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partition the land between its Jewish and Arab population.

While the Jews accepted, the Arabs refused. On May 14, 1948, after 2000 years of wandering the State of Israel came into being. Was this the hand of God or the work of human beings? Surely it was both. The tears of joy drowned the tears of fear.

And they came to Israel—Holocaust survivors; refugees from Yemen, Iraq, Turkey, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Afghanistan; and people from all over the world. They came from Russia when it opened its doors. They came from over 100 countries speaking more than 80 languages.

And there was war. The new country was never accepted by its neighbors. In 1948, the armies of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, with combined populations of 45 million attacked the State of Israel with a population of 600,000. That was a traumatic time that changed my life forever. I was smuggled out of Iraq, and I was lucky.

Israel was never far from war or the threat of war, from terror or the threat of terror. Israel's residents fought wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982. Israel is a tiny country, a home for a tiny people. Israel is the size of the state of New Jersey and is one quarter of 1% of the area of Arab lands.

Israel sought peace and accepted every partition proposal from the Balfour Declaration in 1917, to the Peel Commission in the 1930's, to the United Nations 1947 Resolution. After the Six Day War in 1967, Israel again proposed land for peace. The Arab countries gathered in Khartoum declared: no negotiation, no recognition and no peace. The peace treaty made in September 1993, on the lawn of the White House, lasted only a year. A

wave of suicide bombers struck Israeli restaurants, buses, parks, schools, shopping malls and busy streets. Life was risky and unpredictable for everyone.

How do Israelis live with the constant threat of violence and war and create a thriving democracy that excels in agriculture, science, medicine, and technology? How did the Jews survive for a hundred generations to build a country from the ashes of the Holocaust? The answer is faith, hope and a refusal to believe or act as victims.

Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, means "The Hope"; Israel is the land of hope. At 60, Israel's journey is not yet complete, and will not be until there is peace, Shalom, Salaam. But peace is a duet and can't be performed solo by Israel.

Judaism is the oldest western religion. It is twice as old as Christianity and three times as old as Islam. Yet, there are 82 Christian countries, 56 Muslim countries but only one Jewish State.

Until the Palestinians accept the existence of Israel, there is little chance for peace. So, for the sake of the Israelis, for the sake of the Palestinians, for the sake of God, humanity, and the future let us all pray and hope for peace.

*Shabbat Shalom*

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## **TORAH READINGS**

*Parashat Emor* p. 513, *Haftara* p. 528

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## **Introduction to The Landmark Forum**

**Wed., May 14th at 6:45 pm**

Join us to learn more about The Landmark Forum, a course that helps people to understand the assumptions, beliefs, and handed-down ways of being that may affect their thinking and life choices.

*Congratulations  
Daniel Dalah  
on your Bar Mitzvah*

*Mazal Tov  
to your parents, Carol & Eitan Dalah  
your sisters, Tamara & Natalie  
and your grandparents  
Nor & Joseph Dalah  
Miriam & Steve Taglianetti*

*Shabbat Kiddush  
is sponsored by  
Carol & Eitan Dalah  
in honor of  
the Bar Mitzvah of their son  
Daniel Joseph Dalah*

**PRAYER SCHEDULE**

**SHABBAT EMOR**

**4 Iyar / Friday, May 9th**

Shabbat Candlelighting .....7:26 pm  
Minhah & Arvith .....6:30 pm

**5 Iyar / Shabbat, May 10th**

Shaharith.....8:30 am  
Minhah & Arvith .....6:30 pm  
Motzei Shabbat.....8:26 pm

**6 Iyar / Sunday, May 11th**

Shaharith.....7:30 am  
Talmud Torah .....10:00 am  
**YOM HAATZMAUT CELEBRATION** w/KJ Choir  
Israeli Dancing, Food, & More .... **5:30 to 8:30 pm**

**Monday through Thursday**

Shaharith.....6:30 am  
Talmud Torah Tues./Thurs.....4:00 pm  
**Introduction to Landmark Forum**

Wednesday, May 14th .....6:45 pm

**SHABBAT BEHAR**

**11 Iyar / Friday, May 16th**

Shabbat Candlelighting .....7:31 pm  
Minhah & Arvith .....6:30 pm

**Refuah Shlemah**

*Please include these people in  
your prayers for health.*

Meir ben Esther • Yaheskel ben Regina  
Khayah Noa bat Sara • Matilda Louisa  
Victor ben Pauline • Haim ben Mordechai  
Shaul Chai Gavriel ben Sara • Pnina bat Esther  
Shamuel Eliyahu ben Hannah

**In Memoriam**

These anniversaries occur from Shabbat, the Shabbat, the 5th of Iyar (May 10, 2008) to Shabbat, the 12th of Iyar (May 17, 2008). It is customary to light a memorial candle in the evening and to donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend services as well.

**Shabbat / 5 Iyar**

Shimon ben Faraj  
Aziza bat Nouna

**Sunday / 6 Iyar**

Jane Ester Feldman  
Tifaha bat Mazal

**Monday / 7 Iyar**

Ezra ben Yaacov Baruch  
Aharon Sasson ben Avraham Haim  
Eliyahu ben Ezra Kadoori Halevi  
Rachel bat Mazal Tov

**Tuesday / 8 Iyar**

Toba bat Aziza  
Salim Ezra A. Haim

**Wednesday / 9 Iyar**

Menashi Jiji  
Moshi Haim ben Yehoshua Moche  
Simcha bat Hannah

**Thursday / 10 Iyar**

Abraham Amir Saed Zoghii ben Ashe Mich

**Friday / 11 Iyar**

Eliyahu Rahamim Solomon  
Irving Rosen

**Shabbat / 12 Iyar**

Sarah bat Sarah  
Mesuda bat Aziza  
Rabbee Shadi  
Aharon ben Elisha