

Community is Coming Together to Celebrate Israel's Birthday

On Sunday June 22, 2008, the South Coast Jewish community will come together to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the birthday of the State of Israel.

Plans are underway to make this an exciting event for adults and children. The Israel@60 Festival Committee is being chaired by Alice Nussbaum, who brings to this job her vast experience as a Jewish educator and artist. "I am thrilled that the committee has representation from all local Jewish institutions and organizations. With a small piece of help from everyone, this will be a memorable, enjoyable, and meaningful event for all," said Alice. "It is such a joy to work with everyone toward this exciting goal!" Every organization will be invited to participate in the festival and to oversee one of the activities.

The Festival Committee has been meeting since the beginning of the year, discussing various aspects of the festival, and culling from the experiences of other Jewish communities. "Virtually every community in the United States and around the world is having an event celebrating Israel's birthday, and the Federation felt very strongly that the New Bedford Jewish community had to be part of this global celebration," said Federation president Michael Russell.

The festival will be held outdoors on the grounds of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, from 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday June 22, 2008. The event will feature music, food, vendors selling Israeli products, and a variety of activities for the children – an archeological dig, a giant walk-on map of Israel, a moonwalk, face painting, balloon art, and other fun things.

The official part of the festival will feature appearances by Nadav Tamir, the Consul General of Israel in New England, New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang, and other dignitaries. And of course, there will be a big "Happy Birthday Israel" cake. If you can help or have suggestions, please feel free to phone Alice Nussbaum at 508-984-7072.