



On behalf of the Union of Reform Judaism, of which our congregation is a part, and Root One, an ambitious initiative seeded by a generous gift from the Marcus Foundation and powered by the Jewish Education Project, it is my pleasure to present you with this voucher for \$3250 toward a URJ high school summer trip to Israel.

I would like to share with you this blessing from our community as you consider this journey that we hope you will take in the coming years (choose one reading/song to share):

OPTION 1

May you find that your heart is in the east;
And watch Torah come to life before your eyes.
May you savor the beauty of the land, and sea, and desert blooming;
And appreciate the multitude of voices that make this country unique, and complicated, and holy.
May you witness how the ancient and modern intermingle;
And join in songs of happiness and joy on streets of Jerusalem.
May the One who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebekkah, Rachel, and Leah, bless you and guide you with wisdom and love to the land of our people, to the land of Israel.

- Poem by Michelle Shapiro Abraham

OPTION 2

In joy and celebration may you travel to the land of Israel. May God bless your travel and grant you insight and a spirit of cooperation. May your time in Medinat Yisrael – the State of Israel – inspire you with the memory and example of our ancestors and their deeds. Matriarchs and patriarchs, prophets and priests, judges and kings, heroes and heroines, sages and scholars, visionaries and founders, soldiers and politicians: may your travels imbue you with a zeal for the well-being of our spiritual homeland and all its people. May you return from the Land of Israel having taken to heart the words of the prophet: For Torah shall go forth from Zion, and the word of Adonai from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3)

- Adapted from [Birkon Artzi: Blessings and Meditations for Travelers to Israel edited by Rabb Serge Lippe, CCAR Press 2012](#) (page 62)

OPTION 3

The song we are about to sing to you was written and composed by Debbie Friedman. L'chi lach mean "go forth" and are the words that God spoke to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-2 when sending them on a journey to the land of Israel. Like Abraham and Sarah, we ask God to bless you and guide you as you look forward to this trip in the years to come.

L'chi lach, to a land that I will show you
Lech l'cha, to a place you do not know
L'chi lach, on your journey I will bless you
And (you shall be a blessing)3x *L'chi lach*

L'chi lach, and I shall make your name great
Lech l'cha, and all shall praise your name
L'chi lach, to the place that I will show you
(*L'sim-chat cha-yim*)3x *L'chi lach*