**Personal Connections to Israel -- Peulat Shabbat 8/6**

Goal: To induce a discussion about our personal connections (cultural, religious, historical emotional) to Israel in an open and interesting way. To inspire new ways of thinking and practice listening to our peers.

Method: Group Discussion

Discussion Questions

1. How has Israel been a part of our life? Do your parents speak Hebrew? Do you feel like you grew up with Israel being part of your childhood?
2. Which elements of Israel do you feel connected with?
3. Which elements of Israel do you not feel connected with?
4. Have you traveled to Israel? If so, how did it feel? If not, do you plan to?
5. How important is keeping Israel as a part of your Jewish identity to you? Why or why not?
6. If you go/went to Jewish Day school: has Israel been a personal subject for you or did you feel like it was just required?
   1. If required, how can we make more personal connections to Israel?
   2. If you did not go to Day school, do you feel like you have sufficient knowledge and connection to Israel?
7. Has there ever been a time where you felt like you needed to defend what was going on in Israel (politically, culturally) or your personal relationship to Israel with other people? How about defending it to yourself?