

טקס הדלקת משואות קהילתי ליום העצמאות - Torch lighting ceremony for Yom Ha'atzmaut

על הרעיון-

טקס קהילתי שבא לדמות את טקס הדלקת המשואות שמתקיים כל שנה בערב יום העצמאות בהר הרצל. המטרה היא לעשות משהו ייחודי ליום העצמאות, ללמד את הקהילה על הטקס והמסורת בארץ, להוקיר תודה לאותם אנשים בקהילה שתומכים ופועלים למען ישראל ולעורר השראה בקרב שאר האנשים בקהילה. בתקווה שהטקס יהפוך למסורת וכל שנה ייבחרו אנשים חדשים.

מה צריך לעשות?:

כמה חודשים מראש - תכנון הטקס כחלק מאירועי יום העצמאות, הקמת ועדה שתיקח חלק בבחירת מדליקי המשואות (יכול להיות גם חברי הצוות במשרד או הסופרוויזר), פירסום הרעיון, פנייה למנהיגי הקהילה (רבנים, מחנכים, מתנדבים) על מנת לבקש חוות דעת על מועמדים פוטנציאליים, בחירת המדליקים ופנייה אליהם, הזמנה לטקס, בניית המשואות (או כל דבר שיכול לדמות משואה, אני השתמשתי בנרות גדולים), כתיבת תסריט לטקס.

אימייל עם הסבר על הטקס (למנהיגים בקהילה) -

Shalom everyone,

Yom Ha'atzmaut- Israel Independence Day is getting closer... I shared the idea of the torch lighting ceremony with some of you already, and I want to give an additional explanation about it and start planning!

So what's the ceremony is all about?

In every Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel is having a torch lighting ceremony, take place in mount Hertzal, Jerusalem. It is the official ceremony that closes the events of the Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror and opens Israel's Independence Day celebrations. Ministers, Knesset members, the IDF chief of staff and other figures attend the ceremony. In the ceremony, 12 torches are lit by a dozen Israeli citizens representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The torch lighters are citizens who have significantly contributed to Israeli society in a specific area. Each one introduces himself by name, place of birth and profession and who or what he is honoring by lighting the torch. It's a great honor to be chosen to be one of the lighters.

For our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in Nashville we will have a ceremony in which we will honor 12 people from our community who: Have special connections with Israel or have made a contribution to life in Israel or have strengthened Jewish life in Nashville and Israel.

I would love to get your help and get recommendation for people from your congregation who deserve the honor. Age range is 18 and up and it can be Vanderbilt student / teacher/ parent/ senior/ volunteer/ family or whoever you think about.

The ceremony will take place on April 27th as part of the community celebration that day.

Please contact me with any question and I will follow up with you soon.

Thanks for your cooperation, Hadar

לאחר בחירת המועמדים יש ליצור איתם קשר ולבדוק האם הם מעוניינים להשתתף (אין מצב שלא :)). לשלוח להם הסבר על הטקס ולהגיד להם שנבחרו ושה מעמד מאוד מכובד...

תסריט לטקס-

Yom Ha'atzmaut- Israel 65 celebration in Nashville

***Welcome and introduction...

We have a full evening of entertainment and fun; we will open the evening with a special torch lighting ceremony then we'll see a video honoring Israel's 65th anniversary as an independent state created by our Community Relations Committee featuring members of our community. After the video, we'll enjoy a delicious dinner, and then our evening of entertainment; comedian Benji Lovit, and singer Dganit Daddo.

Every year in Israel Yom Ha'atzmaut begins with a torch lighting ceremony called:

(Tekes Hadlakat Masuot)

Tekes – ceremony Hadalakat – lighting Masuot - torches

This ceremony takes place on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. Twelve torches are lit by a dozen Israeli citizens representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The torch lighters are citizens who have significantly contributed to Israeli society in a specific area. It's a very emotionally moving ceremony and is the kickoff of a 24 hour celebration.

Let's watch a short video to understand what the ceremony is all about:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YU_5zAoAVuQ

Tonight we are starting a tradition for our Nashville Jewish community; we will honor 12 individuals or groups of individuals who have a special connection with Israel and who have also worked to strengthen the connections between our two communities. You'll hear each honoree say the same statement that is said by the torch lighters in Israel:

“Letif'eret Medinat Yisrael”

“To the glory of the State of Israel”

So let's begin!

1. Our First torch will be lit by **Andy Neuman, president of Get Connected**. Andy and Ann Neuman, and their two children, Naomi and Jonah, moved to Nashville in 1993. Andy is a community builder in many ways; he runs several construction companies; and is lighting the torch for his tireless work as President of the Get Connected Teen Israel Experience. Get Connected is in its 6th year and will have sent 143 Jewish High School students to Israel. As part of their trip students are hosted by teens in our Partnership2Gether Hadera-Eiron region, and upon returning from Israel these teens host Hadera students in their homes in Nashville.

Andy lights the torch on behalf of everyone who supports Get Connected and for his leadership of this important program.

2. Second torch- **Rachel Koch, Chair of the Jewish Federation's Partnership2Gether Committee.** Rachel Koch's involvement with Partnership2Gether program began in 2009 after she hosted a teacher from a visiting Educators Delegation from Hadera, Israel. Two years later Rachel, who is a religious school instructor at Congregation Micah, travelled to Israel for the first time as part of an Educator's Delegation. Since then her community involvement has grown; she is now the Chair of the Partnership2Gether Committee, is on the board of Get Connected and serves on Federation's Local/Global committee. She and her family never pass up the opportunity to open their home to visiting Israelis hosting on at least 12 different occasions over the last 4 years.
Rachel lights the torch on behalf of everyone who supports Partnership2Gether and for her leadership and contributions.
3. Third Torch- **Akiva Educators - Alina Spaulding - Head of School, Dganit Eldar – Teacher of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, and Daniella Pressner – Director of Jewish Studies.** Akiva is Nashville's K-6 Jewish community day school. Akiva is committed to Israel education by fostering a love of learning Hebrew beginning in Kindergarten with a commitment to teaching Ivrit B'Ivrit (Hebrew to Hebrew). Throughout their years at Akiva, students engage in classes having to do with the land of Israel, including its people and its history. Finally, Israel is very much alive in the school as students learn from Israeli teachers and often have Israeli peers. Each year, the 5th and 6th graders lead us in commemorating Yom Hazikaron and celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut. This year, these students explored Israel and the Arts and taught the school about Yaakov Agam, the artist, Miyumana, an Israeli dance troupe, and the Eurovision song contest. Students created art of their own and performed an original dance piece for the community.
The Akiva staff lights the torch on behalf of all who teach at Akiva and promote a strong educational and personal connection for all Akiva students and families.
4. Fourth torch- **Ellen Levitt, mother of Gideon an Oleh Hadash, a new immigrant.** Michael and Ellen Levitt have lived in Nashville for 30 years, and raised their three children here. Ellen is a past president of Federation, and currently chairs the Local/Global Committee which oversees the Young Adult Mission Trips, and the Community Shaliach Program. Her son, Gideon, participated in a MASA program after graduating from college as a biomedical engineer. As a part of this program, he worked as an intern for a biomedical company based in Tel Aviv. When his internship was completed, he got the opportunity to continue working for the company. He loved living in Israel, and decided to make Aliyah. He is just beginning his military service there. Ellen lights the torch on behalf of all parents whose children have made Aliyah to Israel.
5. Fifth torch- **Bobbie and Alex Limor, parents of an Israeli Defense Forces "Lone Soldier".** Bobbie Limor came to Nashville in 1970 with her husband, Alex. Bobbie has served in numerous leadership roles with the Federation, with Hadassah and the Akiva School. Bobbie has made 12 trips to Israel. Bobbie and Alex's life-long commitment to and passion for the state of Israel and its survival have served as the basis for raising their five sons as ardent Zionists. All of their sons went to the Akiva School, Jewish/Zionist

summer camps and spent summers in Israel. Four of their five sons spent a year, post high school, living and working in Israel and their youngest son, Avi, spent an additional three years in the IDF as a sniper. Avi remains an active reservist, returning to Israel yearly to serve miluim. His sniper unit was called to active duty during the last confrontation in Gaza. Avi will be returning to Israel after he completes his current hike of the Appalachian Trail, probably in September.

Bobbi and Alex light the torch on behalf of all parents whose children have served in the IDF.

6. Sixth torch- **Jan Liff Board Member of the Jewish Federation and the New Israel Fund.**

Jan was born and raised in Nashville and returned several years ago after studying public health in Jerusalem at Hebrew University Hadassah Medical Center Ein Karem. As a teenager she spent many summers on kibbutzim and in ulpanim. As an adult Jan participated in many Federation missions and New Israel Fund study tours. She has served on the board of the American Associates of Ben Gurion University and currently is on the International Council of the New Israel Fund. Jan has served on the Board of the Jewish Foundation, the Jewish Federation, and is currently an officer of the Federation. Jan has frequently opened her home to visiting Israeli delegations, and cares deeply about Israel and her people.

Jan lights the torch on behalf of all those who support overseas needs.

7. Seventh torch- **Andy May, President and Steve Hirsch, Campaign Chair, Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.**

Andy is a banker and a lifelong Nashville resident. He has been the Campaign chair in the past and currently serves as Federation President. He has been to Israel 4 times and was an Infantry officer in the United States Marines in Lebanon in 1983, serving in positions adjacent to Israeli positions until the IDF pulled back to the Litani River. Andy and his wife Nancy support Jewish life in Nashville, Israel and worldwide in spirit, leadership, and action.

Steve and his wife Ellen have lived in Nashville for 8 years. He has been involved with the Federation campaign for the past 3 years and is currently serving as the campaign chairman for 2013 and 2014. Steve is a member of the Federation Board of Directors. He will be going on both the Federation Mission trip to Minsk and Israel in July of this year and will be returning to Israel in November on the Community Mission.

Andy and Steve light the torch on behalf of all those who support the Jewish Federation in its mission to ensure a strong Jewish Community locally, in Israel, and worldwide.

8. Eighth torch- **Adam Leibowitz, Local Chair - American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).** Adam Leibowitz moved to Nashville 12 years ago with his wife Vanessa after meeting and marrying in Israel. Adam's involvement in the Jewish community includes serving on the Jewish Federation Board of Directors, he is active with the local chapter of AIPAC, engaged with the Consulate of Israel in Atlanta and he is a former Board Member of Get Connected and Congregation Sherith Israel. Adam had the privilege of briefly serving in the IDF during his time living in Israel. Prior to moving to Nashville he worked as a Legislative Assistant in the Washington, DC office of AIPAC. Adam and Vanessa are passionate about passing onto their children – Shayna, Daniel and Beny – the importance of Israel and the role it will play in their lives.

Adam lights the torch on behalf of all those who express their love of Israel through leadership and action.

9. Ninth torch- **Irwin Venick – Chair, Community Relations Committee of Jewish Federation.** Irwin and his wife Jeanne have lived in Nashville since 1971. He is an attorney who serves as the Chair of the Community Relations Committee, and as a Board member of the Jewish Federation. The CRC has a longstanding history of providing high quality Israel themed educational programs including the recent “Conversations About Israel and Community” which engaged hundreds of diverse voices and yielded five agreed upon goals for community conduct.

Irwin lights the torch on behalf of all those who educate and advocate for Israel both in the Jewish and general communities.

10. Tenth torch- **Jacob Grossman, President, Vanderbilt University Hillel.** Jacob is a junior at Vanderbilt University majoring in Political Science and Jewish Studies, and has been living in Nashville for the past three years and is the President of Vanderbilt Hillel and serves as a national student representative to AIPAC. In the past, he served as the President of Dores for Israel, Vanderbilt's pro-Israel political student organization, and has been working to train students at Vanderbilt to advocate for Israel and to show student leaders the value of Israel to the United States.

Jacob lights the torch on behalf of all Vanderbilt Hillel students who participate in Israel campus advocacy.

11. Eleventh torch- **Rabbi Saul Strosberg, Congregation Sherith Israel.**

Rabbi Strosberg has been living in Nashville with his wife, Daniella Pressner, since 2005, and serves as the Rabbi at Congregation Sherith Israel. Rabbi Saul enjoys working with the other Jewish organizations in town, and is constant and passionate supporter of Israel. He loves playing with his kids, Cole, Amalia, and Ravital, and the family loves to travel together, particularly to Israel, where they are headed this summer.

Rabbi Strosberg lights the torch on behalf of all the rabbis who serve in our community.

12. Twelfth torch- **Yaara Yemin, Yifat Crouvi and Keren Levi Rotem, Israeli born community members.** Yara, Yifat, and Keren represent the community of Israelis who are currently live in the Nashville Jewish Community. We honor them for their contributions of leadership, volunteering, supporting and to strengthening the connections between Israel and the Jewish community.

Yaara, Yifat, and Keren light the torch on behalf of all Israelis who live Nashville.

**a round of applause for all our honored torch lighters.

**The community video about Israel at 65.

**Thank you's

**Introduction of Benji Lovit/ Please welcome Benji Lovitt

**Introduction of Dganit Daddo/ Please welcome Dganit Daddo

Yom HaAtzmaut- Torches lighting ceremony outline

Ceremony opens with introduction and a 2 minutes video clip.

After that, we'll call you by your name and give a description about you. **While we are calling your name, please walk to the stage and stand next to your torch in order.**

After we are done giving your description, **light the torch and say** (I'll print it for you, don't worry!):

Letif'eret Medinat Yisrael (To the glory of the state of Israel)

Please keep standing next to your torch until ceremony ends (15 minutes).

All participants will pass the lighter and the microphone to the next person.

First torch- Andy Neuman.

Second torch- Rachel Koch.

Third Torch- Alina Spaulding , Dganit Eldar, Daniela Pressner.

Forth torch- Ellen Levitt.

Fifth torch- Bobbie and Alex Limor.

Sixth torch- Jan Liff.

Seventh torch- Andy May and Steve Hirsch.

Eighth torch- Adam Leibowitz.

Ninth torch- Irwin Venick

Tenth torch- Jacob Grossman.

Eleventh torch- Rabbi Saul Strosberg.

Twelfth torch- Yaara Yemin, Yifat Crouvi and Keren Levi Rotem

**Letif'eret Medinat
Yisrael (To the glory
of the state of
Israel)**