Declare the Independence of your God this Yom HaAtzmaut

((Adi)) Jared Essig <jared.essig@gmail.com> 25 de abril de 2023, 18:21

Para: sa—--@oregonjcc.org, info@keruvlevavot.org, info@israeliamerican.org, info@pdxhillel.org
CC: mjcc@oregonjcc.org, bw—@oregonjcc.org, be—@oregonjcc.org, Eliyahu W. <mohelpdx@gmail.com>

Hello Portland friends of Israel, Keruv Levavot organizers, and Oregon MJCC director S. Albert and colleagues,

Please print these out and distribute them at the celebration you are hosting tomorrow, 5 Iyar:

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_(Israel)
he.wikisource.org/wiki/מגילת העצמאות של מדינת ישראל

Also proposed that you include a bilingual public reading of this declaration in your program for the event, which activity would accord with your mission statement
www.keruvlevavot.org/about
3. Strengthening the connection of the various communities to Israel. To be
a source of Israeli knowledge for the diverse communities

The Jewish holiday practice is to center the observance on a public reading. Although not a "mitzvah" to observe Israeli independence day in this way, it could be done as a secular "good deed". In this way you will remember,
זכרו ראשנות מעלום

Since 2018, when I became involved in the Hebrew conversation group at the SW Portland JCC, I have distributed these, not only for discussion in our group, but also to the MJCC front desk. Suggesting that they be put on the community events/announcements//literature shelf, I've noticed in years past this has not been done, and that the event program does not include a reading of the text, despite purporting to commemorate its declaration. So I am requesting the IAC and Keruv Levavot to give an opinion. As I will not be at liberty to attend and perform this good deed as in years past, I ask that volunteers print and distribute copies of the text to all-comers so that we learn the history, and not merely celebrate it.

Other national holidays, such as the American independence day, are most often centered on entertainment, parades, fireworks (rockets red glare, bombs bursting in air), and other spectacles of conspicuous military bravado and consumerism, usually while failing to even recall their history or the sacrifices of their ancestors, let alone try learn from it. Rather than

imitate these nationalistic practices, Jewish and Israeli Americans have an opportunity to act as a "Light to the nation" in which they dwell or sojourn.

Therefore when the 4th of July comes upon us later this year, bless this country of your origin or sojourn, by applying your Jewish practice to our maintream secular culture: stage a public reading of the American Declaration of Independence. Israel and many other post-colonial nations share with America a justifiable aversion to British imperialism, and since both have fought and won wars against the UK, this should be called to mind, and critical thinking applied. Expect a future email from me closer to that event, but in brief: Americans should, IMHO, also read the excerpt the Jefferson's Original_Rough_Draught of_the_Declaration_of_Independence, denouncing King George for "he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither ... "

More to come.

Yom HaZmaut tov v yashar.
Jared