

KESHER

A JEWISH NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



YOM HA'ATZMA-UT ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

The celebration of Israel's "birthday" (*Yom Ha'atzma-ut*) is important to share with young children to help build Jewish connections and identity. *Yom Ha'atzma-ut*, literally translated as "day of independence," marks the establishment of the state of Israel. It is celebrated on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of *Iyar*, corresponding to the date when Israel's Declaration of Independence was signed in Tel Aviv, May 14, 1948. This year, our community will celebrate *Yom Ha'atzma-ut* on the evening of April 19th through the day of April 20th.

Yom Ha'atzma-ut is preceded by *Yom Hazikaron*, Israel's national Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers. *Yom Ha'atzma-ut* begins the minute *Yom Hazikaron* ends, a transition that emphasizes the lasting tie between the sacrifice of the country's fallen soldiers and the continued existence of a vibrant and dynamic State of Israel.

For Jews around the world, *Yom Ha'atzma-ut* has become a concrete link in the Jewish connection to the people and land of Israel. For American Jews, it has become a way to express solidarity with the state of Israel and to strengthen their alliance with it.

A wonderful way to celebrate *Yom Ha'atzma-ut* with young children is at the community-wide celebration on Monday, April 19, 2010. See page 2 for additional information.



YOM HA'ATZMA-UT BOOKSHELF

And Shira Imagined

(Giora Carmi, JPS, 1988)

A little girl travels around Israel with her family. An oldie, but goodie!

It's Israel's Birthday!

(Ellen Dietrick, Kar-Ben, 2008)

A preschool class takes an imaginary trip to Israel. A delightful introduction to Israel.

Let's Visit Israel!

(Judy Groner, Kar-Ben, 2004)

A simple board book that introduces some of Israel's major sites to young children.

My Cousin Tamar Lives in Israel

(Michelle Shapiro Abraham, URJ Press, 2007)

A young boy compares and contrasts how he celebrates the Jewish holidays in America to how his cousin celebrates in Israel.

ISRAEL... OUR JEWISH HOME

Israel gives the Jewish people so much...

- ☆ a sense of pride
- ☆ a connection to our history
- ☆ a gathering place for all Jews
- ☆ a place to feel holy and close to God

While the concept of "country" is very difficult for young children to grasp, the concept of "home" is not. Israel is our Jewish home. We want children to love Israel, even if they don't yet understand just how far away it is.



Prepared by the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
with the help of the community's Early Childhood Jewish Family Educators.





YOM HA'ATZMA-UT ON THE WEB

For background and additional resources, check out:

www.myjewishlearning.com
(search for *Yom Ha'atzmaut*)

www.israelemb.org/kids

www.urj.org/holidays
(search for *Yom Ha'atzmaut*)



RECIPE CORNER

Israeli Salad

Israeli salad is widely considered the national dish of Israel.



Ingredients:
1 large cucumber, peeled
1 large tomato
1 T chopped dill
1 T chopped parsley
2 T virgin olive oil
2 T lemon juice

- Wash & dice vegetables
- Transfer vegetables into a large bowl and toss
- Add dill, parsley & olive oil and toss
- Just before serving, add lemon juice and toss
- Serve with pita bread or pita chips

Enjoy!!

YOM HA'ATZMA-UT COMMUNITY HAPPENING

Community-Wide Celebration ISRAEL: *SABABA*!*

(*cool, great awesome)

Monday, April 19, 2010

6:35 p.m.- *Yom Ha'atzma-ut* Celebration

B'nai Jeshurun Congregation
27501 Fairmount Boulevard, Pepper Pike



This annual, free, family-friendly community event is hosted by the Jewish Community Federation and the Cleveland Jewish News, with the support of local synagogues, schools, agencies, organizations and other community sponsors.

Activities include:

An Israeli marketplace, magic show, Dance *Israeli!* Dance Company, a balloon twister, a Tel Aviv mural, face painting, Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band, The Animal Guy, strolling entertainment, film shorts, arts and crafts, and a "walkable" Israel map. There will also be a food court featuring kosher Israeli food for purchase. Lots of great activities for families with young children!



DID YOU KNOW?

The flag of Israel is based on the *tallit*, the Jewish prayer shawl, one of the most recognizable symbols of the Jewish people. In discussing a design for the flag, the early Zionists came to the realization that the Jewish People had a flag all along - the *tallit* - and there was thus no need to design a one from scratch. In the center of the flag is the *Magen David*, or "Shield of [King] David," better known in English as the "Star of David" or "Jewish Star," another recognizable Jewish symbol.

