

RAMIM –

RAMIM, Hebrew word for “The Heights”, as in reaching for the heights, being the best that we can be

Become part of an extraordinary global platform that connects and partners professionals in the Greater Rochester area and Modi’in, Israel, Rochester’s Partnership city in Israel. Share ideas, strengths, challenges and models of success; empowering BOTH communities. Built into the program will be opportunities for personal, professional and spiritual growth. This project will go far beyond the personal level – but will also impact both communities.

OVERVIEW

The first year is divided into two sessions:

- Your first five months includes an intensive study of Jewish identity. Studies will take place in a local or regional venue, between four and six class sessions. The study period will include seminars, interactive discussions with top scholars and the opportunity to learn more about the history and current state of Judaism.
- You will be matched with a young Israeli professional according to your background and profession in order to create a solid foundation for discourse and professional development.
- On completion of the first five month period, you will travel with other professionals from the Rochester area to our partner city of Modi’in, Israel. This will give you the opportunity to meet and be hosted by your professional partner in Israel as well as explore your roots and learn about worldwide Jewish culture.
- Your second five months will include the study of the complexity and scope of the challenges facing the worldwide Jewish community, and how to meet those challenges head on seeing first-hand what can be accomplished by the Jewish people when our energy and resources are operating at full capacity.
- Upon completion of the second half of the RAMIM program, your Israeli partner will travel to Rochester, having an opportunity to get an insiders look at American Jewish culture, getting to know the Federation system and the challenges facing United States Jewry.

What do the program participants receive?

- The unique opportunity to tour, learn, and discover Israel with professionals from the Greater Rochester area and Modi’in, Israel

- Opportunity to play a prominent role in building relations both here in Rochester and Modi'in through community and leadership programs, brainstorming on new approaches to common problems.
- You will help establish a people to people partnership to help initiate, strengthen and expand individual and organizational connections.
- Ensure Jewish continuity in the modern age considering the possibilities of how to make Judaism more accessible to young American Jews and Israeli Jews as well.
- Study with top scholars about the history and present state of Judaism including religious practice, ethnicity, politics, and culture.
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**RAMIM Curriculum:
Course Schedule – Period One:**

Introduction: A Kaleidoscope of Jewish Identities
October 2010
Speaker:
Venue: TBD

Description:

Jewish identity does not depend on whether or not a person is regarded as a Jew by others, or by an external set of religious, or legal, or sociological norms. Jewish identity can be cultural in nature. Jewish identity can involve ties to the Jewish community. Study will be focused on the background of Judaism, Jewish Life in Pre-Modern Times and The Jewish World in the Early Modern Period.

The Modern Jewish Revolution
November 2010
Speaker:
Venue: TBD

Description:

The modern Jewish revolution embodies some telling differences. Jewish leaders of the past emphasized a common agenda and personal giving. Leaders of the new revolution frequently reject both. Study will be focused on how the Jews in the earlier period sought to combine traditional Jewish organizational practices and communal values, along with a 19th-century emphasis on American progressivism and how the new wave, by contrast, reflects the themes and values of 21st century globalism and the individualistic impulses associated with Generation-Yers.

Jewishness as Political Commitment

December 2010

Speaker:

Venue: TBD

Description:

Study will be focused on the interplay of ethnicity, politics and culture, and Jewish political behavior in America with specific references to both radicalism and liberalism. You will gain an appreciation of both the history and culture of political Jewry as well as Soviet Jewish culture and how it pertains to the present day.

Jewishness as Culture

January 2010

Speaker:

Venue: TBD

Description:

If learning is the heart of Judaism, culture is its soul. Study will be focused on art, music, literature, and language and how they play important parts of the way Jewish thought is transmitted from teachers to students and from one generation to the next. Further discussion will be on cultural expressions, such as humor and food that help make up the crux of Jewish life.

The Holocaust in Jewish Consciousness

February 2010

Speaker:

Venue: TBD

Description:

The Holocaust has moved from striking marginality in the first postwar years, when it figured very little in Jewish discourse, to striking centrality in recent decades, when it has become omnipresent. How did this European event come to loom so large in American consciousness?

The Israelis: Socio Demographic Profile
Joint Study with Israeli RAMIM Participants in Israel
February 2010
Speaker:
Venue: TBD

Description:

The presentation of some comparative quantitative data in itself is no simple task. Most discussions about the current state or the future of the Jewish people have been limited to general observations, or extrapolations or interpolations from very limited data sets. Study will be focused on the current state of the Israeli family and the “Americanization” of Israeli culture.

RAMIM Curriculum:
Course Schedule – Period Two:

Ethnicity and Immigration: The Early Years
March 2010
Speaker:
Venue: TBD

Description:

The Jewish community in the United States is composed predominantly of [Ashkenazi Jews](#) who emigrated from [Central](#) and [Eastern Europe](#). Large scale Jewish immigration, however, did not commence until the nineteenth century, when, by mid-century, many secular [Ashkenazi Jews from Germany](#) arrived in the United States. Study will be focused on American Jews during the late 19th and early 20th centuries who abandoned a racial definition of Jewishness in favor of one that embraced ethnicity.

The “Ethnic Democracy” Debate
April 2010
Speaker:
Venue: TBD

Description:

Growing awareness of tensions between Jewish and democratic elements in Israel's regime abounds in the scholarship of Israeli society of the last two decades. These tensions have accompanied the Zionist movement and its idea of a Jewish state from the very beginning. Study will be focused on the possible and actual relationships between the Jewish and the democratic strands in the identity of Israel

Religiosity and Politics

May 2010

Speaker:

Venue: TBD

Description:

There have been many theories of secularization and of religious individualization. Classic conceptions of religiosity used in political studies accounts for an individual's sense of belonging and his/her personal religious beliefs. Study will be focused on religiosity and test its impact on political attitudes as well as religious individuals who "believe without belonging." and non-religious individuals who believe without belonging.

The "New Jew"

Joint Study with Israeli RAMIM Participants in Rochester

June 2010

Speaker:

Venue: TBD

Description:

"New Jews," as some call them: pockets of post-baby boomers or more accurately Generation X and Millennial (Gen Y) Jews are making Judaism and its culture work for them and others in a time when, more than ever, affiliation is a choice. Study will focus on the challenges facing American Jews as a minority and maintaining Jewish identity.

Cost of RAMIM Membership:

The total amount being invested by the Jewish Federation in each RAMIM participant is \$2,100, which includes round-trip transportation from Rochester to Israel, programming, entertainment, transportation, taxes, gratuities and most meals. Participation cost to each participant is \$700.