

ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING 2019 – SOUTHERN REGION (BOCA RATON) Tentative Itinerary

Monday, April 29—Charter flight from JFK to Katowice or Krakow.

Tuesday, April 30—Podgorze, Kazimierz: We arrive in the morning and depart the airport by luxury bus for Krakow. Following a lavish catered lunch at Rimonim (where those flying on their own meet the group), we visit adjacent Podgorze, the ghetto area, and the Empty Chairs memorial plaza. We spend the rest of the afternoon in Krakow's historic Jewish neighborhood, Kazimierz, visiting several significant synagogues, the revitalized center now a popular evening destination, and market square. At the Krakow JCC, we hear the fascinating account of local Jewish revival from Director Jonathan Ornstein, and an inspiring personal story from a Righteous Among the Nations. **Walking:** *Stop and go for a few hours and 2-3 miles at leisurely pace.* Overnight at Krakow Holiday Inn or Sheraton

Wednesday, May 1—Auschwitz/Birkenau: We embark on our first visit to a death camp and exploration of the incomprehensible apparatus of extermination. Learning details of conditions and actions at the camp, seeing masses of items confiscated from victims and hearing stories of suffering and survival intensify the impact of our encounter here. In the evening, we walk through Old Town to the Krakow Philharmonic for a moving Erev Yom HaShoah program. **Walking:** *Several miles, stop and go, through the camps; half a mile each to and from Philharmonic.* Overnight at the Krakow Holiday Inn or Sheraton

Thursday, May 2, 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 attempts 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. After, accompanied by survivor Sam Ron we travel by train to Warsaw, where our luggage is already in our rooms and dinner awaits us. **Walking:** *2-3 miles leisurely for the March; 10-15 minutes from train platform to hotel.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Friday, May 3—Warsaw, Majdanek: We start the day hearing from the impressive young director of the Warsaw JCC, who has spearheaded a ground-up redevelopment of Jewish engagement. Over coffee “and” in small groups with members of the community, we learn about their experiences and perspectives. Then we travel to Majdanek death camp, enter the intact barracks, gas chambers 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 Synagogue, three blocks from hotel to Ecs Chaim.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Saturday, May 4, 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 Anliwicz), and the Rapaport Memorial, dedicated on the fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. We share dinner and *havdallah* back at the hotel, then attend a panel discussion between our region's student Marchers and Polish students, and/or explore Old Town. **Walking:** *Approximately 1 mile each way between the hotel and Ghetto area, 1-2 miles visiting Ghetto sites.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Sunday, May 5—Tikocin, Treblinka: We travel north to a “Fiddler on the Roof” village, site of one of Poland's best preserved 17th-century synagogues, newly-restored. In nearby Lupochowo Forest, we pay tribute to the 2000 Tikocin Jews marched and murdered by Einsatzgruppen in 1941, then continue to the site 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. Following dinner back at the hotel, we have the opportunity to process and share thoughts about our journey. **Walking:** *Minimal distances at each site, several hours on foot.* Overnight Warsaw Marriott

Monday, May 6--Warsaw: The fabulous and creative displays at Warsaw's Polin (National Museum of the History of the Jews) greatly expand our understanding and perspective about the rich and complex 1000 years of Polish-Jewish relations. After touring it, we depart for at the Gesia Cemetery in Warsaw. Here we will learn about some of the great Rabbunim who have influenced modern day Jewish education. A short walk from the cemetery will take us to the Nissenbaum Memorial, where you will hear the great lengths that were taken to provide dignity to those that perished in a mass grave. **Walking:** *Approximately 1 hour stop and go in cemetery and 1 hour stop and go in the museum.* From Warsaw, we head to the airport for our overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

Tuesday, May 7, 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*. Traveling north, we enjoy time outdoors touring the archaeological riches of Caesarea, then walking in historic Zichron Yaakov, Boca's Sister City. After 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. Overnight David Intercontinental

Wednesday, May 8, Yom Hazikaron & Erev Yom Haatzmaut--Tel Aviv: Through a fascinating tour at the more than 100-year old Trumpleldor Cemetery, located in the center of Tel Aviv, we learn about the history of the city and its most significant personages. We arrive at Rabin Square in time to hear the morning siren and witness all activity come to a complete standstill. Then we head to the Ayalon Institute, the ingenious secret bullet factory created underground in 1946 to manufacture ammunition for the fight for Israel independence. 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 marking Israel's 71st birthday. **Walking:** *Approximately one hour stop and go in cemetery, little at Rabin and Ayalon.* Overnight David Intercontinental

Thursday, May 9, Yom Haatzmaut--Jerusalem: We travel to the spectacular overlook at the Goldman Promenade in Jerusalem, for a briefing on anti-terror tactics. Following a food-truck lunch experience, 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.* Overnight Mamilla

Friday, May 10, Erev Shabbat--Jerusalem: First stop in the morning is Susan's House, an inspiring, warm 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 walk the Ramparts of the Old City walls, then head to Mahane Yehuda food, spice and more market. The afternoon is free for lunch, shopping and return on our own to the hotel for Shabbat preparations. Lone soldiers will join us for a private Shabbat dinner at the hotel following Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel.

Walking: *Ramparts approximately 1 mile. Walking to and from the Kotel – approximately 1 mile.* Overnight Mamilla

Saturday, May 11, 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/architectural-historical scavenger hunt. Those returning home this night depart for the airport after our group *havdallah* and reluctant good-byes. (Overnight at Mamilla for those staying longer)