

Itinerary - Hakhel Israel Seminar 2016

This program is designed to showcase the incredible work being done by intentional communities across Israel. Participants will learn first hand from community members about the unique challenges facing Israeli society and how the communities are coming together to offer creative solutions to those challenges.



Sunday, March 13th

ברוכים הבאים – Welcome to Israel!



After a brief snack and refreshment, together you will travel to the **Berenson House - Tel Aviv Hotel**. Don't be confused by the name - the hotel is located in the heart of the charming alleyways of the old city of Safed, an ancient town in the northern Galilee region of Israel. Beautiful gardens, pine trees and magnificent mountain views of the Galilee surround the hotel.

(Read about the history of this fascinating house here - <http://www.safed.co.il/tel-aviv-hotel.html>)



Overnight: Safed - Berenson House - Tel Aviv Hotel.

Community Vision & Manifesto

Pioneering Communities: At Degania, the first kibbutz founded in 1909, listen to stories of the original founding members of the kibbutz and eat lunch in the communal dining hall. The former General Director of the Kibbutz Movement, Muki Tzur will be leading the tour of Degania and Chetzer Kinneret. Muki is one of the most distinguished historians of the kibbutz movement.



First houses in Degania (1909)

Druze Intentional Community: The Druze are a minority group in Israel, heavily invested in Zionism and serving in the IDF in large numbers. However, the Druze have encountered several serious internal challenges lately, and a group of young leaders has decided to take action and re-organize their communal life and reshape their connection to Israel. Come meet them at the Druze village of Mughar.



Kibbutz Ravid: Rural Kibbutzim used to be the cutting-edge of Intentional communities in Israel, but most of them have forsaken their historic path and become privatized. Ravid is an exceptional example of a Kibbutz that decided to reinvent itself while impacting with education in its region.



Old City of Safed: After dinner at the hostel, a guided tour of the magical Old City of Safed will be offered.

Overnight – Safed - Berenson House - Tel Aviv Hotel.

The Micro within the Macro

Kibbutz Mishol doesn't have any fields or fish ponds, neither sprawling lawns nor looming water towers. The members of Kibbutz Mishol gave up rural life for an abandoned immigrant absorption center in Upper Nazareth.



Learn how the Jewish community of Mishol lives side by side with their Arab neighbors of Nazareth.

read more: <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.565060>

Urban Communities: A panel of Haifa community leaders will present the challenges of community building in this vibrant and varied city, home to the greatest number of Intentional Communities in Israel.



Find out how these communities interact with each other and work together to make Haifa better for all of its residents.

Beach time! Relax and reflect
on Haifa's
stunning beach.



Dinner in Safed & debrief time.

Overnight: Safed - Berenson House - Tel Aviv Hotel.

Fault Lines and Meeting Points

Tarbut, Afula: Israel has a vibrant scene of young artists in all fields, but it is mostly centered around Tel-Aviv. The people of the Tarbut (lit. "culture") movement decided to take this up to the North and down to the Negev, by establishing a network of young artists Intentional communities.



Lunch with representatives of Makom and World Bnei Akiva

Makom: The national umbrella organisation for intentional communities in Israel. It encompasses more than 250 groups and communities.

Givat Shmuel: Members of World Bnei Akiva, a religious - Zionist youth movement, from around the world, made Aliya to Israel and formed a community in Givat Shmuel.

Elad: One of the most pressing challenges in Israel is that of integrating the Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) population into Israeli society and economy. Elad is one of the largest Haredi cities in Israel, and it copes with numerous economic, social and educational challenges. Come meet one of Nettiot's communities here, which is transforming this situation from the inside.



Beit Yisrael: One of Israel's main fraction lines is the religious-secular divide. Beit Yisrael is among the oldest of the Urban Kibbutzim in Israel, it is unique in that it brings together religious and secular people to live in one shared community.

Free Time in Jerusalem



Overnight: Hospitality with Kiryat HaYovel community, Jerusalem

Thursday, March 17th

Jerusalem – Kiryat Gat - Shuva

Free Time in Jerusalem in the morning.



Lunch with Ministry of the Diaspora:

A newly established ministry in the Israeli Government. The Ministry of the Diaspora invests in strengthening Diaspora Jewry and their connection with the State of Israel and wants to learn more about communities abroad.

Values and Doctrines within the Community

Hinneni is an Ethiopian intentional community located in Kiryat Gat. Its members created the Atachlit farm to help alleviate generational issues that afflict the Ethiopian community in Israel, thus strengthening the Ethiopian community from within. Get your hands dirty on the farm and volunteer with community elders!



Shuva: Three miles from the border with Gaza a group of modern religious Jerusalemites chose to merge within the village of Shuva, a socioeconomically challenged community and work with the local establishment to reinvigorate it. Garin Shuva started as 7 families in 2009, and within three months grew to 21 families. It has established various social projects and businesses since then, including a Waldorf - Hassidic school. Shuva was one of the founding communities of the Nettot network.



Evening Bonfire, BBQ and more.

Overnight: Shuva

Community Members, Roles and Conflict

Kama: The Kama Community was established about 10 years ago by a group of young people who had served together in the Nachal Youth Movement. Their vision was to develop an intentional community in Beer Sheva and be agents of change in the hardest neighborhood, Shchuna Dalet. They created Cafe Ringelblum, a social enterprise that employs youth at risk, as well as several other socially conscious projects.

We will enjoy a delicious breakfast at Cafe Ringelblum and meet with a founding member of the community.

Beta is another project of the Kama community and serves as a hub for social entrepreneurs in the Negev. They have accelerator programs for young entrepreneurs and a large community of alumni. Meet with the director of the project to hear about incredible ideas for social change.



Discussion “Leveraging our potential”: How to use the story and grassroots social activism of mission driven communities to create a platform for independent income for communities.

Kibbutz Migvan was founded in the city of Sderot in 1987 by former kibbutz members who wished to create a new Socialist-Zionist model and an alternative to the traditional rural kibbutz. Their goal was to build a collective community on the foundations of social solidarity and their mission was to create a dialogue that would lead to shared effort based on mutual interests.

Through the Gvanim Association, community members contribute to the education and welfare of Sderot residents through projects such as a center for youth with physical disabilities and supportive housing for people with disabilities.



Return to Shuva for Shabbat Preparations



Join with the community bringing in the Shabbat with song and dance (optional)

Shabbat Dinner- With delicious organic spelt and sourdough Challah and the best of Tripolitanian cuisine!

Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, March 19th

Shuva

Optional prayer services with the Shuva Community

Shabbat lunch with local community members After a long and busy week, unwind with a home cooked meal with members of the Shuva community.

and relax....!



Saturday night - chill out with live music.

Overnight: Shuva

Closing Sessions

Brainstorming & Processing - What are the key takeaways?

How to bring lessons learned back home and implement them in your community

3-5 year vision & making a working plan

What is the future of Hakhel?



Closing dinner

Feedback session & Closing circle

Travel to airport & check in!