

ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING 2020 – SOUTHERN REGION (BOCA RATON) Tentative Itinerary

Sunday, April 19–LOT flight from ORD (Chicago O'Hare) to Krakow.

Monday, April 20–**Krakow:** We arrive in the morning and depart the airport by luxury bus. Following a lavish catered lunch we visit adjacent Zgody Square (Empty Chairs memorial plaza) and Podgorze, the ghetto area. We spend the rest of the afternoon in Krakow's historic Jewish neighborhood, Kazimierz, visiting significant synagogues in the revitalized center now a popular evening destination. At the Krakow JCC, we hear the fascinating account of local Jewish revival from Director Jonathan Ornstein, and an inspiring personal story from a survivor who remained in Poland. Following check-in and dinner at our hotel, we bus to the Convention Center to attend a moving Erev Yom HaShoah program. *Walking: Stop and go for a few hours and 2-3 miles at leisurely pace.* Overnight at Krakow Holiday Inn or Sheraton

Tuesday, April 21, Yom HaShoah--Miedzna, March of the Living: En route to Auschwitz for the centerpiece of the MOL experience, we visit the unique Miedzna memorial erected by local non-Jews to honor the remains of individuals who died on a death march. Then we join with 15,000 teens and adults from around the world in a demonstration of defiance and triumph against the attempt to annihilate us: We walk out of Auschwitz under the infamous Arbeit Macht Frei sign, through the streets of Oswiecim to Birkenau and an emotional ceremony. We return to Krakow for dinner at the hotel, and the evening free to explore Krakow's gorgeous Old Town. *Walking: 2-3 miles leisurely for the March, approximately 1 mile back to the bus.* Overnight at the Krakow Holiday Inn or Sheraton

Wednesday, April 22–**Birkenau/Auschwitz:** At the death camp, we explore the incomprehensible apparatus of extermination. Learning details of conditions and actions perpetrated, seeing masses of items confiscated from victims and hearing stories of suffering and survival intensify the impact of our encounter. Outside the camp we visit Labyrinths, a unique exhibition of haunting artworks evoking the depraved reality of the camp created by a non-Jewish Polish Auschwitz survivor. Then, accompanied by survivor Sam Ron, we travel by train to Warsaw, where dinner awaits us. *Walking: Several miles, stop and go, through the camps; half-hour on foot for exhibition; 10-15 minutes from train platform to hotel.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Thursday, April 23–**Warsaw, Lodz:** We stand at the Lodz ghetto site of the infamous "Give Me Your Children" speech by the controversial head of the Judenrat. Walking through the area we reach Manufaktura, the mall/entertainment/arts center created out of the ruins of the pioneering textile complex created in the late 1800s by industrialist Izrael Poznanski, then visit his grave--said to be the largest of its kind in the world--in the historic Lodz Jewish Cemetery. At Radeagast Memorial, we enter one of the cattle cars used to deport 161,000 Jews to death camps. Back in Warsaw, the fabulous and creative displays at Polin (National Museum of the History of the Jews) greatly expand our understanding and perspective about the rich and complex 1,000 years of Polish-Jewish relations. Before returning to our hotel for dinner, we stop at the Warsaw JCC to hear from its impressive young director, Agata Rakowiecka, who has spearheaded a ground-up redevelopment of Jewish engagement. In small groups with members of the community, we learn about their experiences and perspectives. *Walking: 3-5 miles in short stretches.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Friday, April 24–**Warsaw, Majdanek:** We travel to Majdanek death camp, enter the intact barracks and crematoria, and at the memorial of ashes reflect on the unspeakable devastation. We return to Warsaw to prepare for Shabbat, with optional service attendance at historic Nozyk Synagogue or Progressive Ecs Chaim, followed by dinner and oneg Shabbat at our hotel. *Walking: 2-3 miles through the camp; 20 minutes from hotel to Nozyk, three blocks from hotel to Ecs Chaim.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Saturday, April 25, Shabbat–**Warsaw:** In the morning, we have the opportunity to participate in services at Ecs Chaim or Nozyk (where Poland's chief Rabbi Shudrich presides and has a special message for the MOL teens). Following lunch at the hotel, we explore the area of the Warsaw Ghetto including the Umshlagplatz, site of Mila 18 (headquarters of the Warsaw Ghetto fighters and burial place of Freedom Fighters leader Mordecai Anliewicz), and the Rapaport Memorial, dedicated on the fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. We share dinner and havdallah back at the hotel, then celebrate Jewish life in the heart of the Warsaw Ghetto and enjoy an exhilarating evening of music and simcha dancing. *Walking: Approximately 1 mile each way between the hotel and Ghetto area, 1-2 miles visiting Ghetto sites.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Sunday, April 26--Tykocin, Treblinka: We travel north to a “Fiddler on the Roof” village, site of one of Poland’s best-preserved 17th-century synagogues. In nearby Lupochowo Forest, we pay tribute to the 2,000 Tykocin Jews marched and murdered by Einsatzkommando in 1941, then continue to the location of the horrific Treblinka death camp, today a powerful artistic evocation of the loss of 17,000 communities destroyed by the Nazis. There we share a profound experience with our students. En route to the airport for our overnight flight to Tel Aviv, we have the opportunity to process and share thoughts about our journey. *Walking: Minimal distances at each site, several hours on foot.*

Monday, April 27, Shoah L’Gvurah--Tel Aviv: We arrive early in the morning and check into our hotel. After time for rest and a late breakfast, we meet with Dr. Ervin Birnbaum, who played a major role on the *Exodus*. Then we head north to Zichron Yaakov, Boca’s Sister City. Following a walk in the historic center and dinner at the distinctive Baronita Restaurant with members of the community, we hear the siren ushering in Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) and attend an impactful ceremony, like those held in every community in the country, commemorating all the individuals who died defending Israel and in terror attacks. *Walking: 1-2 miles, leisurely, stop and go.* Overnight David Intercontinental

Tuesday, April 28, Yom Hazikaron & Erev Yom Haatzmaut--Tel Aviv: We head to the Ayalon Institute, the ingenious secret bullet factory created underground in 1946 to manufacture ammunition for the fight for Israel independence. When the late morning commemorative siren sounds, we witness all activity come to a standstill. Then we head to Trumpeldor Cemetery in the center of Tel Aviv and learn through the gravesites about the history of the city and its most significant personages. As the somber mood of Memorial Day dissolves into the joy of Independence Day, we celebrate over a special dinner, then join Tel Avivians of all ages at the city’s exuberant outdoor concert and fireworks display. *Walking: approximately .5 mile at Ayalon, 1 hour stop and go in cemetery.* Overnight David Intercontinental

Wednesday, April 29, Yom Haatzmaut--Jerusalem: We travel to Goldman Promenade for a spectacular vista over Jerusalem. Following a picnic lunch, we head to the colorful and high-spirited Safra Square celebration with thousands of international students, participate in the Jerusalem March of the Living along the Old City Walls to a ceremony at the Kotel, then check into our hotel and get ready for the MOL Mega Event--lavish barbecue dinner and world-class entertainment extravaganza at Latrun. *Walking: Jerusalem March approximately 1.5 miles, approximately 1 mile on grounds of Latrun.* Overnight Mamilla

Thursday, April 30--Jerusalem, Judean Desert: First stop in the morning is Susan’s House, an inspiring, welcoming place for at-risk teens, where we see some of them demonstrate the glass, ceramic and jewelry art they are taught to make. After a brief opportunity to purchase their accomplished creations, we tour the Judean Desert by jeep or (for those who prefer), visit a winery or museum. Overnight Mamilla

Friday, May 1, Erev Shabbat--Jerusalem: We visit the newest part of the City of David Excavations, the recently opened stairway used on pilgrimage holidays to ascend the Temple Mount. The afternoon is free for lunch, shopping and return on our own to the hotel for Shabbat preparations. Lone soldiers join us for a private Shabbat dinner at the hotel following Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel. *Walking: Kotel to hotel approximately 1 mile.* Overnight Mamilla

Saturday, May 2, Shabbat--Jerusalem: This is a free day, with activity choices: services at a number of area synagogues, optional exclusive Masada/Dead Sea excursion (at additional cost); free neighborhood walking tour. Those returning home this night depart for the airport after our group havdallah and reluctant good-byes. (Overnight at Mamilla for those staying longer)