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SHALOM TV EXCLUSIVE: YOM HAZIKARON/YOM HA'ATZMAUT ON USS INTREPID

Historic aircraft carrier hosts Jewish community for twin observances

May 8, 2009 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- Exclusive coverage of the ceremony and celebration marking Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day for soldiers) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) aboard the USS Intrepid in New York City is airing on Shalom TV, America's national Jewish cable network.

Taking place at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum, the community-wide event involved more than a hundred Jewish groups honoring Israel's fallen and celebrating her independence. Dor Chadash, an organization of young professionals that encourages ties between the US and Israel, arranged the twin observances.

Historic Event On Historic Ship

"We're pleased to offer viewers an opportunity to share in this event with the 3,000 attendees representing the Jewish and pro-Israel community," remarked Shalom TV President Mark S. Golub. "This is a wonderful display of common values held by the US and Israel, and of the long-standing alliance between the two countries."



New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg also noted the special relationship between America and Israel, telling those gathered how Israel itself could be described as "Intrepid." Before becoming a museum docked in the Hudson River, the 900-foot aircraft carrier saw service in World War II and Vietnam, conducted submarine surveillance in the North Atlantic during the Cold War, and was a prime recovery vessel of returning spacecraft for NASA.

A Solemn Service, Followed by a World-Class Party

Beginning with the lighting of symbolic candles for Israel's fallen, Yom Hazikaron, which originally commemorated Israel's war dead and now additionally serves as a memorial day for the thousands of civilians who have been murdered by terrorists, was recognized. Speaking at the event was Israel's new Ambassador to the United Nations, Gabriel Shalev, whose first husband was killed in the Yom Kippur War.

With the setting of the sun, the Jewish calendar went from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut, and the mood changed into a celebration of the anniversary of the Jewish State. The renowned Zamir Chorale added to the festivities, leading all assembled in "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem. And Jerusalem band Coolooloosh delivered a rollicking performance that captivated the mostly under-35 crowd.

"A real moving event," concluded Rabbi Golub, "and a great deal of fun."

Offering public affairs programming, news, and informative series with a Jewish perspective on current issues and events, Shalom TV is a free Video On Demand network reaching more than 30 million households through Comcast, Time Warner, Cox, Verizon FiOS, Bright House, MetroCast, Blue Ridge, Buckeye CableSystem, Service Electric, and Armstrong cable companies.

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