



Rabbi Weiner's May 2007 Bulletin Article

May 6, 2007 is the Annual Israel Day Parade, and I want you to participate.

Last July, I wrote to the congregation about the pride that I felt while marching with our synagogue's large delegation to the annual Israel Day Parade. Last year we filled 2 buses, by far the largest synagogue delegation among Bergen County synagogues. I truly believe that our participation in the Israel Day Parade and similar events are extremely important. By marching in large numbers we are making a statement about the value of Israel in our lives, and our expectation that others will understand the importance of Israel and her security American Jewry. By our participation in the parade, and joining with thousands of others who march or line each side of 5th Avenue, we similarly make a statement that our love and devotion to Israel does not conflict, or in any way run counter to the gratitude we feel for the privilege of being citizens and participating fully in the life of this great nation. Just as every significant ethnic or religious minority gathers once a year (think St. Patricks Day Parade, or the Puerto Rican Day Parade) to celebrate and show off their heritage and unique culture, we ought not deny ourselves that same pleasure. Lastly, when we gather in numbers large enough to attract the attention and respect of our leading public officials, the media, and the general public, we demonstrate that we are willing to take concrete action on behalf of Israel. In these challenging times, especially after the difficult summer that Israel experienced last year, this is an important role for us to assume. The stakes are high, and we cannot fail.

Each month when I consider my message for our bulletin, I often chose among a variety of issues which are timely and in my view important. This month I simply want to remind you that your participation in the Israel Day parade is particularly significant. As I said, I was so proud of our large contingent that marched last year. But this year I want to see even more of our members participate. There is no reason why the Jewish Community Center of Paramus should not be able to fill four buses. Last year we did very nicely. But this year we can do even better. And by doing better, we, and Israel, will be strengthened.

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As long as we are on the subject of Israel, later that evening the Jewish Community Center of Paramus, along with Congregation Beth Tefillah will host our annual Israel Bonds Dinner. Among the honorees is our own Jean Weiss,

who was a personal secretary to the great Israeli diplomat Abba Eban at the time of Israel's Independence. This event is another important way to demonstrate tangible support for Israel's future. As I explained to the congregation years ago, one of the most "watched" numbers is annual sales of Israel government bonds. With these sales, the financial markets, elected officials, and the larger community sees that American Jewry is willing to invest in Israel's future. Let us renew that support this year as well.



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