

September 2017 Message from Rabbi Dubin

Dear Friends,

In a time that seems to become increasingly uncertain day by day, whether we're talking about politics, the weather, or so many other things, it becomes all the more important to maintain areas of certainty and grounding in order to keep us moving forward. For me, one of those constants always has and always will be my ongoing commitment to the Jewish People and the State of Israel. While it goes without saying that there will always be moments when I disagree with particular policies of one Israeli government or another, all the same, no matter how angry or disappointed I may become from time to time, my fundamental allegiance to the democratic Jewish State in the land of Israel has never wavered.

Among the topics I will be addressing from the bima during High Holidays this year is Zionism, which I believe is a word that has become much aligned within various pockets of society over the recent past. I look forward to having the opportunity to stand proud and speak from my heart about the covenantal relationship I believe all Jews share wherever they live, whatever languages they speak, and no matter their connection (or disconnection) with God.

As well, I will be talking some about the upcoming congregational trip to Israel (June 24 - July 6, 2018) that we, under the leadership of co-chairs Lynne Kowski and Roy Loomis, are in the process of planning. More information will be coming soon, but I do want to let you know that registration is now open. Much work has gone into this exciting community opportunity over the past half-year or so, and we can't wait to be in Israel together next summer. I should add that while this is obviously a JCNWJ trip, temple members are welcome to extend invitations to family and friends, too.

If you would like to see the itinerary as it stands now (which, although already fabulous, still remains open to tweaking, if necessary), or if you would like to register for the trip, you can do both at www.arzaworld.com/Jewish-Center-of-Northwest-New-Jersey-Trip-to-Israel-Led-by-Rabbi-Andy-Dubin.aspx. You can also speak directly with Lynne, Roy, or me.

Wishing you a Happy and Sweet New Year,
Rabbi Dubin