SELECTED COMMENTS FROM 2015 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

...a life-changing experience... the trip reignited [my] passion by stimulating, challenging and presenting options with access to thinkers, dreamers and believers of every perspective. Each day brought on a different dimension of thought, feeling and discussion... a unique experience that touched me deeply...

Dalia Margalit-Faircloth, Director, Association of Jewish Family and Children’s Agencies of Canada

...the amazing trip you inspired ...was about as transformative an event as one could imagine... immersed in the milieu, fabulous and frightening at the same time, that is Israel today... served to wake something long dormant in us...

Peter Tollman, Senior Partner, Boston Consulting Group, Boston

...we barely had time to brush our teeth between activities. We met with politicians, philosophers, military leaders, businessmen, educators, artists, authors, historians and film makers, Jewish and Muslim, Christian and Palestinian. CEOs of multi-billion dollar companies, entrepreneurs who represent cutting edge technologies in Israel and abroad. The only constant was that we were constantly surprised...

Gene Teeger, Architect and Visual Arts Teacher, Leo Baeck Day School, Toronto

...we gained a much deeper appreciation for the complexity of Israel... and the challenges ahead... young enough to still dream, experienced enough to separate dreams from reality... we found everyone informed, open and engaging. It was a privilege for us to go...

Adam Shepherd, Executive Vice-President, The Kilmer Group, Toronto

...a critical and timely look at Israeli society, culture, politics and economics... a trip that crammed 10 days’ worth of insightful content into half that time... a treat not only for the head, but for the heart as well...

David Seligman, CEO, Worldwide Capital, Johannesburg

...an amazing experience, from start to finish... a month jam packed into 5 days...We visited many sites to get a first hand look and what is going on the ground, which really put some of the issues we were looking at into perspective – not the typical tourist sites, but rather aspects of Israel on a different level than many of us would never get a chance to visit on our own – the settlements, Ramallah, Rawabi, the Golan, and much more. I hadn’t visited Israel in 12 years, and in my everyday life I am not involved with Israel, so for me it was a transformative trip...an adult camp type experience - very intense, very wonderful, an opportunity to make meaningful new friendships. Unforgettable!

Dr. Linda M Kaplan, MD, Internal Medicine Specialist and Assistant Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine

...we were afforded privileged access to high profile speakers that reflect the gamut of current Israeli (and Palestinian) political, social and economic thinking... in this very special, insightful and informative experience...

Harris Blass, Chief Operating Officer, Mobilium Global

..the program exposed us to Israeli issues that we had never before had the opportunity to engage with on a meaningful level... and our West Bank visit was a total eye opener... All in all, an experience that has appreciably raised our level of understanding of Israeli issues and certainly not to be missed...

Theodore Yach, Head of Acquisitions, Zenprop Property Holdings

Sponsoring organizations—in formation:

HABONIM DROR
AMENIU
TIDJAN
JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL
MAKOM
POLITICS, PEACE AND SECURITY

- Meet Yuval Diskin (former Head of the Shin Bet) on Israeli politics and security
- Tour of West Bank, including:
  - Rawabi with Bashar al-Masri (Palestinian YPO Chair)
  - Ramallah with Dr. Nabil Shaath (head, Palestinian Foreign Relations)
- Tour of the Separation Barrier with Colonel (Res.) Ron Shatzberg (key negotiator on future borders for Israel/Palestine), including meeting with Dani Dayan (former Chair, Yesha Council of West Bank Settlements)
- Meet Likud Cabinet Minister Danny Danon (Israel's incoming UN Ambassador) at Knesset
- In-depth briefing on Syria and ISIS with Col. (Res.) Miri Eisen (former advisor on peace negotiations to PM Olmert and Special Envoy Tony Blair)

LAW, RELIGION AND SOCIETY

- Discussions with Natan Sharansky (Chair, Jewish Agency), Professor Gidi Shimoni and Rabbi Yehoshua Engelman
- Study session at Alma College with Ruth Calderon (former MK, Yesh Atid, and founder of Israel’s first secular Beit Midrash)
- Meeting at the Supreme Court with President Asher Grunis, former Chief Justice of Israel
- Tour of Kinneret Cemetery with leading historian and philosopher Muki Tzur
- Session on social justice with activists Didi Mymin (African Refugee Development Center) and Leora Kessel (Hachatzer Hanashit)

BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Business Leaders Roundtable, including senior partners/officers from FIMI, Teva, Our Crowd, Gliilot Capital, Vintage, Henry Schein
- Session on Innovation - Profiles of Cutting Edge Companies by CEOs of Futuragene and Realview Imaging

ARTS AND CULTURE

- Dinner with Leading Israeli author Etgar Keret
- Museum on the Seam with Rachael Korazim using poetry to examine Jew and Arab in Israeli society
- Tel Aviv Architecture and Identity Tour
- Dinner with Yossi Klein Halevi (author Like Dreamers, Senior Fellow Hartman Institute)
- Leading filmmakers dialogue at TAU Film School, moderated by award winning filmmaker Steven Silver, including Rama Burshstein(“Filling the Void”), Phillippa Kowarsky (founder, Cinephil), Mor Loushy (director, “Censored Voices”), Sigal Yehuda (managing director, Greenhouse), Abeer Zeibak Haddad (director of DUMA)