

Rabbi's Message, April 2018

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU SO MUCH to all of you for coming to Mazal's Bat Mitzvah. Your presence meant the world to us. Thank you also to those who could not be present, but supported our daughter through their kind words and gestures on this special journey. My family and I could not have had a more joyous celebration and this special occasion's spirituality was illuminated by your shining faces.

Our next joyous event on the calendar is Yom HaAtzmaut...

With the birth of the State of Israel came four Israeli national holidays: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day, which honors those who perished defending their country), Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day, which recalls the creation of Israel on May 14th, 1948), and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day).

Yom HaAtzmaut, which marks a major milestone in our history, is celebrated one day after the commemoration of Yom HaZikaron.

It involves publicly kindling a large torch on Mount Herzl, where the tomb of Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, is located.

At home and in synagogues, people honor Israel as our people's haven by hosting a Yom HaAtzmaut Seder.

This April, we will be marking the 70th anniversary of the creation of Israel.

In honor of this very special occasion, the Israeli government has been preparing a whole array of 70-hour-long festivities geared towards Jewish families of all generations living both in Israel and throughout the Diaspora. The main theme running through the event will be "Heritage of Innovation", showing Israel as a wonderful "Start-Up Nation".

Some of the highlights will be "a 70 km. party that will rave across the country from Tiberias to Eilat and a Parade of Lights (...) illustrating Israel's success and innovation."

If you're not planning to fly to Israel for the festivities, don't worry, Temple Sinai has an exclusive event for you to attend! On Friday, April 20th, following Shabbat/Yom HaAtzmaut services at 7:30 p.m. we will enjoy a presentation by Dr. Avi Santo, Director of the Institute for the Humanities at ODU, entitled "Between Judaism and Zionism: 70 years of negotiating Israeli identity through cinema." Look out for more information in this bulletin and plan to join us!

Chag Sameach!

Rabbi Severine Sokol

