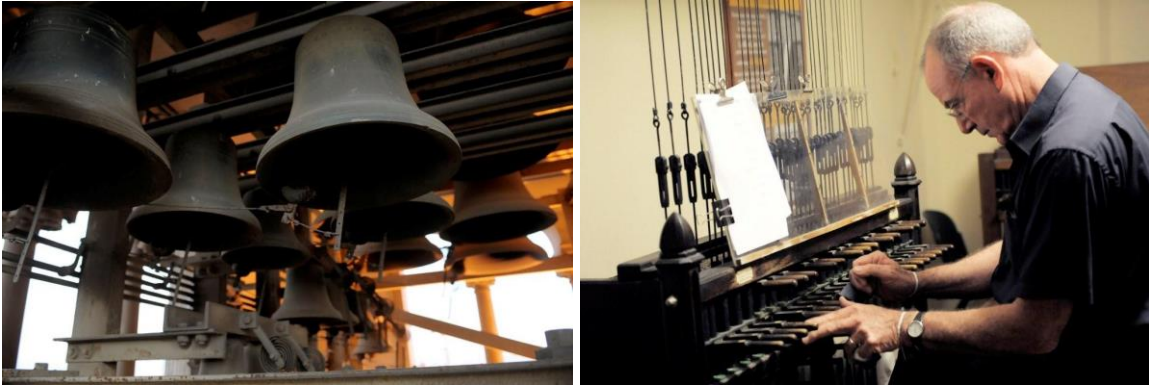


SPR 47th Annual Meeting
Jerusalem, Israel - June 22-25, 2016
Newsletter - May 2016
See you next month!

Dear All,

The Jerusalem conference is right around the corner and we could not be more excited. After a rich day of pre-conference workshops, the conference will officially begin on Wednesday evening, June 22nd, at 17:30. We will gather on the patio at the entrance of the YMCA to hear our very own Gaby Shefler play the tower bells 45 meters above us.



We will then all enter the YMCA's historic auditorium for the opening ceremony, presidential address and awards ceremony. Afterwards we will go outside into the gorgeous Jerusalem summer night for the welcome reception (food and drinks ☺). In the meantime, we members of the local host committee are putting the final touches on what we hope will be a conference to remember.

As you make your final preparations, we wanted to provide you with both practical information and some additional travel/touring suggestions.

Practicalities.....

Don't forget to **check whether or not you need a visa to visit Israel**. If you need an official letter of invite or any other documentation from us to obtain a visa, please contact Gary directly at gdiamond@bgu.ac.il.

Also, if you have any problems, get lost, or need help for any other reason, please feel free to call Gary on his cell phone upon arriving in Israel. He should be available most hours of the day and night. From an international phone, dial +972-52-579-3090. From a local Israeli phone, dial 052-579-3090.

The **weather** in Israel in June is as follows:

Jerusalem – approximately 22-30 C (72-86 F) during the day (in the shade). In short, hot and dry. A hat and sun screen to protect you from the sun is a good idea. During the evening, the temperatures will drop to about 16-24 C (60-75 F). The evenings can be cool so don't forget to bring a sweater or jacket.

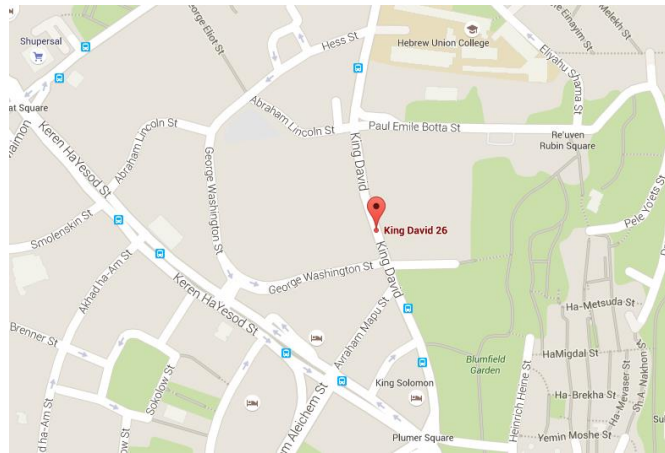
Tel Aviv – the temperature during the day is typically a few degrees warmer than in Jerusalem. It can also be quite humid in Tel Aviv in June.

In the **North and South of Israel**, temperatures can be much warmer and average 35-37 C (91-95 F) during the day. There is no chance of rain anywhere in Israel in June.

Don't forget to go the registration website and **register for the pre-conference workshops** of your choice. The number of participants for each workshop is limited so the sooner you sign-up, the more likely it is that you will receive your first choice.

This year, **the banquet** will take place on the lawn and patio of the YMCA (the conference venue). The setting is beautiful. We will be having a Bedouin Haflah (festive meal) with traditional live Arabic-Israeli music during the meal and late evening dancing after the meal. We were able to keep the cost of this year's banquet reasonable (\$55.00), so don't forget to purchase your ticket in advance (also on the conference website).

Map of the location of the YMCA Venue



Click [here](#) for extended map of venue location

Transportation from the airport

Getting from Ben-Gurion Airport to Jerusalem

Shared Taxi (Sherut)

A shared taxi is often the best option. These taxis leave the airport once there are enough passengers going to Jerusalem to fill up the vehicle. It brings you to your hotel.

Although a shared taxi costs somewhat more than the bus (the fare is approximately \$17), the advantage is it will take you directly to your hotel. The down side is that while it can take only 40 minutes to get from the airport to Jerusalem, you might spend another 40 minutes in the van, circling around the city until the taxi has dropped off all its passengers. Shared taxis operate from outside the airport. You can also book them online but it is not necessary. The most well-known company is "Nesher" and can be found right as you exit the airport doors.

Public Bus

At Ben Gurion Airport take a shuttle from your terminal to the Ben Gurion Airport El Al Junction. Egged bus 947 leaves the junction approximately every 20 minutes for the Jerusalem Central Bus Station, starting at 6:17 a.m. through 22:22. Fare is 21.50 shekels (about \$5.50). Going to Jerusalem takes about 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Private Taxi

You can hail a taxi at the official taxi stand outside the arrival hall, or call a cab company. If you have lots of luggage, or more than four people in your party, ask for a large vehicle. By law, a regular taxi can only take four passengers. Average cost to/from Jerusalem can range between 250-300 shekels (\$65.00 - \$80.00), perhaps a bit more if you have more than two passengers or lots of luggage or come late at night. If the cab driver quotes a much higher figure, though, negotiate him down, or try a different cab. Please, only take officially sanctioned/authorized cabs!

Jerusalem hours – the Jewish Sabbath

More so than many other cities in Israel, Jerusalem tends to “close down” for the Jewish Sabbath. That means that from later afternoon Friday through sunset on Saturday, there is no public transportation and most restaurants and stores are closed. In terms of lunch on Saturday, the restaurant at the YMCA will be offering a nice buffet (\$20.00) for anybody interested. Also, they will be offering sandwiches and other light fare for those who want to just “grab” something. There are also a number of restaurants that are open. They are options for both Friday night dinner and for lunch on Saturday. You can check out their menus, prices, location and reviews on-line. These restaurants include: Mantra, Chakra, Mona, Sea Dolphin, Rova 5, Barood, Adom, The Culinary Workshop – Hasadna, Zuni Menza, Satia, Fucaccia, Link, and Rina & Alice.

Travel and fun....

As far as touring/visiting the Jerusalem, don't miss the many varied and exciting neighborhoods the city has to offer.

The **Old City** of Jerusalem is one of the most intense places on Earth! At the heart of the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian religions, this walled one kilometer area in the center of Jerusalem is beyond words and cannot be missed. The Old City is home to the Western Wall, the last remaining wall of what was the Jewish Temple mount and today is the holiest site for Jews. Above the Western Wall lies the Dome of the Rock, a sacred site for Muslims and where the prophet Muhammad is said to have risen to heaven. Just a few minutes walk away lies the Church of the Sepulcher, where some believe Jesus was crucified and buried. Plan to spend at least half a day walking through the four quarters (Christian, Muslim, Armenian and Jewish) of the Old City. Walking tours are highly recommended (see conference website under the “accommodation and travel tab” for more information.



Nachlaot is one of Jerusalem's most interesting areas. A cluster of neighborhoods in the center of the city, Nachlaot is characterized by its narrow, windy lanes, quaint, stone houses, and pretty, hidden-away courtyards, and was originally built in the 1870's by Jews looking to escape the increasingly crowded and noisy Old City. In recent years, Nachlaot has grown to become one of Jerusalem's most popular neighborhoods having been hugely gentrified over the past thirty or so years, and taking an hour or two to stroll through the streets, you can understand why.



The **Machane Yehuda Market**, or shuk, is the largest market in Jerusalem with over 250 vendors selling everything from fruit and vegetables to specialty foods, and clothing to Judaica. It is a maze and myriad of sights, sounds, and smells, an intense sensory experience and memorable life experience! Just a ten minute walk from the center of Jerusalem, the market is a fascinating place to stroll whether you are interested just in observing the magnificent sculpted displays of spices, mouthwatering array of foods, and stunning energy of the place, or if you want to get involved in real-market buying, negotiating and tasting! There are also some excellent restaurants in the market itself and on the streets immediately surrounding the market.



Emek Refaim Street is the heart of **Jerusalem's German Colony** the city's most fashionable neighborhood, just a few minutes from the heart of downtown modern and ancient Jerusalem. Emek Refaim Street is probably the trendiest street in the whole of Jerusalem – an oasis of modern and almost Tel Aviv-esque culture among conservative Jerusalem. The street is lined with fashionable boutiques and cafes, and there is even a cinema in the back in one of the restaurants just off the street. A great place to visit, to stroll through the streets, to stop in the cafes and have a coffee, and experience life here.

Yemin Moshe is a beautiful neighborhood of Jerusalem constructed of quaint stone buildings and built in the 1890's by Moses Montefiore in response to overcrowding within the walls of the Old City. The first set of houses were known as Mishkenot Shaananim, which were the first Jewish properties to be built outside the Old City. The neighborhood was expanded dramatically, and its landmark, the Montefiore Windmill was built with the intention of being a source of income for the residents. Today, the neighborhoods quaint alleyways are a popular place to stroll and explore.



Also, if you can, plan to take at least a day to visit **Tel Aviv and Jaffa**.

Tel Aviv has become one of the hottest travel destinations on the planet, with rave reviews from travel magazines, TV pundits, and good old-fashioned word of mouth. “Best for Style,” “Best Urban Beaches,” “Best Gay Destination,” “Best Foodie Scene,” and “Best Nightlife”—these are just a few of the accolades heaped on the city. The lively, creative spirit of the people of Tel Aviv, mixed with miles of easy-going beaches and Mediterranean surf, make this a city with real personality. Tel Aviv

has no holy sites. What it does have is oyster bars, nightclubs, and samba sessions on the beach on summer evenings.



Jaffa, located on the Southern edge of Tel Aviv, has lots of great things to see and do. Since its restoration, it has become a popular tourist attraction. The flea market is a key site, and the sites, sounds, and smells of the small alleyways and streets which make up this city are lined with artists galleries and studios, as well as boutique and craft shops. Jaffa also has some unique and interesting restaurants. The Jaffa Port has transformed into a unique destination, still used by fishermen, yet hosting a great array of cafes and restaurants, as well as the Jaffa Port Market. The views from here across to modern Tel Aviv, especially at sunset are incredible. Meanwhile, the gardens next to the sea are picturesque.



See you soon!!!!,

Gary, Hadas, Gaby, Orya, Dana, Sigal, Sharon & Yona