
SESSION

4



Drawn to Israel

Unity by Design

April • Yom Ha'Atzmaut
Israel's Independence Day



JOURNEY OF GROWTH
Exploring Jewish Values
and Inspiring Action

In partnership with



Ministry for Diaspora Affairs
and Combating Antisemitism

This session
was created in
collaboration with



the
iCenter

VALUE

Unity & Mutual Responsibility

Achdut v'Areyvut

Visual art doesn't just decorate; it communicates. For 78 years, Israeli artists have designed posters for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, each one a reflection of hope, opportunity, unity, and identity. These images form a visual story of Israel, capturing the complexity and evolving values of its society. In this session, grounded in the value of Unity & Mutual Responsibility, we step into that story.

As you explore how different artists have represented the people and the spirit of Israel, you'll reflect on your own place in that unfolding narrative and add your voice to it through creative expression.

We will also bring with us the weight and the resilience of the post-October 7 landscape. Israeli families are carrying trauma, and global Jewish communities are facing sustained stress and a troubling rise in antisemitism. Through sharing our stories and staying in touch, our global sisterhood keeps us connected. So, we invite you to use the symbolic language of visual art as a bridge between mothers in your community and mothers in Israel. Throughout the session you will be encouraged to think about the women from Israel who traveled with you and to reach out to them to share your reflections and send photos of the posters you create. You can also invite them to share what images speak to them as Israeli women living through this moment.



TIMELINE: 90 MIN

BEGIN WITH INTENTION | 5 MIN

FRAME THE SESSION | 5 MIN

POSTER REFLECTION | 15 MIN

HAVRUTA (PAIRED LEARNING) | 15 MIN

CREATE YOUR POSTER | 25 MIN

SHARE AND APPRECIATE | 15 MIN

BRING YOUR LEARNING HOME | 5 MIN

END WITH MEANING | 5 MIN



MATERIALS

- Pens
- Sticky notes
- Card stock for posters
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, colored pencils, old magazines for collage, glue, glitter, sequins, scissors, etc.)



FACILITATOR PREPARATION

- Review the session beforehand
- Remind participants to bring their journal and a pen
- Prepare materials, including plentiful art supplies



WHO FACILITATES THE SESSION

This session is designed to be participant-led, with different women taking turns guiding each section. One person can volunteer to open the session, while others can lead specific parts like reading the framing paragraph, introducing the *havruta* prompts, or giving instructions for the creative activity.

Facilitating doesn't require expertise, just a willingness to keep things moving and create space for others to share. The most important role of the facilitator is to invite participation, encourage reflection, and ensure that everyone feels engaged and included.



VIDEO GUIDE

Want a helping hand (and heart) from Momentum Educators on how to facilitate this session? Follow this QR code to access the [training video](#) library:



PART I

Begin with Intention

5 MIN

Looking for ways to start your session with purpose?

Turn to p. 4 for simple, meaningful ideas to open your gathering with presence, connection, and shared energy.

PART II

Frame the Session

5 MIN

Today, we're going to explore Israel's story in a different way, through art. Each year for Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, artists in Israel create posters that reflect the spirit of the time. These posters capture how people have viewed Israel — its hopes, challenges, values, and identity — across different decades. You'll have a chance to look closely at some of these posters, discuss what they are expressing, and create your own. Together, we'll explore how the value of **Unity & Mutual Responsibility** has shaped Israel's past, and how we can imagine a shared future — full of hope, connection, and meaning.

As you look at these posters today, keep the current moment in mind.

Israel is rebuilding trust, strength, and emotional ground. Diaspora communities are navigating resilience in the face of rising antisemitism. The posters can help us see how Israeli society has expressed its identity during past moments of crisis and renewal. They can also help us imagine how our global Jewish family might show up for each other now.

PART III

Poster Reflection

15 MIN

On the following pages you will find eight Yom Ha'atzmaut posters with the year and artist listed for each. These images tell a visual story of Israel over time — its values, identity, challenges, and dreams.

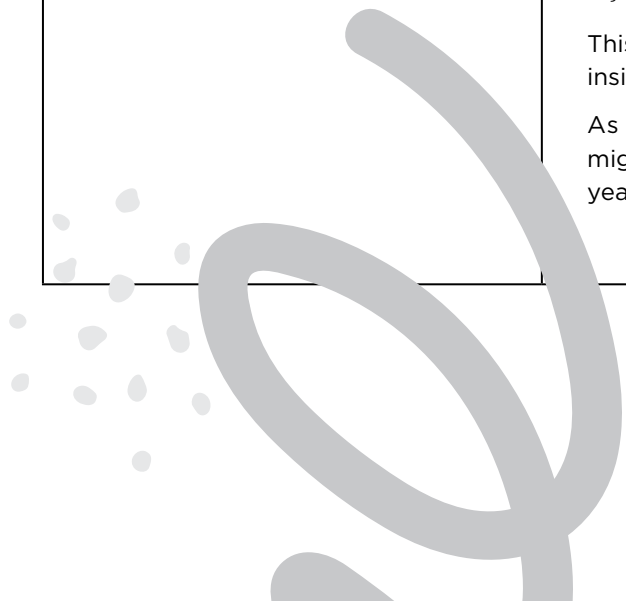
Take about 2 minutes per poster to look closely and reflect.

For each poster:

- Write a few words or phrases that come to mind as you view the image.
- Use the lines beneath each poster to jot down associations, and what you think the intention or message of the artist might be.

This is your time to explore the posters through your own eyes and insights, before we move into group reflection and creativity.

As you respond, consider how the moment we are living through might shape your interpretation. What themes feel more urgent this year? Which images feel newly tender or newly powerful?





1977 Ora and Eliyahu Schwartz

Handwriting practice lines for the text 'לעצמאות ליט ישראל'.



1978 David Tartakover

Handwriting practice lines for the word 'שלום'.

PART IV

Havruta



15 MIN

Havruta is a traditional Jewish learning practice where two people engage in dialogue to explore a text, challenge each other's ideas, and deepen understanding through conversation.

In pairs, choose one poster from the collection to explore more deeply together.

10 MIN

Use these prompts to guide your conversation:

- What **symbols** stand out to you in the poster, and what do they represent?
- What **emotion** does this poster evoke for you? What in the image brings that up?
- What **values** or **hopes** do you think this poster is expressing?

After your discussion, join another *havruta*, making a group of four, and share highlights from your conversation. Invite each other to notice how your interpretations connect to your lived experience as Jewish women outside of Israel. Consider how Israeli women you know might see these same images differently based on their reality.

5 MIN

PART V

Create Your Poster



25 MIN

Now it's your turn to become the poster artist, an agent of hope. What matters is not your technical skill as an artist, but the feelings, hopes, and ideas your image brings to life.

Step 1: Envision the Future

5 MIN

Before you begin creating, take a moment to reflect.

Israel holds many layers of meaning.

It can refer to:

- **Am Yisrael** — the people of Israel, across time and across the world.
- **Eretz Yisrael** — the land of Israel, rich in history, landscapes, and life.
- **Medinat Yisrael** — the State of Israel, whose independence we celebrate.

Your poster can reflect any or all of these, or something else that feels true to you.

- What feels important to express about this moment in Jewish life?
- What images, words, or symbols come to mind as you imagine the future?
- What message might you want to pass on to future generations?

There's no single story of Israel. Your poster adds your voice to the mosaic. You can also consider how your voice might resonate with Israeli mothers who are rebuilding their lives. Think about what message of solidarity or healing you would want them to receive.

PART V

Create Your Poster**Step 2: Design Your Poster**

15 MIN

Use the art supplies provided to create a Yom Ha'Atzmaut poster that communicates **your hopeful vision for Israel**. Be bold and creative. Consider:

- A central message, word, or phrase
- Visual symbols and imagery
- A sense of who you are speaking to: your peers, future generations, the global Jewish family, your Israeli brothers and sisters.

Step 3: Add a Headline of Hope

5 MIN

Write a fictional news headline from the future that reflects your vision. Underneath it, write one sentence about how ordinary people like you helped make it happen.

PART VI

Share and Appreciate

15 MIN

Place your poster on your chair or table. Then walk around the room and spend a few moments with each creation. As you move through the room, choose one or two posters to spend a little extra time with. Notice what you think the creator might be expressing, and also what the poster evokes for you personally. This is an opportunity to practice interpretation, remembering that new meaning often emerges through engagement.

5 MIN

Once everyone has had a chance to explore, return to your seat. Go around the room and invite each participant to stand beside her poster and read aloud her headline and sentence of intention. This is a moment to honor each person's voice and vision. Listen with attention and appreciation.

Once everyone has shared, engage in a group conversation.

10 MIN

- What shared themes or messages did you notice?
- What ideas or images surprised or moved you?
- How might you capture and share what moved you about the posters?

As themes emerge, notice the threads of healing, rebuilding, courage, and global connection. Choose one or two posters that speak to you right now and share them immediately in your group's WhatsApp chat, along with a short message of connection for the Israeli women from your trip. Invite the Israeli women to share images or posters that are inspiring them right now as well, so the exchange becomes a real-time conversation across the ocean.



PART VII

Bring Your Learning Home



5 MIN



In honor of Yom HaAtzmaut, invite your family into a shared creative moment. You can do this around the dinner table, on a weekend afternoon, or as a wind-down activity before bedtime. All you need is paper, markers, and a little imagination.

Begin with a short conversation:

- What does Israel mean to us as a family?
- How do we feel connected to other Jewish people around the world?
- What message do we want to share about hope, unity, or helping others?
- Look together at the posters in this session for inspiration and consider sharing the poster you made.

Then, work together to create a family poster that expresses your ideas. Younger kids might draw hearts, flags, or friends helping each other. Older kids and teens might contribute words, symbols, or messages that feel meaningful to them.

Hang your poster somewhere visible as a reminder of your family's connection to the Jewish people, to Israel, and to one another.

If you feel comfortable, share a photo of your family poster with the Israeli women from your trip group. This small gesture builds connection across continents and shows that your family is thinking of theirs during this season of rebuilding.

PART VIII

End with Meaning



5 MIN

As we close, may we remember that Israel is not just a place on a map but a shared story we inherit and shape through our choices, our care, and our responsibility to one another.

Head back to p. 4 for thoughtful ways to close your gathering with reflection, gratitude, and a sense of shared purpose.

PART IX

Continue the Journey



Zionism has taken many forms across Jewish history. For deeper grounding in Zionism as both an ancient Jewish idea and a modern movement, [see this companion learning session](#).



Send the link to [Poster Tales](#) to the Israeli women from their trip so they can share which posters feel meaningful to them this year. The goal is to strengthen two-way connection and shared understanding.



About Our Content Collaborator

From 2008-2026, [The iCenter](#) served as a leader in Israel education. Poster Tales is one of its signature resources, curated and developed by The iCenter in partnership with Jewish LearningWorks, and inviting learners to explore Israeli history and society through the lens of artistic poster design. Each year since Israel's founding, artists have submitted designs for the official Yom Ha'Atzmaut poster. The resulting visual archive reflects shifting identities, cultural trends, and national aspirations across the decades.

