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To: Past Participants, The Jewish Museum Travel Program  
From: Aryeh Maidenbaum  
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Dear Friends ,

I trust and hope you are well. For me, it has been a busy Fall and Winter – one filled with with far too much snow up here in the Hudson Valley but with enjoyable trips to such countries as Greece, Portugal and Cuba in between.

The reason I am writing to you today is to let you know about a special, newly scheduled trip to Cuba this coming May. Limited to 23 participants, Jewish Museum members will be invited to join a JTS visit to Cuba this coming May 12-19, 2009. This is a trip that has not been previously scheduled, yet one that if you have already been to Cuba with us before might consider taking again, and/or letting friends or family know it will be taking place. I personally will be leading this trip to Cuba - a destination I consider the most moving and fascinating of Museum offerings- and accompanying me as co-leader and scholar, will be Enrique Levy.

Enrique is a Sephardic Jew, born in Cuba of Turkish parents. A successful and highly respected businessman who lives and works in New Jersey, he was born in a sugar-mill town in the countryside of Camaguey province. Enrique was educated in Cuba and enrolled in the University of Havana where he studied until the University closed its doors because of the political situation and unrest. He has served as scholar to previous Jewish Museum travel programs to Cuba, and is intensely interested in Sephardic and Cuban history and culture. His presence is a unique gift it is to have him accompany us on this journey.

Participants will be traveling under an approved U.S. Treasury Department license (application pending approval of our travelers). The cost of this week long trip is \$3960 and will include airfare from and to Miami, six nights in Havana, in addition to an overnight visit to the outlying communities of Santa Clara and Cienfuegos, excellent accommodations, most meals and ground transportation within Cuba. For additional information about the itinerary and schedule, and/or other trips planned for 2009 and 2010 (including Croatia, India and Greece) please call our office at 845-256-0194 and either Jo Fisher, my assistant, or I will be happy to be of help. With warmest regards.....