

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 25 TAMMUZ 5765 JULY, 2005

RABBI'S THOUGHTS

This is going to be one risky and dangerous summer. If you live in Israel, this is the summer of self-inflicted pain and great sacrifice. It is a summer of courage and fear. It is the summer, so say Israeli leaders and the majority of the Israeli public, of what is best for Israel's future. It is the summer of "disengagement." We have many words to describe the twists and turns of peace in the Middle East. Israel has signed treaties, engaged in a peace process, drawn up a road map, bartered prisoners for peace and now "disengagement." There used to be a fantasy of open borders in the world of the Middle East. During the early Oslo years, Israelis shopped in Ramallah and went to restaurants in Bethlehem. We prayed that the Palestinians would accept our presence in Israel and finally returning territory would create a marriage of sorts. As the Intifada ended and Arafat died, all around the country one saw security walls go up and tighter measures at military checkpoints. In using the word "disengagement," it is clear that Israelis no longer favor a marriage. What they want is a divorce.

Divorces are messy and not everything turns out well. The 8,000 Israelis who are leaving the area known as "Gush Katif," inside the Gaza Strip, are asking about the houses they will leave behind -- houses the government helped them build. They want to know about the cemeteries where their loved ones lie buried including many victims of terror; they want to know what will happen to their synagogues and community centers. The government has not figured all of this out yet. There are many unanswered questions and the heat is on Sharon daily from protestors who daily picket his office in Jerusalem. Israelis are pained by the sacrifice they are making. Most of them know that to lose Gaza means taking the pressure off the military to guard a tiny minority of Jews in an Arab sea. It is also the first chapter in preventing the future of an apartheid Israel and embracing and valuing the life we already have in

Sovereign Israel. Houses may be bulldozed just as they were during the summer of 1982 in Yamit. The dead in cemeteries can be exhumed according to Jewish law and moved to family plots in other cemeteries. I read that the government is negotiating with contractors to move whole synagogues to new areas inside the Green Line. Israelis will learn to deal with having less in the short run, rather than having nothing in the long run, say the pragmatists.

Israelis are a coping people. They have withstood a great deal of pain inflicted by the enemy over the course of many years (especially the last five) and this recent action of disengagement is in some ways more painful because it pits Jew against Jew. It is a knife embedded within the body of the family and the body does not heal quickly from self-inflicted pain. I can't think of any country in the world that has returned captured territory to the enemy after many years and told its own people to get out. Can you imagine the United States returning Arizona to Mexico and asking people in Phoenix to leave their houses behind? As I said, Israelis are a coping people and if any people can pull this off, they can. The Israeli government purposely postponed "disengagement" until after Tisha B'av (the holiday of the destruction of the Temple), a sensitive move in keeping with the rhythm of the Jewish calendar. After Tisha B'av, our thoughts turn to apologizing to people we've hurt and making amends. Sometimes the most practical solutions hit us with the force of a bomb, but when the debris clears, it is we who must mend fences and find a place we can call home. That is the original vision of Zionism, a home for all of us no matter how small.

Jon Perlman

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Shabbaton Tammuz

Friday, July 1st

6:00 PM Pot Luck Supper (Dairy)
7:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services
"Rabbi's Report from Israel"

Saturday, July 2nd.

9:15 AM Meditation
10:00 AM Morning Services
11:30 AM Torah Discussion: "Parshat Korach"

The Torah portion of Korach is about mutiny, democracy and authoritarian leadership in the story of Moses and the people Israel in the wilderness. Come prepared to discuss the meaning of this story. Read Numbers 16-18 before coming to shul.

12:00 PM Cholent Lunch followed by singing and discussion
8:00 PM Sunset Children's Discussion with the Rabbi
9:00 PM Havdalah

Shabbaton Av

Friday, August 5th
Saturday, August 6th



CANDLE-LIGHTING TIMES FOR ATHOL, MA

24 Jun	8:12	29 Jul	7:55
1 Jul	8:12	5 Aug	7:47
8 Jul	8:10	12 Aug	7:38
15 Jul	8:07	19 Aug	7:27
22 Jul	8:02	26 Aug	7:16

TRIP TO JEWISH BOSTON Sunday, September 11, 2005



Travel with Rabbi Perlman and visit historic neighborhoods of Jewish Boston with an expert guide, understand Boston's past, and eat at a kosher Chinese restaurant all for \$100 per person. Temple Israel members know from a prior experience traveling in New York with the Rabbi (May 16th) that Jewish heritage trips are educational and rewarding. Call the rabbi for more information on this upcoming trip!

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PLEASE LEND US A HAND!
PLEASE JOIN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN--AN AMBITIOUS
AND IMPORTANT PLAN TO RAISE \$100,000 FOR
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR OUR TEMPLE!

To make a separate Capital Campaign donation for the
building, please send a check to

Temple Israel c/o David Koester
245 Gale Road Warwick, MA 01378.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!



REMINDERS...THIS MONTH

Shabbaton Tammuz

Friday, July 1st
Saturday, July 2nd.

AND COMING UP...

Shabbaton Av

Friday, August 5th
Saturday, August 6th

There's so much happening these days at Temple Israel -- for adults, for families, for children! Please visit with us, and see what all the excitement is about! We'd love to see you!

For more information, please call Temple Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481. Our new voice mailboxes are now in operation. You may also directly contact President Dr. Myron Maron at 978-724-0238 or Rabbi Jonathan Perlman at 414-736-1033 (home) or 413-739-4715 (work) Ask for Rabbi Perlman.