

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



Rabbi Avi Berman Executive Director, OU Israel

Israel's Independence Day features a unique phenomenon in which we move the date of celebration depending on what day of the week the 5th of Iyar falls out on. In the United States, Independence Day is always celebrated on the 4th of July and in Canada it is always celebrated on July 1. To me, the way the State of Israel moves the day of celebration is one of the most beautiful aspects of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

There is a Halachic question regarding moving the day. If 5 Iyar is the day that marks our independence, perhaps we should only recite Hallel and allow music on that day. Yet, we know that in order to avoid Chilul Shabbat (desecration of Shabbat), the Israeli Rabbanite along with the country's leadership decided that Yom Ha'atzmaut would not be celebrated on days bookending the Shabbat.

Based on this, one might think that moving the day of celebration is bedieved, but I heard a beautiful idea from my Rav and the former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rav

Mordechai Eliyahu Zecher Tzadik U'Kadosh L'Vracha, explaining this phenomenon in a positive light. Rav Eliyahu began by saying that this is not the first time in halacha that the Poskim move a day of celebration based on the habits of the Jewish people. The Gemara in Massechet Megila discusses that the day of reading the Megila can fall out up to two days before or 2 days after Purim depending on when the Jews living in small cities travelled to larger cities to hear the Megila.

Rav Eliyahu then continued and shared something which I found eye opening and beautiful. Moving Yom Ha'atzmaut to eliminate Chilul Shabbat is not bedieved. The fact that the Jewish State takes mitzvah observance into account shows just how great and important it is that we have the State of Israel.

This idea is why OU Israel davka celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut in a public venue, the Tachana Rishona (Yerushlayim's First Station), and I want to utilize this opportunity to thank Mayor Moshe Leon

We are saddened by the passing
of my dear husband

Dennis Paull z"l

דניאל בן נחמן ז"ל

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Bilha Gordon and family



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and Deputy Mayor Arie King (who holds the Israel Heritage Portfolio) for partnering with us on our outdoor Tefila BaTachana from the beginning. Together we found a very busy, outdoor venue in Yerushalayim where we could increase the *Pirsumei Nisa* of our celebration. Davening together with Rabbi Shlomo Katz and thousands of OU Israel friends at the First Station enables passersbyers to join the Hallel v'Hodaya.

Two years ago, we had nearly 3,000 people singing and dancing with Rabbi Shlomo Katz. Unfortunately, last year due to Covid-19 we were unable to meet in person and instead streamed the Tefila from the previous year. It is with tremendous Hakarat Hatov that by the time most of you are reading this we will have celebrated again in person. While we are still not back to "normal," it is truly a miracle that as Israel is hopefully emerging from Corona, we were able to convene 500 people to thank and praise Hashem for the miracle that is the State of Israel.

Celebrating this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut on Wednesday night/Thursday, davening and singing to Hashem in a public venue is

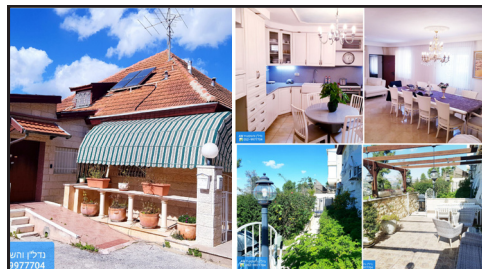
just a small symbol of our Hakarat HaTov to Hakadosh Baruch Hu for the incredible State of Israel which protects its inhabitants and enables us to keep so many mitzvot, from studying Torah, to keeping Shabbat and Kashrut and all the Mitzvot which have guided us since Matan Torah. While we are still actively waiting for the Beit HaMikdash, we feel we are on the right path. It is my prayer that this public celebration of HaKarat Hatov will be one more stone in the building of the Beit HaMikdash and that we will B'ezrat Hashem merit to dance and celebrate together in the Beit HaMikdash very soon.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach



Avi,

Executive Director, OU Israel



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Heartfelt condolences to the family of

Rivkah Epstein a"h

on her passing

She was never angry and we learned so
much from her

Her great love for Israel was an
inspiration to all and she was a holy
servant to Hashem

Chana Tova Sokol

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים