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your parents and grandparents and can declare that they/you are Jewish? Can you furnish a public document that shows you're Jewish? What foods do Jews typically eat on Shavuot? Do you have a photograph of a tombstone of your grandmother in a Jewish cemetery? Compile a list of five Jews who can prove that you/your parents are Jewish. And—in cases where the father is not Jewish—can you prove that your mother did not convert to another religion? I don't know many Jews who could pass such a test.

Are these kinds of questions asked of every Jew who wants to make *aliyah*?

Yes. To receive citizenship under Israel's Law of Return, you have to prove that your mother was Jewish, or, in case you have converted to Judaism, that it was done under the auspices of either an Orthodox rabbi or the Rabbinic Court recognized by the Orthodox-controlled Ministry of Interior. That's the political reality in Israel today.

Where does IRAC stand on this?

We say that the law should recognize as a Jew anyone born of a Jewish mother or father (so long as she or he has not converted to another religion), any person who has converted to Judaism by any ordained rabbi, or anyone who has been persecuted because of anti-Semitism. Ironically, under the law, someone like Pavel Friedman, the young man who wrote the now well-known poem "There Are No Butterflies Here" while in the Terezin concentration camp, would not have been considered a Jew, even though he was murdered in Auschwitz as a Jew.

You see, Pavel's father was Jewish, but his mother was not. I learned this while working on a project initiated by two American Reform Jews, Sue and Jimmy Klau, to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children who died in the Shoah. Sue envisioned collecting that number of butterfly drawings from young people around the world and putting them on permanent display in Israel. She wanted a member of the Friedman family present at the project's launch;

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