

## Rabbi Lewis' Message for November, 2010

It is fifteen years since Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in Tel Aviv after attending a peace demonstration. It hardly seems that long ago. Last week, many in Israel observed the Hebrew *yahrzeit* date of Oct. 20 as the anniversary of his death. Israel will also remember him on Nov. 4, the secular date of his death, with a mass rally in Tel Aviv in the square where Rabin was gunned down.

If all goes according to plan, I will be in Israel on that day, although, by that time, we will have left Tel Aviv and will have arrived in Jerusalem. I will carry with me the *tzedakah* entrusted to me by family and friends. I will also carry with me their prayers. And I will recite a prayer that appears in a book by Larry Hoffman (*Israel: A Spiritual Travel Guide*):

God make me a messenger for those I love.  
Let me carry their prayers as if they were my own,  
and leave them there, softly,  
like bird's eggs, nesting in the crack of a wall,  
awaiting the time for all they contain  
to break out into joyous birth.  
God grant me, too,  
The merit to carry the means to Israel's redemption.  
Until such time as we see the end of days,  
God make me a witness to history.  
May I revel in its glories,  
And relieve its pains.  
In some small way, let this, my journey,  
Awaken hope in those I love and those I barely know,  
The people among whom I walk in the days ahead.

It is impossible to make a visit to Israel without thinking about whether Israel will ever see peace. There are those who believe that, had Rabin lived, peace would have come to Israel. That is something we will never know. But we do know that that old soldier Rabin sang a peace song with the crowd that day that was to be his last. *Shir LaShalom*, A Song for Peace, has become an anthem for the peace movement in Israel. The chorus goes like this:

**Come on and sing a song for peace;  
don't whisper us a prayer.  
Better to sing a song for peace.  
Let shouting fill the air!**

*Ken yehi ratzon*, may it be God's will.  
Rabbi Ellen Lewis