Facts about Shabbat in Israel

1. In Israel, Saturday is called "*Yom* Shabbat"–the Sabbath day.

2. On Fridays in Jerusalem and other places in Israel, a city-wide siren signals the start of Shabbat.

3. An Israeli radio station remains silent on Shabbat unless there is an emergency.

4. There is no public bus service on Shabbat in Jerusalem and other places in Israel.

5. Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon (z"l), asked a rabbi to determine the proper time for him to celebrate Shabbat in space.

6. When Israel Independence Day falls on a Friday or Saturday, Israel moves the date to Thursday, to avoid conflicting with Shabbat.

7. Israeli schools open every day except Shabbat. Some schools are trying a new five-day week–Sunday through Thursday.