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Visions of Israel for the Future

The main focus of our icnext Israel Mission, June 2017, was to explore what it means to be Zionist in the modern day, to provide an update at the seventieth year since Israel's establishment, and to consider our

What will Israel look like in 70 years?



We have asked this question of all our speakers on this trip, and the question has elicited many different responses. Everyone we have interviewed has had a very different outlook for the future of the Jewish state. However, a point of agreement is that Israel must retain its Majority Jewish population to succeed as a Jewish state. Up until tonight we were tasked with understanding this and why it is so important to remain a Jewish state. Tonight we were asked to express our vision of this concept in the form of abstract art.

Our group was shown works of art by Hanoch Piven depicting famous figures made from household goods to spark our thinking. Then we were asked to create our own vision for Israel in the next 70 years using art supplies. We were not given a lot of guidelines so we were free to express our ideas how we wished. Many works were produced but the best were those of Amnon Ophir, at first meant to be funny but I saw there was some deeper meaning. I told the group that I think Amnon is a piece of the pie that will contribute to the success of Israel. I say this because he is educating teenagers such as myself to think in a way that will benefit the success of Israel in the next 70 years. I think American teens have so much influence around the world

Welcome to ic.news – pages written by, for, and about Cleveland's Jewish teens!

In the section titled "ic.news" israel.cleveland.next (icnext) participants reflect on their 10-day Mission to Israel in June, 2017, and comment on current issues of interest. They are creating an ongoing source of news about the community, Jewish teens and Israel, inspired by knowledge gained from the icnext program. They will talk about Jewish identity, changing political, social, and

hopes for Israel's next seventy years. All of our speakers, tours, and activities focused on at least one of these topics. Personally, when I first opened our Sourcebook, I was skeptical of the relevance of a number of items on our itinerary. While many of these (the tasting tour, host Shabbat and visit to the De Karina chocolate factory to name a few) looked like a lot of fun, I doubted that they would expand and enhance my understanding of Israel. I was very

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cultural perspectives of Jews and Israelis, the realities of the Israeli conflict, and more. There will be photos that document their 10-day Israel Mission, and those that document current events, whether in Jewish Cleveland or Israel. icnext is a two-year program that educates Cleveland's Jewish high school students from all denominations in core issues of Israeli society and the geopolitical situation in Israel today. icnext is a project of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, administered through @akiva.

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pleasantly surprised. I now have a better appreciation for the diversity of Israel's population and the complexity of Israeli identities, have forged meaningful relationships with people who have given me new ideas and philosophies, and have expanded my perspective on Israel and the meaning and principles of modern Zionism.

We have had discussions with professors, toured the holy sites of multiple religions, visited the borders of

icnext, contact Tina Keller at tkeller@akiva-cleveland.org.

In "more.teen.news" @akiva presents different teen programs in the community. From preparing students for the challenges on their future college campus, to learning Hebrew and how to advocate for Israel; from theater (testimony.theater.cleveland) to music (HaZamir Cleveland), there are so many opportunities for our teens to form a special community. Most importantly, @akiva fosters an incredibly strong connection to Israel, and trains teens to be Jewish leaders.

Israel, and lived amongst the residents of Cleveland's sister city, Beit Shean. And while I can understand the complaints that we never went to the beach or didn't have enough time to go shopping, I wouldn't have had it any other way - there was never a moment in this trip when I wasn't learning something new.

Ethan Geis (Israel, 2017)

more.teen.news

Thursday, May 17, the @akiva community hosted a farewell reception for the 2017-2018 Shinshinim: Yuval Ganot, Elrom Kalo, Ron Lev Or, Noam Shalev and Shaked Shachar.

"I was able to get to know the shinshinim on a personal level and I can call each of them my friend. I was lucky enough to host Ron and spend time with all 5 of them when they came to my house. They are the most hard-working, kind-hearted individuals I've ever met."

Shai Paz



area around the landfill is going to be transformed into a 2000 acre park named Ariel Sharon Park. This park was fought for by many Israelis as this is the last green space left in Tel Aviv. I believe this project allows a great communal space for the residents of the area. This park is the future of Tel Aviv and shows the Zionist drive of the Jewish people to solve problems and not let anyone stand in their way.

David Mack (Israel, 2017)

A Dream of Peace

During the last day of our trip we walked as a group of individuals from Yad VaShem- the holocaust museum- up to Har Hertzal, the resting place for many of those who made it possible to have the Jewish state of Israel today. We each in our own time made our way up to stand by the grave of Theodor Hertzal. We were able to walk from a time where Jews were persecuted and lost, to the place where those who made a homeland a reality lay to rest.

Hertzal had a dream that one day there would be a Jewish state and for the last 10 days we had the honor of experiencing that dream. It was fun, it was beautiful, it was intellectual, it was Israel. Israel as a nation has had an amazing 70 years and I wish the next 70 years will be filled with more growth, innovation and most of all peace.

We met with many speakers and people who gave me



so much hope that the dream is possible. They gave me hope that in 70 years Israel will be a country of co-existence and peace. We talked about other narratives, not just the Jewish narrative we knew. We learned about the perspective of other religions and the true meaning of the land to not just us, but to other people as well. Peace is my hope for Israel's next 70 years. Going to Israel helps you connect to your own religion, and yet allows you see a space that is special to people from all different walks of life.

Hertzal said מה דברתם, "If you will it, it is no dream". If we work for peace, if we work to create the place we want to see, it is no fairy tale. It is no dream. It can be a reality. Theodore Hertzal's dream lead to a Jewish Homeland that exceeds any standards and expectations. Sitting next to the grave of the man with this sort of dream I can't help but think that my dream can be a reality as well.

Noa Marcus (Israel 2017, Editor-in-Chief)



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From Israel advocacy, leadership training and college prep for Jewish students to HaZamir Cleveland Choir and original Jewish theatre, @akiva offers Hebrew and so much more! @akiva is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and a partner agency of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

For more info visit www.akivacleveland.org.



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