

A Rabbinic Perspective *By Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom*

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Our Israeli Family Connection



In my *Kol Nidre* sermon, I spoke about our connection to Israel. What is it that makes us passionate about this small, Mediterranean country? Is it Israel's military prowess? Is it the economic miracle that is the Israeli economy? Is it the similarity to our western ideals of democracy, opportunity, and equality?

While these are all things that make us proud of Israel, they are all beside the point. What makes us passionate about Israel is that Israel is family.

Israel is us.

From the beginning of our people, through years of exile, to the Ingathering, symbolized by a wall mural at the Hebrew University that I saw when I was a junior year abroad student in 1964 and that I remember to this day, we are passionate about Israel because we know that as Jews we and our family will always have a place there. And all Jews are one family.

But for some of us Israel is not only symbolic or potential family. For some of us Israel is literally family because we have children and grandchildren, parents and siblings, nieces and nephews and cousins living there. The Israel Connection for these families is through these individual examples of the whole Jewish family.

I would like us to know more about our congregation's Israeli family. I invite you to send me the names and relationships of your family members in Israel. Tell me something about them. What they do for a living. Where they live. How long they have been in Israel. What impelled them to make *aliyah*.

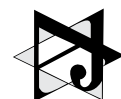
Periodically, I will write an article in the Newsletter about some of our families so that we have a sense of the family ties we have with *Eretz Yisrael*. So we will know that when we read about Israel in the newspaper, it is not just some abstract place with theoretical relatives, but a living reality of family that ties our congregation to the Holy Land.

Send your Israeli family information to me at AJ by mail or email. If by email, indicate "AJ Israeli Family" in the subject line and send it to me at rabbirosenbloom@adathjeshurun.info.

Help all of us know the intimate connection that exists between us and Israel so we can build a stronger set of links in the chain of peoplehood that binds us to each other.

Help us make of the slogan "We Are One" a living reality.

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