

TORAH THOUGHTS – ISRAEL AT 71!

This week is *Yom Ha'atzmaut* or Israel's Independence Day. I am thrilled that on Friday night we will celebrate with a festive dinner and a special guest. Shosh Mitzman of MAKOM communities in Israel will speak about this amazing program, supported by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). I ask that we, the MJC community, support MAKOM as well.

MAKOM is the largest national organization in Israel that brings together individuals and groups from all sectors of Israeli society to share knowledge, collaborate on initiatives, create dialogue amongst diverse populations and work together to strengthen their cities and towns. MAKOM represents over two hundred communities representing Young Educators, Ethiopians, Artists, Mountain Jews (Russian Immigrants) Druze, Haredi, and other religious, secular and pluralistic communities.

We will all learn more about MAKOM during dinner and services.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. MJC is joining the Monmouth County cluster for the Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday, June 2nd in NYC! Bus transportation provided – register at <https://www.mjcnj.com/form/IsraelDayParade2019>
2. On Sunday morning, over 700 rockets were launched at Israeli towns from terrorists in Gaza. The Israel Defense Forces responded by striking hundreds of military targets in Gaza. As of this writing, four Israelis died and about 150 were injured, and both sides agreed to a cease fire, brokered by Egypt. We will say a prayer for Israel's welfare on Friday evening.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Pont