THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER LOS ANGELES
2020 VIRTUAL TRIP TO ISRAEL
JULY 7 – AUGUST 12, 2020

YISHAI SABAG (OUR TOUR GUIDE)

Yishai lives in Moshav Avigdor, just outside the city of Kiryat Malachi. He served in the IDF special forces unit “Palsar Givati” from 2001-2004, ultimately discharging from active duty with the rank of first sergeant. Yishai loves the outdoors and has been involved as a guide and volunteer with The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) since the late 1990s. After his IDF service Yishai worked as a beekeeper at “Kanot Bee Farm,” the largest beehive operation in Israel. Additionally, in that time he worked as an educator and tour guide for high schools in Israel. Yishai completed his Tour Guide training course by Israel’s Ministry of Tourism in 2007 and has guided groups from all over the world around Israel as a licensed guide ever since. He holds an additional certification in Rappelling and Rock Climbing from the Wingate Institute, Israel’s premier sports authority and training center. In his time volunteering and guiding for SPNI he received the Education Ministry’s tour guiding permit where he gained additional skills in orienteering, survival and deeper knowledge about Israel’s geography. Yishai has worked with many tour companies in Israel and has been a veteran guide for many Birthright groups over the last decade. He speaks Hebrew and English fluently and loves American films.

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July 7 – The Old City of Jerusalem

The Old City is easily identified as the walled city of Jerusalem. Within its boundaries there are 4 quarters: The Jewish Quarter, The Muslim Quarter, The Christian Quarter, and the Armenian Quarter. There are also many other ancient and religious sites that we will both visit and outline.

The Jewish Quarter lies in the southeastern sector of the walled city, and stretches from the Zion Gate in the south, bordering the Armenian Quarter on the west, along the Cardo to Chain Street in the north and extends east to the Western Wall and the Temple Mount. The quarter has a rich history, with a nearly continual Jewish presence since the eighth century BCE. In 1948, its population of about 2,000 Jews was besieged, and forced to leave en masse. The quarter was completely sacked by the armies of the surrounding Arab nations, with ancient synagogues destroyed. The Jewish quarter remained under Jordanian control until its recapture by Israeli paratroopers in the Six-Day War of 1967.

The section of the Jewish quarter destroyed prior to 1967 has since been rebuilt and settled and has a population of approximately 2,400 (as of 2004). Many large educational institutions have taken up residence. Before being rebuilt, the quarter was carefully excavated under the supervision of Hebrew University archaeologist Nahman Avigad. The archaeological remains are on display in a series of museums and outdoor parks, which tourists can visit by descending two or three stories beneath the level of the current city.
The Western Wall or Kotel is located in the Old City of Jerusalem at the foot of the western side of the Temple Mount. It is a remnant of the ancient wall that surrounded the Jewish Temple's courtyard and is arguably the most sacred site recognized by Judaism outside of the Temple Mount itself. Just over half the wall, including its 17 courses located below street level, dates from the end of the Second Temple period, commonly believed to have been constructed around 19 BCE by Herod the Great, but recent excavations indicate that the works were not finished during Herod's lifetime. The remaining layers were added from the 7th century onwards. The Western Wall refers not only to the exposed section facing a large plaza in the Jewish Quarter, but also to the sections concealed behind structures running along the whole length of the Temple Mount, such as the Little Western Wall—a 25 ft (8 m) section in the Muslim Quarter.

It has been a site for Jewish prayer and pilgrimage for centuries; the earliest source mentioning Jewish attachment to the site dates back to the 4th century. From the mid-19th century onwards, attempts to purchase rights to the wall and its immediate area were made by various Jews, but none were successful. With the rise of the Zionist movement in the early 20th century, the wall became a source of friction between the Jewish community and the Muslim religious leadership, who were worried that the wall was being used to further Jewish nationalistic claims to the Temple Mount and Jerusalem. Outbreaks of violence at the foot of the wall became commonplace and an international commission was convened in 1930 to determine the rights and claims of Muslims and Jews in connection with the wall. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli War the wall came under Jordanian control and Jews were barred from the site for 19 years until Israel captured the Old City in 1967.

The Muslim quarter is the largest and most populous and extends from the Lions' Gate in the east, along the northern wall of the Temple Mount in the south, to the Damascus Gate/Western Wall route in the west. The Via Dolorosa starts in this quarter. For the
purposes of this itinerary we sorted it in the Christian Quarter because of its significance as a Christian religious site.

The Muslim quarter had a mixed population of Jews, Muslims and Christians until the 1929 Palestine riots, a conflict between Muslims and Jews over access to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The result was an evacuation of Jewish families from the Quarter under British supervision.

The Arab Shuk is the most famous tourist market in the Old City. Referred to as the “Arab Shuk”, its proximity to Jaffa Gate, its central location and the beauty of the street attract a large and varied crowd. This includes Jews on their way to services at the Western Wall, Christian pilgrims proceeding to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Muslims going up to pray on the Temple Mount, and thousands of tourists and visitors. Set along narrow alleys, mostly within the Muslim Quarter the Arab Shuk is known for its fascinating variety of lively shops and stalls.

Register
July 8 – Member of Knesset Tehila Friedman-Nachalon

MK Tehila Friedman-Nachalon is a member of the 23rd Israeli Knesset, serving on the list of the Blue and White Party. Prior to becoming an MK, she served as a Research Fellow of the Kogod Research Center at Shalom Hartman Institute and a program director for Shaharit, a think tank promoting a new social covenant in Israel. She was also the director of Kolot's Center for Jewish Leadership.

She is a past chair of Ne’emanei Torah va’Avodah, a modern Orthodox movement promoting pluralism and democracy, as well as a board member of the Yerushalmit Movement, a nonprofit for a pluralistic Jerusalem. She was a fellow in the Mandel Leadership Institute and Director of the Israel office of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, a grant officer at the Rothschild Foundation, and an adviser to Natan Sharansky. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and five children.

Register
July 9 – Panel Discussion with Young Leaders from Shaharit’s 120 Program on Complex Issues & Common Good Politics

Shaharit is a synergistic mix of thinktank, leadership incubator, and community organizing hub that is nurturing a new social partnership among all of Israel’s communities.

Limor Sifrai is 36 years old. She spent her childhood in Moshav Gan Or in the Gush Katif settlement block, and lives today in Kibbutz Ma’ale Gilboa with her husband Aviad and four children. She runs the education and youth department of the Religious Kibbutzim movement and is a social activist and entrepreneur, having opened learning centers that promote Religious Zionist identity alongside advancing values of equality and interfaith and intercommunity collaborations. She is also active in a number of social causes in her Kibbutz and in interfaith peace organizations.

Laura Talinovsky, 36 years old, is Shaharit’s COO and a Russian-speaking activist. Laura was most recently the head of the Rabin Preparatory Academy (Mechina) in Haifa, and was previously the Executive Director of the OneVoice peace initiative, and the Parliamentary Advisor for Knesset Opposition Leader Shelly Yachimovich. Laura is a lecturer on various topics, including gender; politics and society, the Russian-speaking community and political campaigns. Laura immigrated to Israel at the age of 6 from the Ukraine and is one of the founders of “Generation1.5”, Shaharit’s working group in the Russian-speaking community. She holds a BA in Sociology and Political Science from The Hebrew University and a master’s degree in public policy; she also spent a year as a “Paths to Peace” fellow at NYU.

Through its flagship “120” program, Shaharit recruits and trains the political leaders of tomorrow in the theory and practice of the politics of the common good, to break through the tired
dichotomies that for too long have defined the Israeli politics, articulate a new political language, to create new social networks, and to encourage new initiatives, for the benefit of all of Israel’s communities and its society as a whole.

Shaharit’s leadership groups in many of Israel’s communities, including Religious Zionists, Russian speakers, Mizrahi Jews, Haredim (Ultra-Orthodox), and Arab citizens of Israel, among others. On the ground, in the towns and cities that make up the fabric of Israeli society, Shaharit finds people who are willing to transcend their boundaries, to work across communities, to seek the face of the other, and create a brand of local activism of the common good. Shaharit is making investments in community organizing as a discipline that can unleash the positive energy of the common good where it really counts: in people’s neighborhoods, communities, and homes.

Register
As the Jewish people’s living memorial to the Holocaust, Yad Vashem—The World Holocaust Remembrance Center safeguards the memory of the past and imparts its meaning for future generations. Established in 1953, as the world center for documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem is a dynamic and vital place of intergenerational and international encounter.

A decade in the making, the Holocaust History Museum combines the best of Yad Vashem’s expertise, resources and state-of-the-art exhibits to take Holocaust remembrance well into the 21st century. The museum occupies over 4,200 square meters, mainly underground. Both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, it presents the story of the Holocaust from a unique Jewish perspective, emphasizing the experiences of the individual victims through original artifacts, survivor testimonies and personal possessions.

At the end of the Museum’s historical narrative is the Hall of Names — a repository for the Pages of Testimony of millions of Holocaust victims, a memorial to those who perished. From the Hall of Names, visitors continue to the epilogue and from there to the balcony opening to a panoramic view of Jerusalem.
**Har Herzl (Mount Herzl)** is named after Binyamin Ze'ev (Theodor) Herzl, visionary of the Jewish State. It is a site of major national importance for Israel and the Jewish people, where the annual official state ceremony marking the conclusion of Memorial Day for Israel’s fallen and commencement of Israel’s Independence Day Festivities take place. Along the northern slopes of Mount Herzl, stretches Israel’s Military Cemetery. On its western face, sits the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Together, these sites give expression to the major and tumultuous events that led to the establishment of State of Israel just half a century after Herzl himself first envisioned it. Several “Lone Soldiers” to Israel, non-Israeli citizens who come on their own to Israel to serve in the military, who were killed in the line of duty are buried on Mount Herzl honoring their unique commitment and sacrifice. Max Steinberg, z”l, from Woodland Hills, California, was killed in action in 2014 and is buried at Mount Herzl.

**Resting Place of Great Leaders of the Nation:** Israel’s presidents, prime ministers, speakers of the Knesset and other dignitaries decided upon by the government are interred here. Apart from Theodor Herzl, Mt. Herzl is the burial place of five of Israel’s prime ministers: Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Shamir, Yitzhak Rabin (who is buried beside his wife Leah) and Shimon Peres. Israeli presidents are also buried on Mt. Herzl, as are other prominent Jewish and Zionist leaders.

Deciding who should be buried on Mt. Herzl has sometimes been controversial. For example, the decision to bury Ze’ev Jabotinsky, who died in 1940, on Mt. Herzl, was fiercely opposed by many Labor Party stalwarts, who claimed that Jabotinsky was an ultra-right nationalist undeserving of such an honor. Only in 1964 did Prime Minister Levi Eshkol decide in favor of burying him there, in the interest of promoting national reconciliation and setting aside political grievances. Soldiers awarded with the Medal of Valor may also be buried at Mount Herzl.
July 15 – Presentation on Holocaust in Israeli Society With Master Educator, Rachel Korazim

Rachel Korazim is a freelance Jewish education consultant specializing in curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education. Until 2008 she had been the Academic Director of Distance Learning programs at the JAF0 Department of Education. Born in Israel, she served in the I.D.F. as an officer in the central training base for women and was later, a member of the I.D.F. delegation to Niger (West Africa). She is a graduate of Haifa University with a Ph.D. in Jewish education. Rachel had a vast experience in Jewish education teaching both in Israel and the Diaspora. As one of the founders and directors of a special program for soldiers from a disadvantaged background, she was responsible for creating the educational framework and training teachers for the implementation of the program.

Since her first Shlichut to Canada where she was the head of JAFI delegation from 1985-1988, she has been involved with Jewish education worldwide, creating and implementing in-service training programs for educators, writing educational materials, counseling and teaching. Rachel is familiar, through many visits, with the Jewish education communities of the US, Canada, Latin America and Europe. Since 1990, she has invested much of her time and energy in helping the emerging Jewish schools of Hungary.

Register
July 16 - Conversation with Eran Weintrob, CEO of Federation Partner Latet: Israel's National Food Bank, On Working with Holocaust Survivors During The COVID-19 Crisis in Israel.

Latet (To Give) - was established in order to reduce poverty, for a better and just society, by providing assistance to needy populations, mobilizing Israeli civil society towards mutual responsibility, and leading change in the national priorities. Latet is the largest NGO combating poverty and food insecurity in Israel. Acting as an umbrella organization for 180 local associations, Latet operates the leading national food bank and runs impactful aid programs, providing monthly assistance to 60,000 families and 1,000 Holocaust survivors. Equivalent aid is given in all areas of the country and to all sectors, regardless of religion, race, gender, culture or nationality. 93% of the organization's budget is based primarily on donations from the Israeli public. Annually, 27,000 volunteers give 477,000 hours to Latet. Since the establishment of the organization in 1996, some two million Israelis have donated food and commodities, and more than 100,000 volunteers have participated in its activities.

Eran Weintrob is Executive Director at LATET, focusing on eradicating poverty, molding the identity and nature of Israeli society, instilling values of mutual responsibility, and leading change in national priorities. Eran, 48, is a father to Amit, Noam and Rani, and married to Lital. He was born in the Southern Israeli city of Dimona, and currently lives in Ramat Gan.

Register
July 20 – Exploring Life in The Gaza Envelope at Moshav Nativ Ha'asara, 2 Miles From Gaza

Nativ Ha'asara (Hebrew: נַחַב הָעֲשָׂרָה lit. Path of the Ten) is a moshav in southern Israel. Located in the north-west Negev, it falls under the jurisdiction of Hof Ashkelon Regional Council. In 2016 it had a population of 821.

The moshav was founded in 1982 by 70 families who were residents of the former Israeli settlement of Nativ Ha'asara in the Sinai Peninsula, which was evacuated as a result of the Camp David Accords. The original moshav had been named for ten soldiers that were killed in a helicopter accident south of Rafah in 1971.

After the Israeli disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Nativ Ha'asara became the closest community in Israel to the Gaza Strip, located 400 meters away from the edge of the Palestinian town of Beit Lahiya. The moshav, unfortunately, is a target of Qassam rockets, Katyusha rockets, mortar shellings and now fire balloons and molotov cocktails. In 2007, the Popular Resistance Committees sent two terrorists to infiltrate the moshav, but they were killed by the IDF.

“Path to Peace” is a joint mosaic creation on the border wall that divides the Gaza Strip and Israel, adjacent to the homes of Moshav and seen from both sides of the security wall. Visitors are invited to take an active part in the creation of the peace wall by writing a personal wish on the back of a colorful mosaic piece and gluing it onto the wall.

Register
Avi Issacharoff, is a journalist, writer and expert on Israel-Palestinian relations. He is also a guest commentator on many radio shows and current affairs programs on television. Until 2012, he was a reporter and commentator on Arab affairs for the Haaretz newspaper. More recently he has written for The Times of Israel and Walla (Hebrew media). He also lectures on modern Palestinian history at Tel Aviv University. He graduated cum laude from Ben Gurion University with a B.A. in Middle Eastern studies and then earned his M.A. from Tel Aviv University on the same subject, also cum laude. A fluent Arabic speaker, Avi was the Middle East Affairs correspondent for Israeli Public Radio covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Iraq and the Arab countries between the years 2003-2006.

Avi directed and edited short documentary films on Israeli television programs dealing with the Middle East. In 2002 he won the "best reporter" award for the "Israel Radio" for his coverage of the second intifada. In 2004, together with Amos Harel, he wrote "The Seventh War - How we won and why we lost the war with the Palestinians." A year later the book won an award from the Institute for Strategic Studies for containing the best research on security affairs in Israel. In 2008, Issacharoff and Harel published their second book, entitled "34 Days - The Story of the Second Lebanon War," which won the same prize.

In 2014 Issacharoff and a cameraman were attacked and beaten by "masked Palestinian rioters" while covering a violent protest demonstration at Beitunia. According to Issacharoff’s account, the two were set upon after a Palestinian journalist pointed them out to the crowd as Israelis. Most recently and significantly, Avi co-wrote and developed the Netflix TV series Faada, winner in 2016 of six Ophir Awards and in 2018 of eleven Ophir awards by the Israel Academy of Film & Television.

Register
July 23 – Taly Levanon & The Israel Trauma Coalition

The Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) is the leading Israeli organization in the field of trauma and resilience. The Federation partners with the ITC in an effort to strengthen the emergency preparedness of Israeli municipalities and provide them with the tools to manage crisis effectively. The mission of the Israel Trauma Coalition is to create a continuum of care in the trauma field, response and preparedness, by leveraging diverse resources to initiate, prioritize, and optimize services.

The ITC was created in 2001 and is a cornerstone of Israel’s national trauma care and preparedness program. Israel’s long experience preparing for and coping with crisis makes Israeli experts amongst the most knowledgeable on the global map. ITC has worked in Sri Lanka, Haiti, India, France, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, Chechnya, Jordan and USA (Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 and following the Boston marathon attack).

Taly Levanon directs all of ITC’s initiatives by building collaborative partnerships that form the foundation of sustainable support for trauma victims both in Israel and abroad. Beginning her career in the IDF as an officer working with bereaved families and wounded soldiers, she then supervised social workers in private practice and worked in the Israeli National Insurance Institute for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Trauma Widows and Widowers. Talia holds an MSW in clinical social work from Bar Ilan University in addition to a degree in Integrative Psychotherapy from Hebrew University. She is fluent in English, French and Hebrew.

Register
Jaffa (also known as Yafo) is the ancient port city out of which Tel Aviv has now grown. Jaffa has, in recent years, like much of South Tel Aviv, been regenerated with the old narrow streets and courtyards becoming another highly desirable part of Tel Aviv’s urban tapestry.

Jaffa flea market is a well-known attraction of the area, with vendors selling a diverse range of interesting and unique products. Meanwhile, the narrow passageways and ancient buildings in the Old City of Jaffa are worlds away from modern Tel Aviv.

The history of Jaffa is a long one. As of the world’s oldest ports, Jaffa is thought to have been the port from which Jonah left in the story of the Whale! Jaffa is also famous for its association with the other biblical stories of Solomon and Saint Peter as well as the mythological story of Andromeda and Perseus. The port continued to be important through history and served as the main entry point to the land of Israel through until the late 19th century when Jews from around the world began to return to Israel. It was through Jaffa that they entered the country and in Jaffa that many initially settled. The huge population increase led to overcrowding, and tense relations developed between the Jewish and Arab residents of the city. The result was that Jews began building outside of Jaffa, firstly neighborhoods such as Neve Tzedek, and later the city of Tel Aviv. Today, Jaffa is widely known for the one product it exports around the world: Jaffa Oranges.

Register
July 30 – Oshra Friedman – A Conversation on Ethiopian-Israeli Issues and Racial Injustice Around The World

Oshra Friedman currently serves as the Deputy Director-General, Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women. Oshra arrived in Israel from Ethiopia with Operation Moses when she was seven years old. She received her B.A. in criminology and human resources from Bar Ilan University in 2002, earned an M.A. in immigration and social absorption from the Ruppin Academic College in 2007, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in education and leadership from Haifa University’s Department of Leadership and Policy in Education. Having been an education officer in the IDF, Oshar opted to join the team of the Rashi Foundation, where she spearheaded the development and implementation of the Katzir Scholarship Fund, of which she was, until recently, the northern regional coordinator and director of partnership development. This unique fund provides scholarships to economically weak populations of Israel’s periphery and enables recipients to achieve academically and improve their social mobility and financial independence.

She was awarded with the New Israel Fund’s Yaffa London Yaari Prize in 2014 for her involvement in the “Maskila for Single Mothers” program

She joined the round table established by the Commissioner of the Israeli Police Force following the large protest of the Ethiopian Israeli community in May 2016. In June 2016, she began working as VP of Planning and Resource Development at Tebeka– Justice & Equality for Ethiopian Israelis (a non-profit organization) and in July 2017 she joined the Organization for Joint Israeli Leadership’s activities in order to assist the with resource development and connections with the philanthropic world. In addition to her work in the third sector, Oshra Friedman serves as a moderator on the “M’chutz La’bua” television program, which is broadcast on Channel 14 and deals with social issues in Israel.

Register
Virtual Israel July 7-12, 2020
Week 5 – The Start-up Nation

August 4 – Tel Aviv and Rothschild Boulevard

On our 12th day virtually in Israel, we are traveling through the center of Tel Aviv on Rothschild Boulevard. This iconic and picturesque street is home to many of the most significant milestones in modern Israel: the home of David Ben-Gurion, Independence Hall, The Tel Aviv Library and today some of Israel’s top start-ups and Venture Capitalists. Tel Aviv has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site because it is home to the world’s greatest number of buildings in the Bauhaus style, giving it the name The White City.

Rothschild Boulevard was one of the first streets to be built in the city of Tel Aviv little over 100 years ago. Named originally as Rehov HaAm (the street of the people), it was renamed to reflect the generosity of Baron Edmond James de Rothschild of the French Rothschild banking dynasty. At the northern end of Rothschild Boulevard is the Habima Theater, Israel’s national theater, and the Fredric Mann Auditorium.

Rothschild Boulevard is also a commercial center, with major financial institutions lining the street; a cultural center, with the main theater and concert hall of Tel Aviv; a culinary center, with numerous top restaurants; and a leisure center, with the central boulevard popular with dog walkers, bikers, and some of Tel Aviv’s wealthiest and most beautiful who stop off at its coffee kiosks.

Register
August 6 – Conversation with Assaf Weiss, CEO of Unistream, an Entrepreneurship Program for Underserved Students In Israel's Periphery Communities

Unistream, a partner of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, brings about social change by empowering teens from underprivileged communities to build and run their own startups becoming entrepreneurs by providing them with a transformative, three-year program where they acquire business skills, develop confidence and networks for them to succeed in life. Over 700 teens from 13 centers countrywide participate in the program annually.

Unistream CEO Assaf Weiss served as Vice President of the American Jewish Congress in New York where he worked with senior U.S. government officials, senators, and other elected officials on matters such as international government affairs, anti-Semitism, and Israel-US relations. Prior to this, he held the position of consultant to the former Health Minister of Israel and, on her behalf, led national reform, completed complex legislation and regulation, and coordinated government work and the Legislative Affairs Committee. Weiss was a member of the Executive Committee of Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at Colombia University in New York and helped lead the
struggle against Anti-Semitism and promoted pro-Israel activities. He has published some 30 articles in Hebrew and English in leading press in both Israel and the US.

In 2001, when social-economic gaps in Israel were on the rise, Unistream was established by Rony Zarom, an Israeli businessman & entrepreneur. Their goal is to change the face of Israeli society and to provide youth from resource scarce communities, who are excluded from the circle of success in Central Israel, the opportunity to realize their potential. The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles is a proud partner of Unistream.

Register
On our 14th, and second to last day touring Israel virtually, we will be at **Mount Ben Tal** on the Golan Heights overlooking Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria. From the western Golan, it is only about 60 miles -- without major terrain obstacles -- to Haifa and Acre, Israel's industrial heartland. The **Golan** - rising from 400 to 1700 feet in the western section - overlooks the Hulah Valley, Israel's richest agricultural area. In the hands of a friendly neighbor, the escarpment has little military importance. If controlled by a hostile country, however, the Golan has the potential to again become a strategic nightmare for Israel. From 1948-67, when Syria controlled the Golan Heights, it used the area as a military stronghold from which its troops randomly sniped at Israeli civilians in the Hulah Valley below.

After the Six-Day War began, the Syrian air force attempted to bomb oil refineries in Haifa. While Israel was fighting in the Sinai and West Bank, Syrian artillery bombarded Israeli forces in the eastern Galilee, and armored units fired on villages in the Hulah Valley below the Golan Heights.

On June 9, 1967, Israel moved against Syrian forces on the Golan. By late afternoon, June 10, Israel was in complete control of the plateau.

On December 14, 1981, the Knesset voted to annex the Golan Heights. The statute extended Israeli civilian law and administration to the residents of the Golan, replacing the military authority that had ruled the area since 1967.

Mount Ben Tal can be found in the middle of the Golan Heights, towards the Syrian border. Mount Ben Tal is one of Israel's favorite mountain peaks to visit, partly due to the great panoramic views of the Golan and even Syria, but also because Mount Bental was the site of
a courageous battle fought during Israel’s Yom Kippur War in 1973. It was one of the largest tank battles ever and was miraculously won by the Israelis. Today, to remember the bloody battle, the valley below the mountain, reaching to Mount Hermon, is called the Valley of Tears.
August 12 – Lt. Col. (Ret.) IDF Sarit Zehavi

**Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Sarit Zehavi** served for 15 years in the military specializing in intelligence and is the founder and CEO of Alma – a nonprofit and an independent research and education center specialized in Israel’s security challenges on its northern border. Sarit has briefed hundreds of groups and forums, ranging from US Senators, Congressmen/women and politicians to senior journalists and visiting VIP groups in Israel and overseas. Sarit scripts numerous position papers and updates focusing on Lebanon, Syria and Israel’s national security challenges. She served for 15 years in the Israeli Defense Forces, specializing in Military Intelligence. Sarit holds an M.A. in Middle East Studies from Ben-Gurion University. She was profiled in the December 15, 2019, edition of Tablet as “Israel’s Eyes in the North: The Woman Who Watches Hezbollah.” Sarit Zehavi and her husband Yaron are raising their 5 children in the Western Galilee.

**Register**