

## Come Home With Me to Israel

Those of you who were at Yom Kippur services heard me speak about the significance of Israel to Jews and Judaism. Judaism has always understood that the Holy Land has been a central element of our covenant with God and that every Jew is a member of *Am Yisrael*, the People Israel.

I have traveled to Israel many times, working for Israeli companies during my physicist days, as a tourist, living in Jerusalem for my first year of rabbinic school and on two Temple Ner Ami trips.. Simply put, if you have any attachment to Judaism at all (and you do since you are reading this article), there is literally no place in the world like Israel. It is our ancestral home and it is our current home. The Bible comes alive in Israel with every step and every stone. Therefore, as you heard on Yom Kippur, I am announcing that I will be leading a trip to Israel departing Wednesday, May 18 and returning Sunday, May 29, 2011.

We plan to be staying in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and 2 nights on a kibbutz in the upper Galilee, and to be visiting Caesarea, , Zippori, Tel Dan, the Golan, Safed, all the sites in Jerusalem including the Western Wall tunnels, Erev Shabbat at the Southern Steps of the Temple, Masada and the Dead Sea. We will have opportunities to study ancient and mystic texts together at the sites where they were written, visit historic places and modern sites, and spend Shabbat in Jerusalem. We will be in private, secure motor coaches with our own driver and guides. An additional goal of mine is to explore the spiritual and the intellectual roots of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Most of the details worked out but I am very excited about this trip. For cost details, see the flyer in the Megillah and for more information, check out the web site under "Israel Trip" (where you can also see the travel blog and photos from our last trip). So far, we have a handful of people who have requested more information. I hope that you will add your name to the list by contacting me. Of course, I will be delighted to answer any questions and will be holding an informational meeting soon.

**NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!!!**