



# Israel Through BG's Eyes

Led by Aileen Bormel

Accompanied by Barbara (BG) Goldstein

May 8-18, 2023

(As of 1/3/23)

*What is hope and what is Zionism? What does it mean to carry a yearning of 2,000 years and finally, to be able to walk on the streets of united Jerusalem? - Barbara (BG) Goldstein*  
Read BG's story as told by the [Jerusalem Post](#)



### Day 1: Monday, May 8, 2023: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flights to Israel.
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### Day 2: Tuesday, May 9, 2023: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- **Shalom and Bruchim habaim**—welcome to Israel! Our time in this incredible land has officially begun and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead. Just beyond passport control, an Ayelet representative will meet us in the baggage claim area and assist us through customs. Welcome home!
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and check into our hotel with time to refresh.
- This evening, we come together for our **welcome dinner** at **Piccolino**, adjacent to the lively Kikar HaMusica square, joined by BG and Hadassah friends, as we enjoy group introductions and an orientation about our amazing adventure ahead.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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### Day 3: Wednesday, May 10, 2023: BEYOND MOSES: ACCOMPANYING BG TO THE PROMISED LAND

- Early breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we drive to the **Allenby Bridge**, where we cross over into neighboring **Jordan**.
- We drive south for a panoramic view from **Mt. Nebo** into Israel. It was from here that Moses gazed into the promised land. Moses was not allowed to complete the journey that we'll now take easily, thankful for our ability to return to Jerusalem.
- We mark our ascent with a short ceremony "**ושבו בנים לגבולם**" (the sons returned to their homeland).
- We see the famed **Madaba Map**, the Holy Land mosaic. This is the oldest surviving original cartographic depiction of the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century.
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** We return to Israel and continue to the **Mount of Olives**. We join together and say "**Shehecheyanu**" as we celebrate our return to the City of Gold on the **Mount of Olives**. This is the final resting place of many notables, including Hadassah's visionary founder **Henrietta Szold**. We pay our respects at her gravesite, then discuss the deep connection between Henrietta Szold and BG and the line that runs through both of their lives.



- We enjoy **lunch** together atop nearby **Mt. Scopus**, then experience dynamic education and inspiration with a visit to **Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) Mt. Scopus campus**. While there, we will meet with the medical staff and leadership featuring exclusive **VIP access** as only one can do when part of a Hadassah tour.
- We'll gather for a lively "**Dinner in Red**" tonight at our hotel in honor of BG. Bring a red jacket (or dress, or tie) in honor of BG's signature look!



### Overnight in Jerusalem

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#### Day 4: Thursday, May 11, 2023: JERUSALEM NOW AND FOREVER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a moment of reflection at the **Western Wall**. The connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem is eternal!
- We head underground for a tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**. If you haven't been in a few years, you will be amazed at the ongoing excavations that continue to make new discoveries under the plaza.
- Back above ground, we continue with a walking tour through history in the **Jewish Quarter**.
- **A Border Removed:** We walk along the **1967 seamline** that divided Jerusalem to better understand the miracle of the united Jerusalem we know today.
- Next, we travel to just outside **Bethlehem** and visit Rachel's tomb.
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** Later this afternoon, we visit the **Begin Center**, a museum commemorating the life and work of former Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, followed by **dinner** on the lovely terrace. We'll hear BG's memories of Begin.
- With Shavuot approaching, it is time for us to decide once and for all, who does it best – NY cheesecake vs. Israeli cheesecake? May the best recipe win!

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 5: Friday, May 12, 2023: MODERN HISTORY AND SHABBAT PREPARATIONS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we meet with **Holocaust survivor and education advocate Rina Quint at Yad Vashem** to hear her story. While there, we will participate in a **memorial service** in the **Valley of the Lost Communities**.
- We stop atop **Mt. Herzl**, where we visit the new Remembrance Hall built to honor those who gave their lives fighting for Israel. We walk through the military cemetery, to hear and share important stories about the life and work of Israel's past leaders, including Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, in addition to hearing about the many lesser-known heroes of Israel's wars buried here.
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** In 2013, BG was selected for the honor of lighting the torch at Israel's Yom Ha'Atzmaut ceremony here at Mt. Herzl. From her humble beginnings in New Jersey, the impact BG has had on Israel through her work at Hadassah has been extraordinary! (BG at the ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETtWZMneW70>)
- **Cook and Spiel with BG:** In preparation for Shabbat, BG teaches us (and our hotel chef!) her traditional recipes for Shabbat dinner, including **chopped liver and kneidlach**. Each recipe invokes a story and we will savor it all together.
- At **Shabbat dinner**, we are joined by energetic **Young Judaea students and staff** who recently made the journey to Poland with BG. We will also be accompanied by an **IDF Hazzan** for this special evening as well.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 6: Saturday, May 13, 2023: SHABBAT SHALOM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning to relax and enjoy the calm of Shabbat in Jerusalem or choose to join our guide for a walking tour nearby (topic TBD).
- This afternoon, we gather with a cup of coffee (or tea) and share our own personal stories with BG and some **special guests**.
- We conclude Shabbat with **Havdalah**, joined by **Young Judaea Year Course students**; a lovely moment filled with energy, song and dance!
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** BG 's participation at **Havdalah** has helped set the right mood for many groups over the years. She'll guide us as we transition from Shabbat to prepare for the week ahead, just as she has done for thousands of Hadassah visitors!
- Free evening for exploration and dinner on your own. Our group host will assist with dinner reservations.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 7: Sunday May 14, 2023: HADASSAH HISTORY IN THE NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Jerusalem and travel north along the **Jordan Valley**. At “**Tirtza**”, a joint Project of JNF and Hadassah on a water reservoir, we understand the innovation that Israel has brought to the scarcest resource in the region.
- We continue to the **Golani Junction**, a key intersection in the north with a storied past. Here, along with BG, we will **plant trees** in honor of our time together and in recognition of the work of Hadassah in Israel.
- Next, we visit the post-Aliyah home of **Irma “Rama” Levy Lindheim**, Hadassah’s 2<sup>nd</sup> President, in **Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek**. We hear her story, including her dedication to creating greater interest in Judaism and Zionism. She designed family-based educational programs, a project on which she worked until her death.
- Next, we meet with **Eitan** at **Kibbutz Malkia** on the northern border. Eitan is a graduate of Meir Shfeya and in charge of security in the kibbutz. We’ll see firsthand the impact of Meir Shfeya and Hadassah on his life. We’ll also meet and hear directly from members of the **IDF army unit** protecting the area.
- We continue towards the coast, where we take in the sweeping panoramic view of the Haifa Bay from atop **Mt. Carmel** overlooking the **Bahai Gardens**.
- **THROUGH BG’S EYES:** The State of Israel is the greatest gift to Jewish people in 2,000 years and Hadassah helped build it. Hadassah had a major part in building the Haifa Port and the first hospital in Haifa, **B’nei Zion**. We will visit B’nei Zion and hear the stories of its creation.
- Later this afternoon, we check into our hotel, then set out for a free evening to discover Haifa and enjoy dinner on your own.



## Overnight in Haifa

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## Day 8: Monday, May 15, 2023: THE YOUTH VILLAGE THAT COULD...AND DID!

- Early this morning, we check out of our hotel and travel to **Hadassah's Meir Shfeya Youth Village**, where we join the students for **hands-on work on the farm**, then enjoy **breakfast** together. While there, we will enjoy an insider's tour of the village, their working farm and the winery and meet and interact with both youth and staff, while learning about BG's impact on the village and the students.
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** Each student here has a story to tell. We will meet **former resident Ilan from Netanya** to hear his story, an inspirational one that fills us with pride regarding the impact Hadassah has here.
- Our next stop is in **Zichron Yaakov**, where we stroll through the streets and browse the shops of this charming European-style village. We also visit the **Nili Spy Museum** in town.
- We continue south and explore the amazing **Agam Museum** to view the kinetic artworks of the legendary Yaacov Agam. His work has been described as a "visual symphony" of images based on Jewish-Kabbalistic iconography.
- We reach Jerusalem and check into our hotel again.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** at the **Rooftop Restaurant** atop the Mamilla Hotel, followed by free time to shop and explore on the promenade.



## Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 9: Tuesday May 16, 2023: CHAGALL WINDOWS AT THE CENTER OF THE VISIT TO HMO

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we experience dynamic education and inspiration with a visit to **Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) Ein Kerem campus**. While there, we enjoy VIP meetings with the medical staff and leadership and visit the **Round Building** to hear about plans for future expansion/renovation.
- We enjoy **lunch** with VIP guests at HMO.
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** This afternoon we are in for a treat, visiting the **Abbell Synagogue**, home of the **Chagall windows** led by BG!
- Free time this afternoon to relax and refresh.
- Dinner on your own tonight. Our host is available to help with pre-booking reservations.

## Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 10: Wednesday, May 17, 2023: TEL AVIV AND DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We travel to **Tel Aviv** to visit the reimagined **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People** (formerly the Diaspora museum). The focus of our visit will be on strong Jewish women leaders throughout the history of the State of Israel.
- Next, we follow the **Independence Trail** through the **Rothschild District**, discovering the architectural, cultural and intellectual foundations of this great city along the way.
- **THROUGH BG'S EYES:** Should it re-open in time, we'll visit **Independence Hall**, site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948 (currently being renovated). It remains a potent symbol of Zionism and the re-birth of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people.
- Lunch on your own in the nearby **Sarona Market**.
- This afternoon, we set out on a guided **graffiti tour** through **South Tel Aviv**, where the colorful and edgy street art brings the fringe into the forefront.
- We gather tonight for a festive **farewell dinner** at a gourmet restaurant, as we recount all we have experienced and celebrate one final time together the accomplishments of BG and Hadassah in shaping the Israel of today!
- We transfer to the airport for our overnight flights back to the United States.



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## Day 11: Thursday, May 18, 2023: FAREWELL

- We arrive back in the United States this morning and look forward to our next Hadassah adventure!

**THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!**

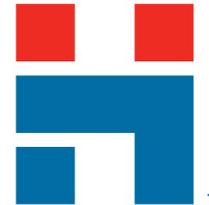
*\*Itinerary subject to change*





**BARBARA GOLDSTEIN**  
Deputy Executive Director  
Hadassah Office in Israel

**HADASSAH**



Barbara Goldstein (B.G.) is the Deputy Executive Director of Hadassah's Office in Israel.

A past National President of Junior Hadassah and a former Hadassah National Vice President, Barbara chaired Youth Aliyah, two National Conventions and the departments of Hadassah Travel and Tourism, Jewish Education, Programming, Aliyah, and Soviet Jewry. She is a past President of the Southern New Jersey Region.

In 1973-74, Barbara lived in Jerusalem for one year with her family during the Yom Kippur War. She served as a volunteer in the Public Relations Department of the Medical Center working directly with the wounded soldiers, reporters, congressmen and other dignitaries, and acting as their escort through Kiryat Hadassah.

Barbara was a member of the Cabinet of the American Zionist Movement and served as a Commissioner on the Joint Authority for Jewish and Zionist Education. She has proudly served as a delegate at nine World Zionist Congresses in Jerusalem. Today in Israel, Barbara represents Hadassah on the boards of Hadassah Neurim and Meir Shfeyah, Ramat Hadassah, Keren Kayemet/JNF and the Prime Minister's special committee on the Legacy of Theodor Herzl.

Barbara is the widow of Hazzan Mordechai Goldstein who served Neve Shalom in Metuchen, NJ for 25 years. Mother of 3, she is the proud Savta of 5 grandchildren.

A sought-after and inspirational speaker, Barbara Goldstein, affectionately known as "BG" to most of the Jewish world, is a Hadassah treasure. She is known for her deep knowledge of Israel's history, her optimism, her candor – and most importantly, her love for Israel and Hadassah.

