in ways which are less destructive mentally, but very problematic in other ways.

Some other factors of consideration are important. For instance, most drinking is done with meals. Food is more central as a stimulus for conviviality among Jews than alcohol. Alcohol is often served along with food but the focus is not on drinking per se. Of course, we have to admit that even “eating” is not a completely secular function for Jews since Jewish ritual gives great emphasis to the “feasts” of Holy Days. However, there must not exist all the same connotations about the “sacredness” of eating as about alcohol, for many Jews overeat in the same way that non-Jews overdrink—and for the same purpose—to relieve stress.27

It has also been suggested that members of all major Jewish groups from all nations are tied together in varying degrees by Zionism. Perhaps Zionism can be identified as a twentieth century secular Jewish orthodoxy which has been successful in helping even secularized Jews (i.e. Jews otherwise assimilated into the permissive, accepting American Culture) maintain their Jewish identity, and:

Where nominal change entails the substitution of a new secular orthodoxy (e.g. political Zionism) for the older religious orthodoxy, without seriously disrupting Jewish social ties, sobriety may persist.28

Since Israel has been mentioned, it is interesting to note that there are some particular problems regarding the use of alcohol that are appearing there. First of all, the legal code, modeled and derived from the British mandate period, includes four crimes relative to the abuse of alcohol: (1) disorderly behavior while drunk; (2) the possession of any loaded firearm, knife or other deadly weapon while drunk; (3) the supply of intoxicating liquor to any person who is already drunk; and, (4) the supply of alcoholic drink to, or encouraging its consumption by, any person who is under the age of 18. In 1961, it was noted that in spite of economic and political insecurity, there were few problems of the criminal behavior described in this code.29 A 1962 study showed a slight increase in drinking violations that suggested there was increasing consumption related to economic prosperity.30 By 1965, alcohol problems were acknowledged and defined in the following manner:

Although the consumption of wine has doubled and the use of brandy tripled from 1958 to 1965, the alcohol problem in Israel is still small. The compulsive drinker is rare and there is no Skid Row. Four types of alcoholism are described: ‘Status Alcoholism’ occurs because

27 Wilkerson, Prevention of Drinking Problems, p. 211.
28 Ibid, p. 140.