



GET READY FOR CELEBRATE ISRAEL ON APRIL 21ST, 2013

The Celebrate Israel Festival (Israel's 65th Independence Day Festival) is coming to Rancho Park near Century City on April 21st from 10am to 7pm. Save the date and buy your tickets now at: <http://www.celebratelaefestival.com/index.php#buy-tickets>. Celebrate Israel's mission is to bridge between communities by celebrating the State of Israel and educating through music, arts and culture.

The Celebrate Israel Festival 2013 is sponsored for the second year by the Israeli American Council. Formerly the Israeli Leadership Council, The group changed its name to the Israeli American Council last Sunday, March 10th at the sold-out Second Annual Israeli Leadership Council Gala at the Beverly Hilton.

The name change was spearheaded by Mr. Sagi Balasha, the Chief Executive Officer of the Israeli Leadership Council (ILC), now the Israeli American Council (IAC). The message embodied in the new name is significant, signaling the group's increased comfort with its dual Israeli-American

identity.

Founded in 2007 as the Israeli Leadership Club by a group of local Israeli-American businessmen who joined forces to ensure they could mobilize their community in support of the Jewish state in times of crisis, the organization has since grown into a nonprofit with a \$3 million annual budget. Its mission is threefold: supporting Israel, strengthening Jewish identity among young Israeli-Americans and building connections between the Israeli-American and Jewish-American communities. To that end, the IAC supports more than a dozen different projects and organizations.

Since first immigrating to Southern California in the early 1970's, Israeli-Americans have become a vital component of the fabric of the American melting pot and, in particular, the greater Los Angeles community. Many members of estimated 200,000 Israeli-Americans who reside throughout the greater Los Angeles area have been and continue to be important social activists and

philanthropists supporting important charitable causes here and in Israel.

One of the projects that is supported by the IAC for a second, thrilling year, is the Celebrate Israel Festival. I had the honor to view the Festival last year, and the crowds of happy, busy, celebrating attendees were astonishing. The pictures included on this page are of that successful event.

Israeli-Americans have become a vital component of the fabric of the American melting pot and, in particular, the greater Los Angeles community. With each new generation born

to Israeli-American families, there becomes a greater risk of disconnection with the Jewish homeland and rich Israeli culture. The IAC provides a conduit for increasing the capacity to affect change and influence outcomes on a wide array of matters influencing the quality of life here in the local community, throughout America, and in Israel. The Celebrate Israel Festival embodies that spirit of communication. I urge everyone to attend its exciting events for children and adults.

