

# The Menorah The Flag and The *hoopoe*???

*The Secret Life of Symbols...*

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Temple Beth El  
Parashat Beha'alotcha 5777  
Flag Day 2017



*Menorah carved on marble found in the Ancient Agora of Athens, 500 C.E.*

***“A symbol speaks to the whole human being  
and not only to the intelligence”***

*- Mircea Eliade, “The Sacred and the Profane”*

## *The Menorah: Judaism's Ageless Symbol of Light*

One of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum used in the Temple. The *kohanim* lit the menorah in the Sanctuary every evening and cleaned it out every morning, replacing the wicks and putting fresh olive oil into the cups. It has been said that the menorah is a symbol of the nation of Israel and our mission to be "a light unto the nations." (Isaiah 42:6). The sages emphasize that light is not a violent force; Israel is to accomplish its mission by setting an example, not by using force. This idea is highlighted in the vision in Zechariah 4:1-6. Zechariah sees a menorah, and God explains: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit."

The lamp stand in today's synagogues, called the *ner tamid* (lit. the continual lamp; usually translated as the eternal flame), symbolizes the menorah. The nine-branched menorah used on Chanukah is commonly patterned after this menorah, because Chanukah commemorates the miracle that a day's worth of oil for this menorah lasted eight days.

The menorah in the First and Second Temples had seven branches. After the Temples were destroyed, a tradition developed not to duplicate anything from the Temple and therefore menorah's no longer had seven branches. The use of six-branched menorahs became popular, but, in modern times, some rabbis have gone back to the seven-branched menorahs, arguing that they are not the same as those used in the Temple because today's are electrified.

Sources: Judaism 101 and *The Jewish Book of Why*.

**“Yes, The U.S. Flag Really Is Just A  
Piece Of Cloth –  
Except To Those Who Died For It”**  
*Daniel de Gracia, Hawaii*

Do you agree? Should presidential candidates be judged on whether they wear an American flag lapel pin?

How do symbols unify us? How do they divide us?

# ANCIENT + MODERN MENORAHS

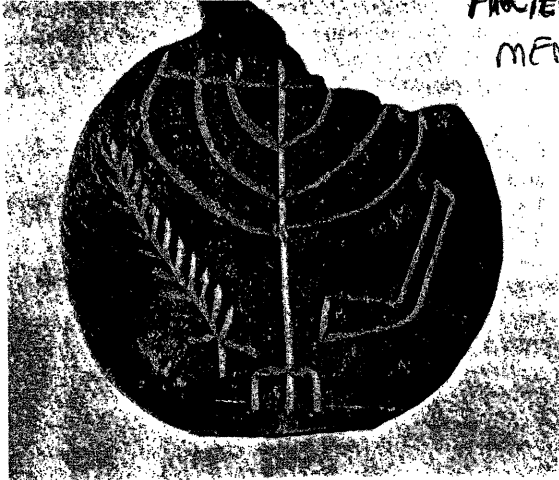


Figure 11. *Menorah* depicted on a bronze amulet from Syria, fourth/fifth century. Jerusalem, Israel Museum, Reifenberg Collection. Photo David Harris, Jerusalem.

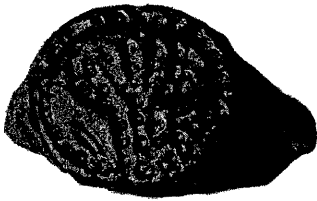


Figure 12. Ring with a representation of the *menorah*, from Erez Israel, third/fourth century. Tel Aviv, I. Einhorn Collection. Photo David Harris, Jerusalem.

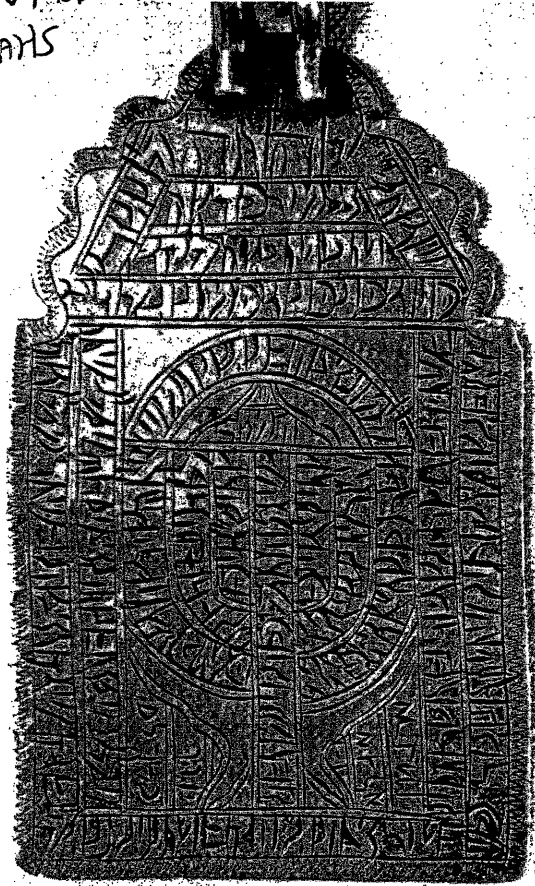


Figure 13. *Menorah* formed from the words of Psalm 67 on a silver amulet from Persia, 19th century. Haifa, Ethnological Museum and Folklore Archives. Photo Oskar Tauber, Haifa.



Figure 5. *Menorah* with a tripod base in relief on a stone capital from the fifth-century synagogue at Caesarea. Courtesy Israel Department of Antiquities, Jerusalem.



Figure 6. *Menorah* from the mosaic floor of the third-fourth-century synagogue at Jericho. Courtesy Israel Department of Antiquities, Jerusalem.

SOURCE: "A DIFFERENT LIGHT"  
NUAM ZION

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### *The Arch of Titus — 70 CE*

*The Roman general Titus destroyed Jerusalem after a four-year battle ending in 70 CE and carried off the Temple utensils including the menorah to Rome. The stolen menorah was probably the one fashioned by Judah the Maccabee in 164 BCE for the first Hanukkah, since the earlier menorah had been plundered by Antiochus IV. The Arch of Titus was built in honor of Titus in 81 CE after he had already become the Roman Emperor.*

*(An engraving by Francois Perrier 1695, after the bas-relief on the Arch of Titus)*



### **The Menorah — Into Exile and Back Home**

*The Symbol of the New State of Israel, 1949 CE.*

## The New Knesset Menorah

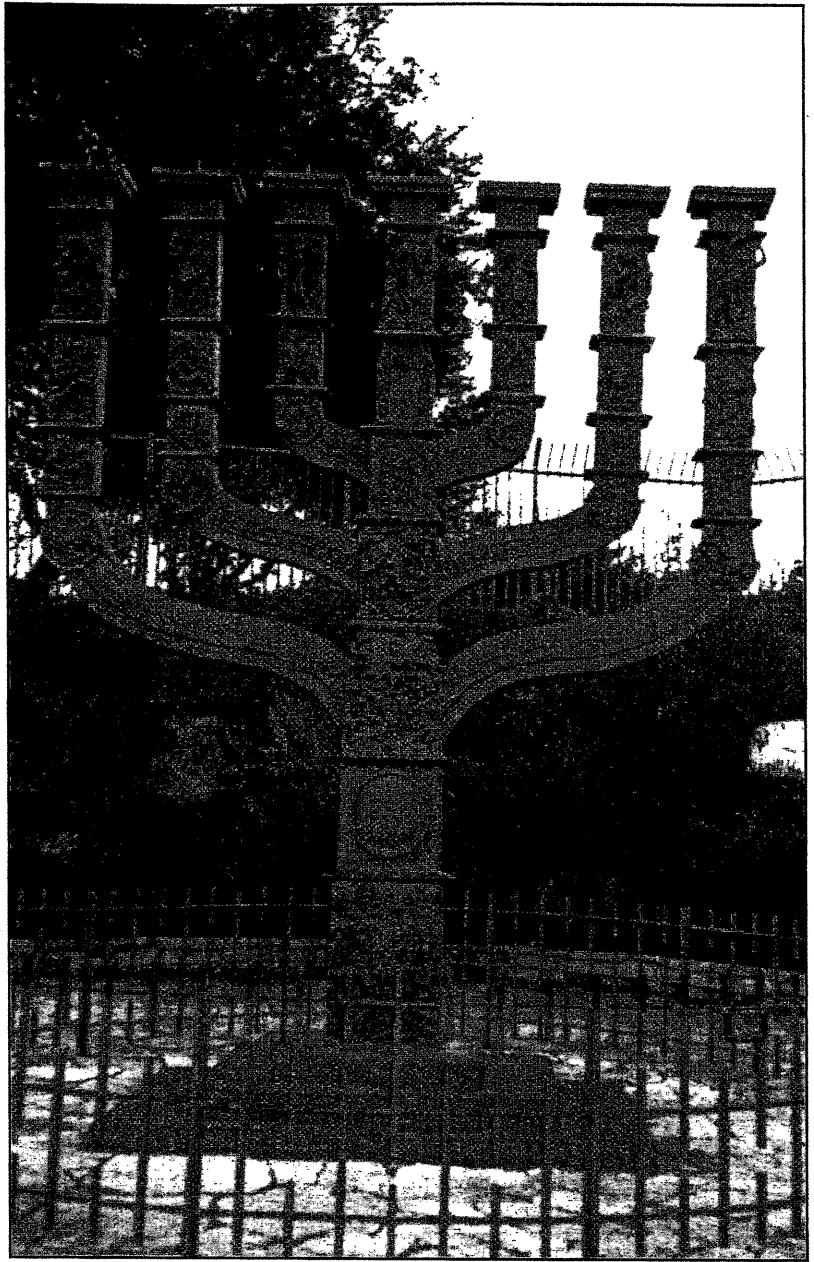
### *The New Knesset Menorah*

*This Menorah was given to the State of Israel  
by the British Parliament in 1956.*

*The relief panels review significant Jewish moments  
such as the exiled Jews weeping in Babylon, Ezekiel's  
vision of the dry bones revived, the Maccabees' Revolt,  
and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.*

*Zechariah's prophecy about the golden menorah is  
inscribed on the menorah: "Not by might and not by  
power, but by my spirit, says the Lord."*

*(The artist was Benno Elkan.)*

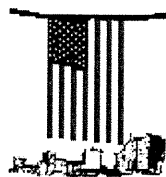




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## How to Display the Flag

PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION FROM <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy>



1. When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.



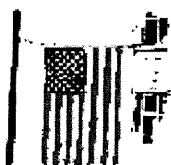
2. The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right [that means the viewer's left --Webmaster], and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



3. The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaves in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.



4. When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States (the viewer's left). When the flag is half-masted, both flags are half-masted, with the US flag at the mid-point and the other flag below.



5. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.



6. When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



7. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.



8. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in



rituals of  
A flag

the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.



9. That the flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.



10. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



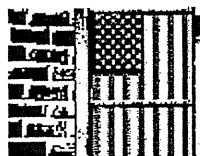
11. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.



12. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium on or off a podium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).



13. When the flag is displayed on a car, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.



14. When hung in a window where it is viewed from the street, place the union at the head and over the left shoulder.

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## High School Paper to be Shut Down after Flag-Burning Photo



Published: June 11, 2008 9:46 AM ET

**REDDING, Calif.** A high school principal in Northern California said he will eliminate the student newspaper after it published a front-page photo of a student burning an American flag.

Shasta High School Principal Milan Woollard said the latest issue of the student-run Volcano was embarrassing.

"The paper's done," Woollard told the Record Searchlight newspaper of Redding. "There is not going to be a school newspaper next year."

In addition to the photograph, the last edition of the newspaper included an editorial written by high school senior Connor Kennedy that defended flag burning as speech protected by the First Amendment.

Kennedy graduated last week from the high school in Redding, about 160 miles north of the state capital. He did not return a telephone message left Monday by the Record Searchlight.

Student journalists said they were merely exercising their free-speech rights.

Woollard said school officials had been considering eliminating the paper before it published the controversial photo. The high school is looking for ways to save money because it expects to get less from the state next year, he said.

The students' decision to showcase flag burning "cements the decision" to pull funding from the newspaper, Woollard said.

California lawmakers have sought to protect student newspapers in recent years, with the latest effort targeting high school and college journalism instructors.

A bill by Democratic state Sen. Leland Yee of Daly City would make it illegal to dismiss, transfer or otherwise punish teachers for protecting students' free-speech rights. The bill passed the Senate in April and was approved 10-0 Tuesday by the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

It has to pass the full Assembly before it would go to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. If the governor signs it, the law would take effect in January.

Yee spokesman Adam Keigwin said the senator would look into the decision by the Redding high school to stop publishing the newspaper. He said lawmakers cannot force schools to fund publications.

"Student newspapers often serve as the only watchdog on campus," Keigwin said. "If it's truly not an issue of money, it's disappointing a school district would dissolve a journalism program because they don't like the content."

### **Do you think this action was justified?**

### **What would be an appropriate symbol of a bar/bat mitzvah?**

### **What would be the official bird? The official animal?**

### **What would the flag look like?**

*Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart."*

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



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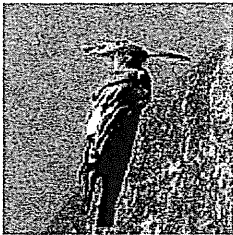
## Most Israeli Bird

## Hoopoe Israel's new national bird

**Thousands of Israelis participate in election of country's first national bird; after months of voting, President Peres announces Hoopoe raked in 35% of votes**

Erez Erlichman

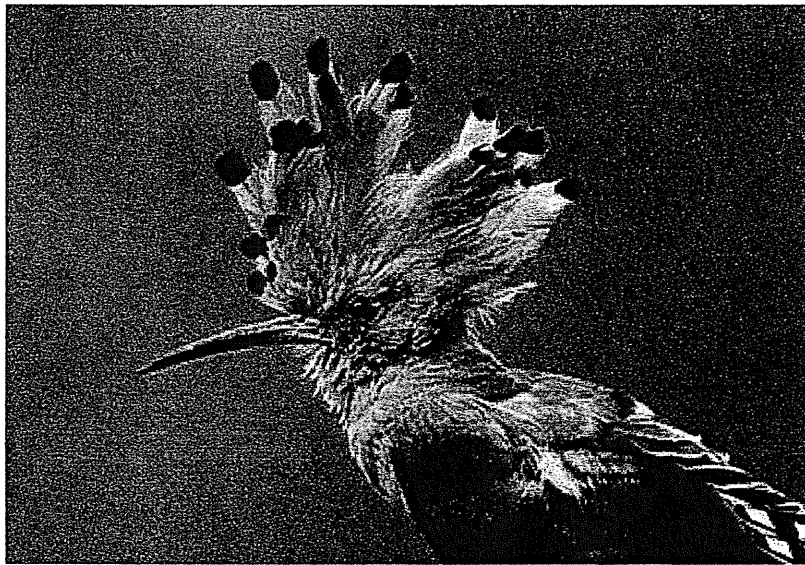
President Shimon Peres announced the Hoopoe as Israel's new national bird. The Hoopoe won an election held by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, which concluded on Thursday after months of voting. 155,000 people participated in the nationwide election.



The Hoopoe Photo:  
Omer Hachohen



[click here to  
enlarge text](#)



**The Hoopoe (Photo: Israel Fichman)**

The road to choosing Israel's national bird was long but entertaining. Last December, over 1,000 bird lovers participated in a seminar held in Tel Aviv University, during which they were asked to select 50 nominees for the title out of a long list of various candidates.

That list was then narrowed down to the bulbul (Pycnonotidae), the red falcon, the goldfinch, the biblical vulture, the spur-winged plover, the honey-sucker, the warbler, the white-chested kingfisher, and the white barn owl.



**Israel's new national bird (Photo: Eyal Bartov)**

The Hoopoe raked in 35% of the votes nationwide, and also won first place in the election held by Ynet with 20% of the net-surfer vote.

Peres commended the election, and said that "today more than ever we need green scenery, fresh air, and the beautiful, multi-colored birds that flock here." He added that "ornithology is one of the main assets of our small country." The president also remarked that 500 million birds pass through Israel's skies annually. "For such a small country, that's a world record," he concluded.



**Hoopoe rakes in 35% of vote (Photo: Yossi Ashbol)**

Peres also lamented that many birds, once common in Israel, have now become rare or disappeared completely from the country. He announced that he plans to hold talks with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the subject of returning the birds to their natural habitat.

When asked what his personal choice had been, Peres answered that he would have liked to see the vulture take first place, but also remarked that it was a pity the dove had not been nominated. HIS NAME

"The dove is equipped with a homing system, which can lead it home from anywhere it may be – and despite limitations and long distances it is a true Zionist," he said.