

Israel Education and Engagement Needs Assessment and Planning

Prepared by:

Nikki Weinstein

With Contributions from:

Stephen Cohen

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OF ST. LOUIS

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Executive Summary

In 2018 the Board of Directors set Israel Education and Global Jewry as a high priorities within the core commitment to Israel and the global Jewish people. Included in Global Jewry was discussion around how trips to Israel strengthen people's connection with Judaism and support for Israel in general. Additionally, trips to Israel for those who have influence in the community was set as a medium level priority.

A needs assessment into Israel Education and Engagement to further explore these areas began in July 2018 and include a survey of Israel Education community events, cataloguing of Israel travel opportunities, and analysis of several Israel engagement programs. A literature review was conducted to support the framing and discussion of these priorities. The results and analysis are below.

Key findings include:

- A few organizations sponsor the majority of the Israel Education focused events in the community and those events tend to have low attendance.
- Most educational opportunities are one-time events rather than ongoing, more immersive or deep learning opportunities.
- Most in the adult category who attend Israel education programming are empty nesters and older adults.
- There is wide range and variety of Israel travel opportunities across age groups in the community.
- The Shinshinim and B'not Sherut programs have strong evaluations that show promise as a best practice for providing Israel education.

Recommendations resulting from this analysis include:

- Promote and support more in-depth, ongoing adult learning opportunities related to Israel
- Promote and support reaching a "younger" adult audience with Israel education programming, particularly to target ages 30-60
- Build on the success of the Shinshinim and B'not Sherut programs
- Consider assessing the interests of the community related to Israel education and engagement opportunities

Introduction

A broad range of learning experiences can serve to create fundamental pathways to inspiring individuals' knowledge and commitment to Israel and, in turn and by extension, a connection to the Jewish people. Educational experiences that draw on Israel's richness and diversity, presented and shared by dynamic, informed, and sensitive educators, can be transformative. When internalized, these educational experiences, and in particular, those that are more substantive, can lead to the development of informed and meaningful relationships with Israel and an understanding of the ways in which Israel is at the core of Jewish identity.

Learning experiences should feature the broad diversity of approaches to Israeli life and history. They should focus on a variety of subject, including Israeli history, politics and culture, and they should

provide multiple entry points appropriate for all levels of knowledge/education. Educators and learners should be encouraged to confront sensitive materials, ask questions and challenge assumptions for the purpose of developing a deeper understanding of Israel, its people, and history.

We are supportive of range of modes of education, including:

- Courses and classes that are didactic in nature
- Lectures and discussion groups
- Experiential learning
- Immersion experiences
- Technology based experiences

We are supportive of a wide range of topics to be covered, including:

- History
- Geography
- Religious text and tradition
- Modern Hebrew language and literacy
- Current events
- Literature
- Culture and the arts

The 2017 Strategic Plan set a core commitment to Israel and the global Jewish peoplehood. Within that core commitment, the Board set as a high priority Israel Education and Engagement. Through this prioritization process, advocacy around issues related to Israel was seen as a different topic from what is discussed here as Israel education. This needs assessment was conducted to take a deeper look at what is currently done in the St. Louis area to promote education and engagement with Israel.

Background

In July 2018 Jewish Federation of St. Louis requested input to determine the current landscape of Israel education programs in St. Louis. The request to provide programming information was sent to 48 organizations including congregations, community non-profits and youth movements. Respondents were asked to complete a spreadsheet indicating the date, program type, topic, speaker, co-sponsors, and venue for any programs related to Israel education held since January 2017. We received 32 responses. Sixteen organizations did not respond after several requests (see Appendix A). Data was cleaned for duplications and to exclude Israel mission trips, since it was not clear that all organizations reported their trips, resulting in 278 reported events.

Information about Israel travel was gathered in part through the organizational survey with supplemental information gathered from the Israel Center at the Jewish Federation and through follow up phone calls. Israel travel is discussed in a separate section below.

Other determinations about the event type were not made. For example, it appeared that some organizations included Israel advocacy events while perhaps others did not. If the organization reported such events, they were left in the data. Also, it is not clear if all the reporting organizations included sermons focusing on Israel but we know that at least some congregations did.

In addition to this landscape analysis and cataloguing of Israel travel, staff conducted literature for best practices and additional information around Israel Education. See the Resource section below for some links to available Israel Education content. Staff also reviewed the evaluations of the Shinshinim and B’not Sherut programs as they provide our community with considerable Israel education opportunities, particularly for youth.

Results

Most organizations reported holding more than one type of program either alone or in partnership with other organizations. Types of events include Yom Hazikaron/Yom Haatzmaut events, film programs, lectures, national conferences, courses, etc. For a full listing of events by type, see Appendix A. Here we will examine breakdowns by organization, denomination, program type, target audience and attendance.

Organizations

A few organizations indicated they conducted no specific Israel Education programming as detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Organizations reporting no Israel Education

No Specific Israel Education Programming
Holocaust Museum and Learning Center
TICK Congregation
MaTovu
Covenant Place
Ashreinu
NCJW
St. Louis Jewish Light
Agudas Israel

It appears there are a few organizations conducting most of the Israel Education programming as shown in Table 2 below. Combined, Washington University Hillel and the JCC held 42% of all programs. It is important to note that many of these programs were held in collaboration with more than one organization and those partnerships are not reflected here.

Table 2. Number of events by organization

Organization	Number	Percent
WashU Hillel	72	26%
JCC	45	16%
NHBZ	22	8%
Sh'ma Listen	15	5%
EHA	14	5%
YKHS	14	5%
Young Israel	11	4%
Bais Abraham	11	4%
Mizzou Hillel	10	4%
AJC St. Louis	10	4%
Hadassah	8	3%
Shaare Emeth	8	3%
Kol Rinah	7	3%
JSU	6	2%
Chabad On Campus	5	2%
JCRC	5	2%
STL Friends of Israel	4	1%
Traditional Congregation	4	1%
Maryville Hillel	2	1%
STL Rabbinical Association	2	1%
Temple Israel	2	1%
JFed Community Development	1	<1%

Denomination

Independent organizations, defined as not affiliated with a particular synagogue or denomination, held the most Israel Education events. Among the affiliated synagogues, the Orthodox community held far more Israel Education programs than did Conservative or Reform congregations as displayed in Table 3.

Table 3. Number of Events by Denomination

Denomination	Number of Events	Percent
Independent	186	64%
Orthodox	81	28%
Conservative	12	4%
Reform	10	3%

Program Type

Staff categorized the type of program as either: advocacy, class, club, discussion, curriculum, film, holiday event, social/cultural, speaker, or other (see Table 4).

Speaker programs were held by no less than 18 organizations plus the Sh'ma series collaborative. This category included public lectures, scholar in residence programs at synagogues, and presentations to school students. Many (n=36) were open to and targeting the general community while others were more directed to congregation members (n=26), K-12 students (n=5), or university students (n=16). A few (n=2) were aimed at specific audiences (rabbis and Millstone Fellows).

More than two thirds of the advocacy events were held by WashU Hillel (n=38) and included WIPAC and J Street activities. The rest were sponsored by AJC (n=8), JCRC (n=1), JSU (n=1), NHBZ (n=3), St. Louis Friends of Israel (n=1), YKHS (n=1), and Young Israel (n=2). Young Israel participated in a synagogue delegation to the AIPAC policy conference. AJC's activity centered on direct lobbying of legislators. Most other advocacy activity outside of WashU Hillel was related to BDS.

Social and cultural events that offered an opportunity for learning about Israel were included in this analysis. Half of these were university events aimed at students (n=21). Several were programs or events that offered opportunities for Israelis in St. Louis to come together with their families (n=8). Programs aimed at the general public were mainly focused on arts, such as the Gesher music festival, or on family opportunities to engage with Israelis, such as Bais Abraham Congregation's Purim party to bring together St. Louis Israelis and Americans.

Holiday programs mainly centered on Israel related holidays of Lag B'Omer, Yom Hazikaron, Tu Bishvat, Yom Yisrael, and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Most were targeted toward children, teens, or families (n=29). The film events were mostly accounted for by the Jewish Film Festival featuring movies set in and about Israel.

Of the 18 entries classified as classes, eleven of them were multiple session format. For example, Shaare Emeth, in conjunction with JCRC and Kol Rinah, held an eight session iEngage class series on the significance of Israel for Jewish life. The remaining seven were one-time study or learning sessions.

Table 4. Events by Program Type

Program Type	Number of Events	Percent
Speaker	85	31%
Advocacy	55	20%
Social/Cultural	42	15%
Holiday	35	13%
Film	19	7%
Class	18	6%
Discussion	12	4%
Other	8	3%
Club	2	1%
Curriculum	1	<1%

Target Audience Age

Staff categorized the target audience by age group as displayed in Table 5. Children were considered from pre-K-grade 8; teens in high school; and young adult in college or immediate post college. Most programming is aimed at adults or young adults in the community. Most of the programs aimed at

children were organized by day schools with a few through the JCC camp programs (n=2) and a few through a congregation (n=4). Teen programs were held by the day schools and by JSU. Many of the young adult programs were held by Washington University Hillel or Mizzou Hillel.

Table 5. Age of Target Audience

Target Age	Number of Events	Percent
Adults	124	45%
Young Adult	90	32%
Families	24	9%
Teens	17	6%
Children, Teens	11	4%
Children	10	4%
Young Adult, Adult	2	1%

Attendance

Attendance numbers were not gathered as part of the survey, but staff estimated attendance for the reported events. Most community events are not large-scale programs and attended by fewer than 150 people. The largest events were school based and brought together several high schools for a program or were conducted by numerous day schools and also were open to the community. The other large events were community wide events, such as the Walk for Israel. Other highly attended programs included a few lectures or films that attracted a large number of people. Most programs though reached a much smaller audience.

The Sh'ma Listen series brings in speakers on various topics. In 2018 there were 18 speakers on topics related to Israel. According to the Director of the Center for Jewish Learning who oversees the program, Sh'ma lecture events tend to have 60-70 participants on average but those topics related to Israel tend to be smaller. She also noted that there is more duplicated attendance; that is that people who attend one lecture on the topic tend to go to more than one.

Travel to Israel

According to the 2014 St. Louis Jewish Community Study, 45% of young adults ages 18-34 had traveled to Israel, compared to 32% of those ages 35-49, and 31% of those 50-64. Only those aged 65 and older exceeded the young adult cohort in terms of travel to Israel at 52%.

Federation's Israel Center provides support to the community for Israel travel both with information and scholarship opportunities. The Center also tracks most community based travel programs. Table 6 shows information obtained from the Israel Center and individual organizational responses to the survey inquiry. These trips are of varying lengths and occur from twice a year for programs including Washington University's (WashU) Birthright trips to once every two years as with some of the Jewish Federation's and congregational trips. Teens and young adults also experience Israel through a variety of Birthright and youth group affiliated programs.

Table 6. Travel to Israel

Organization	Program	Number of Participants	Length of Trip
EHA	Eighth grade trip	10	15 days
JFed/JCCA	JWRP Women’s Mission to Israel with Nishmah	14	10 days
JCCA	Family Trip to Israel	--	--
JFed	Legislative Missions	14	9 days
Kol Rinah	Congregational trip to Israel	15	13 days
Shaare Emeth	Congregational trip for teens	--	--
WashU Hillel	Birthright trip to Israel for University students	--	--
WashU Hillel	Campus Leaders Israel Experience (for non-Jewish students)	--	--
Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School	Eighth grade trip	15	15 days
B’nai Amoona	Family trip	26	10 days
JFed	Israel Bound Youth Trip	33	19 days
JFed	Rubin Israel Experience	10	10 days
JFed	Community Mission	52	9 days
JFed	Interfaith Mission	16	9 days

-- indicates missing information

Masa Israel Journey and Birthright Israel are two programs that offer opportunities for Americans in their 20s to experience Israel. The Masa program focuses on longer-term experiences including internships, service learning, or Jewish studies programs. In 2018-2019 program year, St. Louis had 17 young people participating in the program. Birthright Israel provides free trips to Israel with a goal of strengthening Jewish identity and connection to Israel. The program reports 360 participants in 2018 from St. Louis, which includes some college age students with St. Louis addresses. While the Israel Center is not made aware of all people who go to Israel, they tracked 135 St. Louis teens and young adults going to Israel in 2018 through these and other programs. The Israel Center also provides scholarships as described in Table 7.

Table 7. Israel Travel Scholarships

Scholarship Name	Target Population	Description
Need Based Scholarships	Teens in high school or doing a gap year.	\$20,000 available annually in scholarship amounts of \$250-2,000.
Travel Grants	Teens-27 years old	\$750 for short trips; \$1000 for semester length trips; \$1500 for year long trips
Merit Based Grants	Teens	\$1250 available to 4 teens per year.
Gershenson Fund	Special Needs Teen	\$7,000 per year divided among applicants. Usually serves about 3 people per year.

ShinShinim/B'not Sherut Programs

The Shinshinim and B'not Sherut programs provide considerable Israel education programming primarily to youth, but also to adults. As young Israeli cultural ambassadors, the Shinshinim's goal is to educate people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture. The St. Louis community has 2 full time Shinshinim paired with 4 congregations. They provide hundreds of programs throughout the year through these congregations as well as for the general community. Evaluation of the first year of programming show that the Shinshinim are well received and increase Israel Education opportunities in many way across the community. A survey of 9-12th grade students who had interacted with one of the Shinshinim showed that because of their experience of meeting and learning from a Shinshinim, 87% have a desire to travel to Israel, 82% know more about Israel than they did before, and 82% feel that Israel is an important part of their Jewish identity. The B'not Sherut program brings four Israeli girls to the St. Louis community as part of their national service. They teach at Jewish day schools and provide programming services in several synagogue communities with a goal of strengthening ties to Israel among the St. Louis Jewish community. Evaluation data from this program also show high levels of satisfaction with the program and note that students speak more about Israel and feel more connected to Israel after their interactions with the B'not. Student data show them knowing more specific information about Israel innovations and inventions and their impact on the world, about specific Israelis and their contributions, and more about the geography, songs, and culture of Israel.

Discussion

Several trends emerge when looking at the totality of this data. A few organizations sponsor the majority of the Israel Education focused events in the community and those events tend to have low attendance. Highly attended events are few and tend to be either community-wide celebrations or targeted to youth attending day schools. Orthodox congregations provide far more Israel Education programming than do Conservative and Reform congregations. Further, most educational opportunities are one-time events rather than ongoing, more immersive or deep learning opportunities. Anecdotally, we know that most in the adult category who attend Israel education programming are empty nesters and older adults.

There are several gaps to note in this summary and analysis. Organizations were asked to self-report with few instructions. It is likely that some organizations included some types of programming (like advocacy) while others did not. We also did not receive data from 16 organizations, many of which we know provide some Israel Education programming. Evaluations of the Shinshinim and B'not Sherut programs were available for inclusion in this needs assessment, but other Israel education events and programs did not provide evaluation data and we do not believe such data exists for most of these programs or events. This review did not examine or include the potential impact of articles in the St. Louis Jewish Light around Israel but this is a recognized source of informal Israel education.

Issues for Consideration

Nationally, about 35% of Jewish kids between the ages of five and 18 receive any formal Jewish education. According to the 2014 community study, about 58% of St. Louis youth in Jewish households ages 5-17 receive some kind of Jewish education. While they are not always able to keep facts straight, research has shown that children as young as 5 and 6 are able to form a multilayered conception of Israel (Zakai, 2015). They can be taught, and understand, that Israel is both a Jewish state for the diaspora and for the people who live there and that it is a dangerous place while at the same time a safe haven for Jews. This paradox of Israel is a subject matter that cannot be ignored when we talk about

how our community should approach Israel education. Younger Jews not sharing the same commitment to Israel as previous generations (which was a finding of the 2013 Pew Research Center survey), the realities of BDS activism on college campuses, and Jewish millennials challenging messages about Palestinian/Israeli relations (an example is the recent activism around the viewpoints presented on Birthright trips) point toward needing a new approach, or perhaps a combination of approaches, with these age groups. Traditionally, children were taught to have an unconditional love for Israel and to question Israel's handling of Palestinian people later, if at all. It may be time for us to reassess as a community how we teach children and teens about Israel.

According to *GenZ Now, Understanding and Connecting with Jewish Teens Today* report which will be fully released in June 2019, involvement in a youth serving organization, such as BBYO or USY, results in greater affinity toward Israel (The Jewish Education Project, 2019). Review of the full report might indicate if this is true regardless of the amount or type of programming focused on Israel. It is not clear from this analysis how much Israel related programming is conducted by our local teen engagement programs. This might be an area for further exploration.

The Shinshinim and B'not Sherut programs provide considerable Israel education opportunities to those who are already engaged in the Jewish community through religious day schools or school enrichment programs and to those connected with a synagogue where the young ambassadors are paired. Consideration might be given to how the success of these programs can be leveraged to reach less engaged community members and those involved through other institutions in addition to where they are already.

Regarding adult education, consideration should be given to the range of offerings we have as a community, the level of information being provided, and the interests of the potential learners. There is opportunity to build on what we are already doing. For example, it is clear from this assessment that the highest turnout Israel education related events are large community celebrations. How can we infuse deeper Israel education into those events since that is what people already gravitate toward? As another example, our Jewish Film Festival has a heavy emphasis on Israel-related topics. Could classes be built around these that provide a higher level or heavier dose of education in addition to what is learned from the film screening and accompanying speaker? Same for lecture series events—is there a way to connect one-time speakers with ongoing dialogue and learning opportunities?

We see travel to Israel as a key component to strengthen individual and community Jewish identity and to essential to the maintenance of Israel as a Jewish and democratic State. According to the 2014 community study, travel to Israel has increased with 43% of 2014 respondents saying they had travelled to Israel as compared with 35% in 1995. As a community, there are offerings across age groups from teens to young adults to adults and for specific affinity groups (i.e. interfaith, women, etc.). Most of these opportunities offered by community organizations are subsidized to encourage participation and lower the barrier the cost of such travel presents for many families. Additional input from community stakeholders would be helpful to determine if we have the “right” opportunities in both type, length, cost, and target audience to meet the needs of our community.

Conclusion and Planning Recommendations

From this survey and analysis, we start to see where some gaps and opportunities may lie. What this analysis does not make clear, though, is where the interests of the community are for expanding Israel education opportunities. We see little opportunity for in-depth ongoing adult education around Israel. We also see that one-time educational programs are primarily reaching an older audience indicating opportunity for more younger and mid-age adult programming or outreach. We also can see the strengths of the Shinishinim and B'not Sherut programs. These should all be considered as we move forward with plans to strengthen Israel education in our community. Based on this analysis, the following recommendations are made:

- Promote and support more in-depth, ongoing adult learning opportunities related to Israel
- Promote and support reaching a “younger” adult audience with Israel education programming, particularly to target ages 30-60
- Build on the success of the Shinshinim and B'not Sherut programs
- Consider assessing the interests of the community related to Israel education and engagement opportunities

Resources

The iCenter for Israel Education: <https://www.theicenter.org/>

The Israel Forever Foundation: <https://israelforever.org/>

My Jewish Learning: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/study/israel/>

Center for Israel Education: <https://israeled.org/>

iEngage Project of the Shalom Hartman Institute:
https://hartman.org.il/Programs_Landing_Page.asp?Cat_Id=295

The Jewish Education Project: <https://www.jewishedproject.org/our-work/israel-education>

Programs Around the Country

Teaching and Learning about Israel—an initiative in New York to provide public and private school teachers assistance with developing curriculum for a balanced presentation on Israel.

<https://www.jewishfedny.org/israel/teaching-learning-israel/>

IDEAL--Center for Israel Education's online learning program aimed at reaching teens and adults who are not connected with other opportunities to learn about Israel. <https://israeled.org/ideal/>

References

Pew Research Center (2013). A Portrait of Jewish Americans, retrieved at <http://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2013/10/jewish-american-full-report-for-web.pdf>.

Sivan Zakai (2015) "Israel Is Meant for Me": Kindergarteners' Conceptions of Israel, *Journal of Jewish Education*, 81:1, 4-34, DOI: [10.1080/15244113.2015.1007019](https://doi.org/10.1080/15244113.2015.1007019)

The Jewish Education Project (2019) "Largest Study of Jewish Teens Previewed at Jewish Funders Network" retrieved at: https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/largest-study-of-jewish-teens-previewed-at-jewish-funders-network/?utm_source=March+19%2C+2019&utm_campaign=Tue+March+19&utm_medium=email.

Appendix A. Organizations Providing No Response to Survey

No Response
Aish Hatorah
American Jewish Committee
B'nai Amoona
Central Reform Congregation
Chabad
Chabad on Campus
Neve Shalom
Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community Day School
St. Louis Kollel
Temple Emanuel
Torah Prep School
U City Shul
Young Israel
BBYO
USY
NIFTY

Appendix B. Programs and Events by Type

Advocacy/Lobbying

JCRC

Hillel at Washington University

St. Louis Friends of Israel

BDS Programs

JCRC – Program with David Winton GROMJF Consultant

ADL – Word to Action (With Hillel at Washington University, Mizzou Hillel, CRC and Temple Emanuel)

JSU

St. Louis Friends of Israel – What is BDS and What its Proponents Want to Achieve – Pulman, (With Nusach Hari and also at B'nai Amoona) (Sponsored by Shma Listen.

JCC (With ADL)

Yeshivat Kadimah

United Hebrew

Nusach Hari

Sh'ma Listen – Zev ben Shachar- The BDS Movement. What's Wrong in the Battle for Rights? (With JSU Israel Week Seminar).

Sh'ma Listen – Pulman – BDS 101:What is BDS

Brodsky Library – Zev ben Shachar – The BDS Movement. What is Wrong in the Battle for Rights? (Workshop with JSU)

Yom Hazikaron/YomHaatzmaut

Tzofim

JSU Beneath the Helmet (a film) (With NCSY).

Torah Mitzion Kollel

JCC – convener of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut for the Community

Crown Center (Activities with Banot Buddies from Nishmah) (Celebration with students from

Congregation B'nai Amoona) (Israeli Cooking Demonstration with United Hebrew) (Travelogue with Aish Hatorah)

Epstein Hebrew Academy

Yeshivat Kadimah

United Hebrew

Nusach Hari

Bais Abraham

Mizzou Hillel

Walk for Israel 2018

JCC – Host and Convener of Yom Haatzmaut

Torah Mitzion Kollel

St. Louis Friends of Israel

JSU

Epstein Hebrew Academy

Yeshivat Kadimah

United Hebrew

Temple Israel

Nusach Hari

Traditional Congregation
Shaare Emeth
Bais Abraham
Chabad on Campus
Kol Rinah

Yachad

JCC
Torah Mitzion Kollel
Epstein Hebrew Academy
Yeshivat Kadimah

Yom Yerushalayim

JSU
Torah Mitzion Kollel
Missouri Torah Institute
Nusach Hari
Bais Abraham

Film Programs

St. Louis Friends of Israel - Mizrahi Film Project (With Nusach Hari and Christians United for Israel)
JCC – Multiple Israel related films included in the annual Jewish Film Festival
Tzofim – film about Jerusalem
Torah Mitzion Kollel – Rock in the Red Zone (With Bais Abraham and JCC)
Temple Israel Film Series (In part with JCRC)
Nusach Hari – In Our Hands, the Battle for Jerusalem
Nusach Hari – Mizrahi Project (With Christians United for Israel)

Exhibition

Sh'ma Listen - Humans of Tel Aviv –Exhibit and Artist Presentation

Lectures

St. Louis Friends of Israel - Bassam Eid (With United Hebrew and Sh'ma Listen)
Hadassah (as part of the national conference held in St. Louis)
Torah Mitzion Kollel – Lecture on Rav Kook
JCC – Imakadima Women's Program Director
JCRC – Dr. Yehuda Kurzer (With Brodsky Library)
JCRC – African Refugees in Israel
St. Louis Rabbinical Association – Israel, Politics and America by Dr. Yehuda Kurzer
JCC/Nishmah – Can Conversations About Israel Include Empathy? (With ADL)
JSU – Israel Week Seminar led by Zev Ben Shachar
JSU – Israel Week Seminar - Spinning through Israel by Zev Ben Shachar (With Washington University Students for Israel and Hillel at Washington University)
JSU – Israel Week Seminar - Stand Up for Israel and Shushi Making (With Center for Jewish Learning, Youth Professional's Council, B'nai Amoona, CRC, Kol Rinah, Shaare Emeth, Temple Emanuel, United Hebrew, BBYO and NCSY).
JSU- Israel week Seminar – Understanding the Palestinian narrative History (With Yeshivat Kadima).
JSU – Israel Week Seminar – Zev ben Shachar- The Six Day War (With NCSY and Bnei Akiva).

JSU – Israel Week Seminar – Zev ben Shachar - “Ashamnu, Bagadnu” The Way We Talk About the Jewish State (With Kol Rinah)

JSU – Israel Week Seminar – Zev ben Shachar – Jerusalem – United for 50 Years? (With Young Israel)

JSU – Israel Week Seminar – Zev ben Shachar – Jerusalem Where Are We After 50 Years? (With Holocaust Museum).

United Hebrew – Rabbi Rosenberg Six Day War

Temple Israel - Israel @70 by Dr. Levi Cohen (With the Rabbinical Association and Chabad on Campus)

Temple Israel - History of Zionism a Panel Discussion (With Hillel at Washington University and Chabad on Campus)

Temple Israel – Arab/Israeli Conflict

Nusach Hari – 50th Anniversary of Jerusalem’s Reunification (With Aish Hatorah)

Nusach Hari – 50 Years After the Six Day War (with Christian Friends of Israeli Communities)

Nusach Hari – A Look Ahead at the US-Israel Relationship (With AIPAC)

Nusach Hari – Fighting Anti-Semitism and Defending Israel, Can there be Peace? (Rabbi Michael Rovinsky)

Nusach Hari – Israeli Startups (Guy Weizman, CEO of Atomation)

Nusach Hari - Orwellian Lies About Jerusalem, Settlements and Occupation by Mort Klein (With ZOA)

Nusach Hari – Anti Israel Slant in the Media by Bob Cohn

Traditional Congregation – Israeli Economy by Ari Zoldan

Traditional Congregation – Jews, Palestinians and Israel by Prof. Chaim Gans

Shaare Emeth – Two State Solution by Jeremy Ben Ami (with J Street and the Center for Jewish Learning)

Shaare Emeth – Progressive Judaism in Israel by Rabbi Michal KenTor (Sponsored by Federation)

Shaare Emeth – Israel & Values by Yehuda Kurtzer (Sponsored by Federation)

Shaare Emeth – Progressive Values in Israel by Rabbi Anat Hoffman (With Israel Religious Action Center)

Bais Abraham – From Gedaliah to Rabin by Yael Treger (Community Shlichah)

Chabad on Campus – Arab Israeli Conflict by Dr. H. Strauss

Chabad on Campus – Israel’s Borders in International Law by Prof. E. Kontorovitch

Chabad on Campus – Schmoozing Chefs Preparing and Eating Food Celebrating Israel

Hillel at Maryville – Ehud Barak

Mizzou Hillel- Israel /History of Jerusalem by Zeev Ben Shachar (With JSU and Chabad at Mizzou) (Part of Israel Week Seminar)

Hillel at Washington University – Start Up Connections Event

Hillel at Washington University – Jerusalem – A Capital Dilemma

Hillel at Washington University – Not Your Youth Group’s Israel

Hillel at Washington University - The Dead Sea by photographer Noam Bedein

Center for Jewish Learning – The Iran Deal Decertification – What happens Next? By Dennis Ross

Center for Jewish Learning – Israel & Peoplehood by Rabbi Eli Kaunfer (with Millstone Institute).

Center for Jewish Learning – Beyond Values and Identity: What Being a Jew Can Mean Today by Rabbi Eli Kaunfer

Center for Jewish Learning – Towards a Vision of a Jewish State by Rosenstein

Kol Rinah – Steve Simon - US Israel Alliance (With JCRC).

Sh’ma Listen Series - Noga Brenner-Samia – Reclaiming Zionism for the 21st Century: Building the Character of the Jewish Nation as a Pluralist, Just and Democratic Israel

Sh’ma Listen Series – Weil - The 50th Anniversary of the Event that changed the Jewish destiny: An Analysis of the Six Day War.

Sh’ma Listen – Gans – Jews, Palestinians and Israel: Three Historiographies, Three Moralities and Three Roadmaps.

Sh'ma Listen – Brooks – The Yom Kippur war: A Battalion Physician's Experience of a War That Shaped Israel and the Middle East.

Sh'ma Listen –Miroshnikov – Becoming Israeli... My Personal Journey

Sh'ma Listen – Shapiro - Judaism and Israel some Halachic and Historical Perspectives

Sh'ma Listen – Shapiro – Rav Kook and the Modern Return to the Land of Israel

Sh'ma Listen – Ken Stein – Forty Years after the 1978 Camp David Accords: Why Egyptian-Israeli Negotiations Worked then but Palestinian-Israel Talks Remain Remote Today

Sh'ma Listen – David Makovsky – Israel in 2018: Perched Between Peril and Promise

National Conferences

JSU – AIPAC

Maryville Hillel – AJC Leadership Training Conference for Understanding Israel

Hillel at Washington University – AIPAC

Hillel at Washington University – J Street

Yitzchak Rabin Commemoration

Tzofim

JCC (With Bais Abraham)

Classes

JCRC – Holy Women Holy Land

JSU Israel Week Seminar (With Multiple Co-Sponsors), Teen Galia and Milton Movitz Senator John Danforth Israel Scholars Program, Adult Galia and Milton Movitz Senator John Danforth Israel Scholars Program, Israel Series at JSU Clubs,

JCC – Woven into Camp Sabra, Day Camp and Early Childhood curriculum

Esther Miller Bais Yaakov – Woven into the school curriculum

Epstein Hebrew Academy ongoing classes with B'not Sherut

United Hebrew - D'var Israel (Yuval Cohen the congregational Shinshin)

Shaare Emeth – iEngage Class Israel @ 70 – Values with Rabbi Jim Bennett

Shaare Emeth iEngage Class Israel Engagement with Rabbi Jonah Zinn

Shaare Emeth - Multiple education programs with Gal Roberman (Shinshinit)

Chabad on Campus – Your Israel - the Land and the Spirit with Tali Rothstein

Sh'ma Listen – Andrew Rehfeld – Zionism, History, Politics and the Modern State of Israel

Tu B'Shvat

Torah Mitzion Kollel

Chabad on Campus – Green Shabbat

Kol Rinah – Jeremy Bernstein – Israeli Environmental Issues

Lag B'Omer

Kol Rinah – Bonfire with Israeli songs

Bais Abraham – Bonfire and Celebration (With Torah Mitzion Kollel, Bnei Akiva).

Support for IDF

Missouri Torah Institute- Annual event to honor the soldiers of the IDF

Nusach Hari – Lecture on The IDF and My Special Forces Training

Traditional Congregation – Program for Shaving Israel

Yeshivat Kadimah – Israeli Soldiers from Stand With Us, The Palestinian Narrative (With Shma Listen Series)

Hillel at Washington University – Program with Israeli soldiers from Stand With Us

Israel Bonds

Traditional Congregation –Annual Bonds Dinner

Programs for Israelis in St. Louis

Tzofim- ongoing programming for Israeli scouts at which students write letters of appreciation and send Mishloach Manot

JCC – Shabbat Dinner for Israelis in St. Louis, Purim Baking Program for St. Louis Israelis, International Women’s Day Program for Israeli and American women, Picnic and hiking event for Israelis in St. Louis, Lag B’Omer for Israelis in St, Louis, Baking for Shavuot for Israelis, Shabbat Dinner For Israelis in St. Louis, Purim Baking/Party for Israelis in St. Louis, Wine Tasting for Israelis living in St. Louis

Bais Abraham – Shelanu Hebrew School (Hebrew language school for children with at least one Israeli parent)

Bais Abraham – Israeli Purim Megillah Reading (With Torah MiTzion Kollel)

Israeli Staff

Shinshinim – Shaare Emeth, United Hebrew, Kol Rinah, B’nai Amoona

Kollel MiTzion/Sherut Leumi - Saul Mirowitz Community Day School, Epstein Hebrew Academy.

Yeshivat Kadimah, Bais Abraham Congregation, Young Israel Congregation, Bnei Akiva

JCC/Bais Abraham Community Shaliach serving the local Israeli population

Chabad on Campus – Israel Fellow

College Credits

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures - minor or major in Hebrew, with courses that include Introduction to Jewish Civilization, Israeli Culture and Society, Israeli Politics, Israeli Women Writers, Jerusalem, the Holy City, and The Middle East in Modern Times. The Department supports full year, semester and summer programs at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa.

Washington University in St. Louis, Olin Business School offers the Israel Summer Business Academy, a collaboration between Olin and the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya in Israel which was launched in 2014. The Academy is designed for students of all faiths, beliefs and academic backgrounds who want to learn about Israeli business first-hand and immerse themselves in the country’s entrepreneurial environment. Participating students graduate with a MSF (Master of Science in Finance) degree from Washington University and a certificate in innovation and entrepreneurship from IDC Herzliya.