



## Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans Solidarity Mission to Israel

**March 19 – 21, 2024**

*(as of February 2, 2023)*

### Day 1: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Individual arrivals to Israel.

**Optional:** Airport assistance and arrival transfers to Jerusalem.

#### **12:00pm**

Gather at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel lobby.

#### **12:30pm – 2:00pm**

Visit **Magen David Adom (MDA) Headquarters** in Jerusalem. MDA is the leading emergency, first-responder, organization in Israel. A national organization that works in cooperation with the other emergency and security authorities in the country, such as Israeli Police, the IDF and the Fire Fighters. Meet with **an operator who was on duty on October 7**, tour of the facility, and hear on MDA work during October 7 and the aftermath, **including catered lunch**.

#### **2:30pm – 3:45pm**

Hear about **Nefesh B'nefesh** programs to strengthening olim in times of Crisis, and specifically The **Lone Soldiers** Program which provides resources, support, and guidance for every lone soldier in Israel before, during and after their service and allow a smooth acclimation to life in Israel.

#### **4:15pm-4:45pm**

**Mount Herzl**, named after Binyamin Zeev (Theodor) Herzl, visionary of the Jewish State, carries a major national importance for Israel and the Jewish people. Har Herzl (mountain in Hebrew) is the burial place of the State's founding fathers and leaders and the site of Jerusalem military cemetery. Today, we will **pay tribute to the fallen soldiers and security forces** of Sword of Iron War, amongst them lone soldiers.

#### **5:00pm**

Check into hotel (for those who are not pre-arrivals)

#### **6:30pm**

**Opening dinner** to discuss **our Impact and the Federations' campaign** with **Rebecca (Beck) Caspi**, Senior Vice President JFNA & Director General JFNA – Israel, and with **Federations partnered-organizations**, locally and globally: The **Jewish Agency for Israel**, The **Joint Distribution Committee**, and **Israel Trauma Coalition**

*Overnight: Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Jerusalem*



**Day 2: Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart Jerusalem for Yerim Hotel.

**8:30am – 9:30am**

Attend an intimate encounter with evacuees, displaced residents from **Moshav Netiv Ha'asara** bear witness to the horrified stories of October 7 in the Moshav, and on the **Jewish Agency Fund for Victims of Terror** assistance and how it helps victims overcome trauma and establish skills for recovery.

Proceed south the Sderot

**11:00am – 12:00pm**

**Geopolitical briefing** overlooking towards the Gaza and the main battlefields of Swords of Iron War, and visit a **Municipality War-Room** (Hamal) accompanied **Colonel (res) Kobi Marom**, expert on Hamas, Hezbollah and other radical movements operating by in the Middle East

**12:15pm**

At Kibbutz we meet **Ben Sochman**, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, and the CEO of the Beeri Printing House and who lost his mother Tammy z"l on the October 7 terror attack, to hear his personal story and about cultivating business along the border.

**Beeri Printing House**, a veteran factory in the southern Negev, marking its 75<sup>th</sup> year. Beeri Printing specializes in printing with advanced technologies, and creating documents that are safe from forgery for the country's authorities and banks. The factory exclusively prints driver's licenses in Israel, check books, and credit cards.

**1:30pm**

Late lunch and/or lunch with soldiers serving in the region.

**3:30pm**

Drive to Rosh Ha'ayin

**5:00pm – 8:30pm**

**Afternoon and dinner with New Orleans-Rosh Ha'ayin Partnership Together.** An opportunity to hear about Swords of Iron initiatives, meet with Partnership's Steering Committee volunteers

*Overnight: Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Jerusalem*



**Day 3: Thursday, March 21, 2024**

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart hotel for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**9:00am**

Meet high ranking professionals at **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Hear about Israel's diplomatic efforts and Hasbara in the international arena from **Yosef (Yossi) Zilberman**, Deputy Spokesperson, and meet with **hostage's family**.

**10:30am**

Walk to **Knesset**, the Israeli parliament (time and weather permitting)

**11:15am**

Meet with **Knesset Members** representing the various parties of the house, from southern and northern Israel, such as: **Debbie Biton** (Yesh Atid), a resident of Sderot, and **Yifat Shasha-Biton** (National Unity) from Kiryat Shmona.

**1:00pm**

**Visit and Lunch** at the **Shalva National Center**. Shalva, Israel Association for the Care, and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities provides an all-encompassing range of services for thousands of people with disabilities from infancy to adulthood and their families. Shalva life-cycle programming, leading-edge therapies, educational frameworks, social and recreational activities, employment training, and independent living opportunities, at times throughout the year and on times of emergency.

**3:00pm**

**Leave Your Mark:** Volunteer at *HaHamal*, in Hebrew: War Room. **The Jerusalem Hamal**, a civil society initiative, was founded to support the IDF soldiers and Israeli security forces, those securing the borders and those that are on home front, as well as over 200,000 Israelis that live along Israel's borders in the north and in the south and are now evacuated from their home.

Afternoon at leisure for rest, packing and last-minute shopping.

**7:00pm**

Closing dinner and meeting, with journalist **Tal Shalev**, Political Correspondent Walla News & 103 FM, on *Israel Today and the Day After*.

Depart for Ben Gurion Airport OR Extend your stay in Israel.