents of

JOSH NELSON

& Many More!!

San Juan * St. Thomas *
St. Kitts & Nevis * Curacao * Aruba

February 2018



The story of Jewish ties to the Caribbean is a fascinating one, dating back to Christopher Columbus and his first trans-Atlantic voyage. Home to some of the oldest Jewish communities in the Americas, the Caribbean also lays claim to synagogues with sandy floors, cemeteries that date back hundreds of years and Jewish families who still call the islands home. Join WUPJ for a relaxing and historically stimulating trip to the Islands, featuring Jewish music, shared song and prayer, featuring Josh Nelson.

Day 1: Friday, February 16, 2018: OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE SHABBAT IN SAN JUAN

- Departure from the United States for our home port of **San Juan**.
- Check into our hotel.
- **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:** We join Kabbalat Shabbat services, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together this evening at **Temple Beth Shalom**, the Reform congregation in San Juan, led by Rabbi Norman Patz.

O/N San Juan





Day 2: Saturday, February 17, 2018: SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the day at leisure to explore **San Juan**. San Juan has two distinct personalities: there's the vibrant, modern port city, and then there's the historic colonial outpost first conquered by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1508. Spanish influence is evident everywhere in the city. Explore the history of Old San Juan and visit fortifications, museums and cathedrals throughout the city. Be certain to stop at the magnificent Holocaust memorial designed by Michael & Bonnie Berkoviks and located just a few blocks from the port.
- Transfer to the port (Transfer included for those participating on the pre-tour).
- We board our cruise ship, RCCL's **Adventure of the Seas**, to begin our exploration of the Jewish heritage of the Caribbean. Our ship sails at 8:30pm.
- Later this evening, we'll enjoy a **welcome dinner** together.
- **Optional tours for early arrivals** – details TBD – will be sent to participants for pre-registration a few months prior to departure.

O/N aboard our ship

Day 3: Sunday, February 18, 2018: ST. THOMAS

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- At 8:00AM we arrive in **St. Thomas**.
- Our **private group shore excursion** takes us to the **Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas**, one of the earliest Caribbean synagogues still in use today. This Synagogue was built in 1803 and destroyed three times by fire before being completely rebuilt and dedicated in 1883. It is the oldest synagogue in continuous use under the American flag. We meet with **Rabbi Michael Feshbach** and community members who share with us what it is like to practice Judaism in the Caribbean.
- **MUSICAL SPOTLIGHT**: We enjoy a brief but beautiful **musical program** in the sanctuary!
- Afternoon free to enjoy **St. Thomas**. Now a U.S. Virgin Island, St. Thomas has flown the flags of Spain, the Knights of Malta, France, England, Holland and Denmark. It's no wonder the island is a treasure trove of international wares and historical influences. Beyond the glitz of its famous shopping district, St. Thomas enchants with a fascinating history and natural scenery. Explore the island's diverse heritage in Charlotte Amalie, or splash your way around at vibrant reefs or a gorgeous beach.



- Our ship sails at 5:00PM.

O/N aboard our ship

Day 4: Monday, February 19, 2018: ST. KITTS

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- At 8:00AM our ship arrives in **St. Kitts**. St. Kitts was a tropical prize over which the European powers fought for more than a century. **Basseterre**, the Island's capital, has a main square with an ornate Victorian clock tower. Visit the Brimstone Hill Fortress. The island also features a stately Georgian Government House, an historic Anglican church, and many other examples of West Indian architecture. All sites are amidst beautiful beaches and lush forests.
- Choose from a variety of Shore Excursions (operated by RCCL at additional cost).
- Our ship sails at 5:00PM.
- **MUSICAL SPOTLIGHT**: Special concert this evening with **Josh Nelson!**

O/N aboard our ship

Day 5: Tuesday, February 20, 2018: AT SEA

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- Enjoy a breathtaking day at sea.
- Morning rehearsals for those participating in upcoming concerts.
- **LEARNING SPOTLIGHT**: Morning and Afternoon presentations on the Jewish history of the Caribbean.
- On board activities include: **Rock Climbing** - Rise to the occasion and take on our signature rock climbing wall. From beginners to speed climbers, everyone can enjoy an unparalleled view from 40 feet above deck. **Ice Skating** - Put your vacation on ice with a spin on the ice rink, an onboard feature exclusive to Royal Caribbean. Or just relax and enjoy the salty sea air. With floor-to-ceiling windows, open air decks, and off-the-beaten-path outdoor spaces, there are plenty of peaceful places to take in the waves, sunrise to sunset.
- **MUSICAL SPOTLIGHT**: This evening, we will enjoy a special private on board concert, featuring our talented group leaders and choir members.

O/N aboard our ship



Day 6: Wednesday, February 21, 2018: CURACAO

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- At 8:00AM our ship arrives in **Curacao**. Curacao was discovered in 1499 by Amerigo Vespucci, and came under the control of the Dutch West India Company in 1634. It was included in the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1954. The largest, most important Jewish community of the New World existed here in the 18th century.
- Today we enjoy a private group tour of Curacao, beginning with the **Joden Kwartier (Jewish Quarter)** and **Bet Hayim (House of Life)**. The date and history of Bet Hayim make it the oldest Jewish cemetery still in use in the Western Hemisphere. Aside from its antiquity, Bet Hayim is of immense cultural value for its rich array of elaborately and artistically sculptured tombstones.
- Continue to the **Bibliotek Maduro**, housing Judaica such as calendars, prayer books and Jewish family photos.
- Visit the **monument to Elias Solomon Levy Maduro**.
- View the amazing complex of **Mikveh Israel** including the **Mikveh Israel-Emanuel Synagogue**, with its sand floor, massive old organ and blue delft tiles, museum and gift shops. This is the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Americas.
- We meet with local spiritual leader, **Cantor Avery Tracht** to learn about Jewish life in Curacao.
- **MUSICAL SPOTLIGHT**: Late this afternoon, we'll enjoy a special **musical concert** featuring our group leaders, and open to the local Jewish community of Curacao.
- Our ship sails at 8:00PM.



O/N aboard our ship



Day 7: Thursday, February 22, 2018: ARUBA

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- At 8:00AM our ship arrives in **Aruba**, a captivating island of surprising contrasts: crystal, turquoise waters, coral reefs, and white sand beaches of incomparable size and beauty.

Sophisticated hotels and casinos embrace the water's edge while the island's interior is a rugged



landscape of rock "mountains", cactus deserts and hidden caves. Oranjestad is a delight of historic sites, bustling promenades, and colorful Dutch-colonial architecture.

Shop among authentic Dutch buildings dating back to 1790 for duty-free treasures. Aruba is just 20 miles long, so island splendors and adventures like amazing snorkeling from the beach are within easy reach.

- Choose from a variety of Shore Excursions (operated by RCCL at additional cost).
- Early this evening, we have the opportunity to meet with **Rabbi Daniel Kripper** at Beth Israel Synagogue in Oranjestad who introduces us to the local community. (**Private group transfer** to synagogue and timing details will be provided to avoid conflict with optional shore excursions if possible.)
- **AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!** Join us this evening for a fun post-dinner **Open Mic/Karaoke event** – bring your talent to the group!
- Our ship sails at 11:00PM.

O/N aboard our ship

Day 8: Friday, February 23, 2018: AT SEA

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- Today we enjoy another beautiful day at sea.
- Morning rehearsals for those participating in Shabbat services this evening.
- **LEARNING SPOTLIGHT:** Afternoon presentation #2 on the Jewish history of the Caribbean.



- On board activities include: **Pool** - Soak up the sun or savor the shade on expanded pool decks, featuring complimentary loungers, live music, and the opportunity for a frosty cocktail. **Vitality Spa** - A luxurious sanctuary boasting signature treatments, medi-spa services and a full-service salon to make you glow from the inside out (additional cost). Or just sit back and relax aboard our ship.
- **MUSICAL SPOTLIGHT**: Tonight we'll join for a creative musical **Kabbalat Shabbat service** together on board.
- Festive **farewell Shabbat dinner**, as we celebrate all we have seen and done together.
- Late night singing and fun together on our last night at sea!

O/N aboard our ship

Day 9: Saturday, February 24, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast aboard our ship.
- This morning, we arrive back in San Juan, Puerto Rico where we disembark and transfer to the airport for our flights back home (contact Ayelet Tours for flight assistance).

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!!

**Itinerary subject to change.*

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