

70 WAYS/70 YEARS

70 practical ways you can support and connect to Israel, corresponding to each year of its existence.

1948

The IDF is created.

Express your appreciation or send letters of encouragement to Israeli soldiers by sending your message by e-mail as an attachment to LettertoSoldier@jazo.org.il or by forwarding them to The Jewish Agency for Israel, 633 Third Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY, 10017. Be sure to include your name and address.

1949

Israel admitted to the UN

Meet with local and national government officials on behalf of Israel.

1950

Law of Return enacted

Plan your next trip to Israel.

1951

The Hula Valley reclamation program begins turning swamps into arable lands.

Plant a tree in Israel with JNF and support their efforts to improve Israel's ecosystem.

1952

Israel signed a controversial reparations agreement with West Germany in which Germany took responsibility for genocide during the Holocaust and provided funds to pay for the loss of life and property.

Hold a bake sale to support CLICK NGO, a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the quality of life for retirees through a variety of programs. Their offerings include a community center for Holocaust survivors. <https://www.areyvut.org/opportunities/click-ngo/>

1953

Academy for Hebrew Language established to create new Hebrew words that keep up with modern usage

Establish an ulpan that meets regularly to practice your Hebrew.

1954

Yad Vashem Established

Support Yad Vashem's work to remember victims of the Holocaust by taking part in their Names Recovery Project. You can submit testimony regarding victims of the Shoah, create a Yizkor board in your synagogue or school, or create a names recitation ceremony to highlight this program to others. Please see <https://www.yadvashem.org/remembrance/names-recovery-project/commemoration.html> for more information.

1955

WEIZAC Computer, one of the world's first electronic computers and the first in Israel, was designed and constructed at the Weizmann Institute.

Decorate hats or t-shirts to send to the students at Boys Town Jerusalem, a school serving mainly children from disadvantaged home that focuses on training leaders of tomorrow with an emphasis on Jewish, academic, and technological content. Please see <https://www.areyvut.org/opportunities/boys-town-jerusalem/> for more information.

1956

Prof. Leo Sachs of the Weizmann Institute of Science and one of Israel's first scientists in the field of genetics, became the first to study amniotic fluid to diagnose genetic abnormalities.

Ask friends to donate old toys for a garage sale and use the proceeds to purchase new toys for Yad Sarah's toy library to support children with disabilities.

1957

National telephone dialing between Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa introduced

Call your friends and family in Israel just to talk or find out how school is going. Tell them you miss them and are thinking about them.

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1958

First International Bible Quiz in Jerusalem

Commit to reading the daily chapter of tanach from 929: Tanakh B'yachad (<http://www.929.org.il/today>). If your Hebrew is good enough, register with them and read an article about the daily chapter as well.

1959

MASHAV, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Center for International Cooperation, began sending Israeli eye-doctors to countries throughout the developing world to treat preventable blindness and ocular disease.

Run a lemonade stand and donate the proceeds to support IsraAID, an Israeli organization that provides disaster relief to people around the world. <http://www.israaid.co.il/about>

1960

Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University Medical School inaugurated at Ein Kerem

Create non-slip socks for pediatric patients at Hadassah Hospital. Instructions for socks can be found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/oB_eyKLMdshBaFhtX2hoWTAtMkU

1961

Operation Yachin brings Moroccan Jews to Israel

Decorate mezuzot for new olim and others who have recently moved into homes. (Suggested materials: Use clay to form a case and paint it when it dries. Or, construct a case out of wood, glue the pieces together with carpenter glue, and decorate case with jewels, stickers, markers, paint, etc.

1962

Yad LaKashish was opened to provide work for elderly craftman.

Purchase gifts from Yad LaKashish's online gift shop and support their efforts to help elderly and disabled Israelis. <http://www.lifeline.org.il>

1963

Supreme Court recognizes a marriage of a Jew and a Christian performed in Cyprus.

Write an op-ed article advocating for religious pluralism in Israel.

1964

National Water Carrier brings water from Kinneret to the desert.

Learn from Israel's efforts to promote water conservation by doing as much as you can to cut back on your own usage. See this link from the Environmental Protection Agency for tips: https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation_residents.html

1965

Israel Museum in Jerusalem founded as national museum.

Hold a paint night within your local school or synagogue. Donate all proceeds to support the Israel Museum, the country's largest cultural institution.

1966

Israeli author, Shmuel Yosef "Shai" Agnon receives Nobel Prize in Literature

Create a book club to encourage sharing of Israeli writing - either in Hebrew or in translation!

1967

The Six-Day war ends with the reunification of Jerusalem. Israel takes control of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and parts of the Sinai.

Help those in need in Jerusalem by sending new summer shirts to the boys and young men at Boys Town Jerusalem.

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1968

Paralympic Games held in Tel Aviv

Write fan letters to members of Israel's paralympic team congratulating them on their hard work and success. You can learn more about Israeli Paralympic athletes and find contact information for the at <https://www.paralympic.org/israel>

1969

Golda Meir becomes first female Prime Minister of Israel

Shine a light on the women leaders in your community. Tag their stories with @sheshouldrun on social media.

1970

Israel participates in Soccer World Cup Finals.

Organize a soccer tournament in your community. Donate the entry fees to the Neighborhood League, an organization that uses soccer as a starting point for providing social and educational activities within Israel's marginalized communities. <http://league.org.il/en/the-project/>

1971

Three millionth citizen arrives in Israel

In honor of Israel's olim, welcome newcomers to your neighborhood by delivering a welcome basket with snacks and helpful information about the area.

1972

Eleven Israeli athletes are murdered at the Munich Olympic Games by Black September.

Collect teddy bears to distribute to children of families who were victims of terror in Israel.

1973

The Yom Kippur War occurs.

Partner with Yashar L'chayal (<https://www.yasharlachayal.org/project/barbat-mitzvah/>) to provide essentials to our soldiers. Options include recreational equipment, winter clothing, toiletries, and more.

1974

First visit from U.S. president to Israel occurs by President Nixon

Publicly thank American politicians who have acted in support of Israel.

1975

UN General Assembly passes a resolution declaring that Zionism is a form of racism. The resolution is met with condemnation by the Israeli government and is repealed in 1991.

Show your public support for Israel and Zionism by displaying an Israeli flag in your windows and on your bumpers.

1976

Operation Entebbe, a successful counter-terrorist hostage rescue mission, was carried out by commandos of the IDF at Entebbe Airport in Uganda

Show gratitude toward the security guards who keep us safe in our airports, schools, synagogues, and elsewhere by bringing them a gift basket, baked goods, or a cup of coffee.

1977

Rummikub, a game that originated in Israel in the 1940s, became a top-selling game in the USA.

Buy Israeli Products: Shop for Israeli products at the local supermarket, through Israel fairs, and through the various websites selling Israeli products. OR: Plan an Israel fair that sells Israeli products benefiting the Israeli economy.

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1978

Israel wins the Eurovision Song Contes with the song "A-Ba-Ni-Bi" by Izhar Cohen & the Alphabeta.

Hold a dance party that features Israeli music. Invite friends and community members who may not be familiar with Israeli culture.

1979

Peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was signed in Washington, D.C.

Try to make peace between two people who are angry with each other.

1980

The lira is replaced by the shekel (1 shekel = 10 lirot)

Donate those shekalim! Make and distribute tzedakah boxes to support your favorite Israeli charity. Instructions for making a tzedakah box can be found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/oB_eyKLmodshBaFhtX2hoWTAtMkU

1981

Israel Air Force destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak just before it is to become operative.

If there is something potentially dangerous in your home or on your property, fix it today, so no one will get hurt.

1982

Zecharia Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz are left missing in action after the First Lebanon War.

Select a small number of texts about the mitzvah of Pidyon Shevuyim - redeeming captives - from the texts on this topic that are available on Sefaria and share them in a study session in honor of Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, and other soldiers who have gone missing in action. : <https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/14718>

1983

Bank Stock Crisis crashes Israel's four largest banks and leads to the loss of 1/3 of public investments and the nationalization of the banks.

Take active part in efforts to support individuals who have been negatively affected by economic downturn, both at home and in Israel. Help them make connections within their fields, edit their resumes and Linked-In profiles, and provide financial support when needed.

1984

Operation Moses begins bringing 7,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel

Support advocacy and community building efforts on behalf of Ethiopians Israelis who strive for equal access to educational and employment opportunities. Contact the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews (IAEJ), based in Israel, or Friends of Ethiopian Jews, based in the US (<http://www.friendsofethiopianjews.org>).

1985

More than 1,150 terrorists imprisoned in Israel are exchanged for three Israeli POWs in the so-called "Jibril Agreement."

Knit hats and scarves to send to Israeli soldiers, along with a note thanking them for putting their lives at stake every day.

1986

Natan Sharansky, a Soviet Jewish dissident, is freed from a USSR prison after 12 years and arrives in Israel.

Speak out on behalf of refugees in Israel and around the world.

1987

First heart transplant performed in Israel.

Lead a fundraising and awareness campaign on behalf of Save a Child's Heart, Israel's largest humanitarian organization that provides life-saving cardiac care to children of all backgrounds. <https://www.areyvut.org/opportunities/save-a-childs-heart/>

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1988

Israel's first artificial satellite, Earth Ofeq-1, was launched. This is a turning point in Israel's scientific research on our solar system and planet.

Start an environmental club in your school, synagogue, or more globally with the mission of implementing research-based ways to preserve the environment.

1989

Israel and Ethiopia restore full diplomatic relations.

Find an opportunity to learn more about a perspective about Israel that is different from your. Consider using an organization such as Resetting the Table (<http://www.resettingthetable.org>) as a resource to help get you started.

1990

Mass immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union begins; within several years, more than 700,000 immigrants arrive.

Start a chavrutah (paired study session) with an individual living in a remote area of Israel, America, or other places around the world to keep him/her engaged in Jewish learning. Programs such as Project Zug (<https://www.projectzug.org>) or Partners in Torah (<http://www.partnersintorah.org>) can assist you in making a match.

1991

Israel attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf War.

Check an online Israeli newspaper daily. Discuss Israel every night at the dinner table. Talk about what happened today and what you can do.

1992

First Olympic Medal: Yael Arad and Oren Smadja in Judo

Bring the Olympic spirit home by volunteering to coach a local youth sports league and imbuing a sense of sportsmanship among young players.

1993

In 1993 Indigo launched the E-Print 1000 at IPEX trade show, which marked a turning point in the printing industry.

Use your computer and digital printer to create get-well cards for hospital patients. Deliver them locally or send them to Israel.

1994

The Nobel Peace Prize 1994 was awarded jointly to Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin "for their efforts to create peace in the Middle East".

Honor individuals in your school, synagogue, or community who take steps to spread peace and kindness. Share their stories on a bulletin board or blog post, present them with an award for their efforts, and/or create an opportunity to publicly thank them for making our world a better place.

1995

National Health Insurance Law of 1995 establishes guaranteed healthcare for citizens.

Research Israel's national healthcare law to see what lessons can be learned and applied to help uninsured Americans.

1996

An Israeli company named Mirabilis launches ICQ, the first text-based messenger to reach a widespread market.

Use Israel's Instant Messaging technology to be in touch with family and friends in Israel and around the world.

1997

Helicopter crash kills 73 soldiers.

Pay close attention when the Prayer for the State of Israel and its soldiers is being said. If you don't understand the Hebrew, read the English. You can also say Tehillim (Psalms) on behalf of Israel and victims of terror.

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1998

An Israeli company named Given Images develops Pillcam to diagnose diseases of the small bowel.

Educate others regarding the importance of early disease detection for achieving the best outcomes. Set up a local campaign to share information with others, or support an organization such as the Israel Cancer Association (<http://en.cancer.org.il>).

1999

Mobileye is founded, paving the way for their groundbreaking work in car vision safety that has led to the development of self-driving cars.

Hold a carwash and donate all proceeds to your favorite Israeli charity.

2000

Birthright Israel begins sending American young adults to Israel

Sponsor or participate in a mission to Israel.

2001

Masada and the Old City of Acre are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Hold a bowl-a-thon, walk-a-thon, or swim-a-thon funds to support JNF's efforts to preserve Israel's heritage sites.

2002

Nefesh B'Nefesh organized its first chartered Aliyah flight.

Create Smile Bags for olim on Nefesh b'Nefesh's next chartered flight to Israel. Pack them with snacks and other essentials for their flight.

2003

Aharon Gedanken begins development of an anti-bacterial fabric to reduce hospital infection

Create games such as memory, tic-tac-toe, or puzzles to distribute to hospital patients - either locally or in Israel. <https://www.areyvut.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/HandsOnProjectsforNMD.pdf>

2004

Drs. Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko of Technion become the first Israeli scientists to win Nobel Prizes in science.

Host a fundraising trivia night to support Refanah Healing Holidays, a program that provides holidays for Israeli cancer patients. Refanah will even provide the content! <https://www.areyvut.org/opportunities/refanah-healing-holidays/>

2005

Israel disengages from Gaza.

Create a free-loan society in your area to support those who have lost their homes or are in other situations of need. Alternatively, provide financial support to existing free loan societies, such as the Israel Free Loan Society <http://www.israelfreeloan.org.il>

2006

The Second Lebanon War begins.

CHAI (Concerns for Helping Animals in Israel) led a campaign to save pets in Northern Israel who were left behind when Israelis fled their homes during the 2006 war with Lebanon. They continue to work to prevent and relieve animal suffering in Israel through education. Support their efforts by creating dog chew toys to donate that can either be sent to Israel or sold in America to raise funds for the organization. <http://www.chai-online.org>, [hands-on instructions for dog chew toys](http://www.chai-online.org/hands-on-instructions-for-dog-chew-toys).

2007

Raleb Majadele, Israeli Arab politician, becomes Israel's first Muslim minister.

Honor those who acted to increase democratic representation in Israel by taking an active role in a local "Get out the Vote" campaign to encourage participation and representation in our democratic system.

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2008

Israel's first solar power station opened

Commit to lower your carbon footprint. Start with small steps such as turning off all lights and electronics when not in use, using public transportation and carpools when possible, and recycling. Check out Areyvut's Make-A-Difference Day Resources from 2008 for more ideas: <https://www.areyvut.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/EducationalMaterials2008.pdf>

2009

Indoor playground built in Sderot so that children can play without fear of rockets.

Create art to decorate the indoor playground in Sderot. Instructions for a painted board project can be found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/oB_eyKLMdshBaFhtX2hoWTAtMkU

2010

Haiti Aid Mission

Learn to create balloon animals and sell them to raise money on behalf of The Dream Doctor's Project, an organization of medical clowns that provides comfort and love to sick children in Israel and around the world. Dream Doctors sent representatives to Haiti to aid with the recovery efforts.

2011

Gilad Shalit is released after almost five years in captivity.

Find a local group that works with ex-prisoners and volunteer to get involved however you're needed. For more ideas see <http://innocencenetwork.org/how-you-can-help/>

2012

Israeli company, Tipa, develops biodegradable food packaging that disintegrate in 180 days.

Support Israel's efforts to create a cleaner environment by encouraging others to recycle. Decorate recycling boxes to put in central locations throughout your home, school, or office, and commit to taking out the recycling on a weekly basis.

2013

Israel Fire and Rescue Authority within the Ministry of Public Security was established.

Partner with JNF to adopt an Israeli firefighter: https://www.jnf.org/menu-2/our-work/community-building/adopt-a-firefighter?_ga=2.43099429.1441521660.1519316102-874869175.1519316102

2014

Three Israeli teenagers, Naftali Frenkel, Gilad Shaer, and Eyal Yifrah were kidnapped from Gush Etzion and found dead.

Make a donation to support the Oz V'Gaon Nature Preserve, created by Women in Green as a memorial to Gil-ad, Eyal, and Naftali. <http://womeningreen.org>

2015

Israel sends relief to Phillipines victims of Typhoon Hagupit.

Follow Israel's lead by providing aid the next time there is a humanitarian disaster.

2016

Israeli Justice Ministry says husbands who refuse to grant a get can be tried in court.

Advocate on behalf of an agunah and plan to attend the next rally in your area. <https://www.getora.org>

2017

Five new national parks established in Israel

Sell homemade bracelets to raise funds to support a clean environment. Instructions for braided T-shirt bracelets can be found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/oB_eyKLMdshBaFhtX2hoWTAtMkU