



Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council

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SUPPORTING ISRAEL – BULLETIN #10

Prepared by Past-President Joseph M. Varon

December 2008 – January 2009

There are many ways Americans can support Israel, our ally, and the only democracy in the Middle East. Below please find a list of suggestions. We welcome other ideas from you for future editions. Please email them to Joseph Varon at: jvaron613@aim.com

I. **COME TO THE SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE** – Mark your calendars! This year's parade will take place Sunday, May 31st, 2009. Once again our council has formed a committee to plan our participation in the parade. Buses will leave from various synagogues and organizations in the council. Your synagogue and/or organization are welcome to join with us. Come march or cheer on those who are marching. Show the world we continue our unwavering support for Israel. For participation information, contact Corinne Steel, Steering Committee Chairperson at (718) 224-6468.

II. **BONEI OLAM –EVENING OF INSPIRATION** – Reserve the date-December 14, 2008 at 8:00PM. Come to the Young Israel of West Hempstead, 630 Hempstead Avenue, West Hempstead. Learn about the extraordinary programs of Boni Olam, and celebrate the births of over 1,200 babies in Israel and across the world. Bonei Olam is dedicated to helping couples pay for fertility treatments. Be inspired by the renowned guest speaker, Rabbi Paysach Krohn and a moving video presentation. There is no admission charge and there will be a dessert buffet. Check out www.boneiolam.org

III. **HELP BRING GALID SHALIT HOME** – It has been two years and five months since terrorists have kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. The American Zionist Movement is selling Free Galid Shalit Dog Tags. Wear a dog tag reminding the world, that over two years after his abduction, Gilad still remains in terrorists' hands. Use these dog tags at rallies, synagogue and campus programs and other community events to demand his immediate release. Each dog tag comes with a 24inch chain. \$1.00 each sold in units of 10. Go to http://www.azm.org/store_campaign_all.shtml.

Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council Members:

✧ B'nai B'rith Youth Organization ✧ Bayside Jewish Center ✧ Bay Terrace Jewish Center ✧ Bellerose Jewish Center ✧ Bell Park Jewish Center ✧ Bikur Cholim Society of New Hyde Park ✧ Chabad Lubavitch of Eastern Queens ✧ Chabad of Northeast Queens ✧ Congregation Bene Naharayim / Babylonian Jewish Center ✧ Congregation Ohr Moshe ✧ Hillcrest Jewish Center ✧ Hollis Hills Jewish Center ✧ Israel Center of Conservative Judaism ✧ Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services/Pride of Judea ✧ Jewish Center of Oak Hills ✧ Jewish War Veterans ✧ Lake Success Jewish Center ✧ Little Neck Jewish Center ✧ Long Island Jewish Medical Center ✧ Marathon Jewish Community Center ✧ Oakland Jewish Center ✧ Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation ✧ Queens Region Hadassah ✧ Samuel Field/Bay Terrace Y ✧ Samuel H. Wang-Yeshiva University High School for Girls ✧ Solomon Schechter School of Queens ✧ Temple Sholom ✧ Temple Tikveh ✧ Temple Torah of Little Neck ✧ Torah Center of Hillcrest ✧ Utopia Jewish Center ✧ Whitestone Hebrew Centre ✧ Yeshiva Har Torah ✧ Young Israel of Bayside ✧ Young Israel of Hillcrest ✧ Young Israel of Holliswood/Holliswood Jewish Center ✧ Young Israel of Jamaica Estates ✧ Young Israel of New Hyde Park ✧ Young Israel of Hollis Hills-Windsor Park ✧
✧ Affiliated with the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York ✧
✧ A Beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York ✧

IV. **TELLTHE EGYPTIANS: HELP FREE GALID NOW:** The fate of Gilad Shalit awaits your help. The Egyptians are mediating negotiations between Israel and Hamas. You can make a difference by urging the Egyptians to intensify their efforts on Shalit's behalf. Read the American Zionist Movement's suggested text, http://www.azm.org/shalit_egyptians.shtml or write your own. Please send cards to: The Honorable Maged Abdelaziz, Egyptian Ambassador to the UN, Egyptian Mission to the UN, 304 East 44th Street, N.Y., NY 10017

V. **"VOLUNTOUR ISRAEL-2009 CHESED SUMMER PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL"**. High school students currently in Grades 10 and 11 are invited to join the VOLUNTOUR ISRAEL chesed summer programs in Israel in 2009. These Orthodox programs are open now for registration at www.voluntourisrael.com.for people who want to put smiles on Israeli faces AND are looking for the experience of a lifetime!

The programs include:

One Family Fund-multi-day outdoor experience with teenagers affected by terror.

Running Day Camps for Ethiopian immigrants at Absorption Centers

Training as a Medical Clown and entertaining in hospitals

Activities and support for ill and disabled childrenand many more chesed activities.

See their website now at www.voluntourisrael.com for full details of chesed activities, flights, tuition and to download an application from the Programs' page.

For more information: e-mail Shoshana Lazar at shoshana.lazar@voluntourisrael.com or call her at 917-501-2696.

VI. **QUILTS FOR KATIF:** – Assist the refugees of Gush Katif by ordering a beautiful, colorful baby quilt. All of the proceeds of these uniquely designed and artfully quilted quilts go to the refugees of Gush Katif. (Absolutely no expenses deducted). Quilts are approximately 3 ½ X 3 1/2 feet. For more information, and /or to order , please call Judy Greenwald at 718-648-8680. Make all tax-deductible checks to: Central Fund For Israel. Please mark them "Operation Dignity". Check out their web site, <http://www.quiltsforkatif.com>.

VII. **FOLLOW COMPTROLLER THOMPSON'S LEAD:** – New York City Comptroller Thompson announced on behalf of the New York City Employees' Retirement System the purchase \$15 million of State of Israel fixed-rate bonds. The bonds, purchased from the Development Corporation for Israel, have a final maturity of 2 years. "The purchase of these bonds will strengthen and diversify the New York City Employees' Retirement System portfolio, assist the State of Israel, and demonstrate our continued confidence in Israel's economy," Thompson said. This is the third direct purchase of bonds from the State of Israel by a New York City pension fund system. In 2003, the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) purchased \$5million in State of Israel Bonds. TRS made a second \$5 million purchase in 2004. Do your part, purchase an Israel Bond or better yet have your synagogue or organization hold an Israel bond drive. *** Israel has never defaulted or missed a single payment of principal or interest. Israel bond purchases now total more than \$25 billion! For further information call the Development Corporation for Israel at 888-244-4808 or e-mail at: newyork@israelbonds.com.

VIII. **VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL:** – Traveling to Israel this year? Wish to help Israel and build a strong connection to our land and people? Bring about a positive change by opening people's hearts by opening your heart. If you have part of a day, or a day, or more during your trip to Israel, volunteer in Israel. Ruach Tova (<http://www.ruachtova.org>), which means "Good Spirit" in English is an Israeli organization that matches volunteers with over 1,200 Israeli organizations that need and want volunteers. Wherever you are in Israel and whatever time you have available, Ruach Tova will try to match you with organizations and people that need your help. If your interest is renovating senior citizens buildings or renovating bomb shelters; working with food rescue organizations to feed the hungry or helping the needy on Passover Eve, from visiting children in hospitals or helping special need kids in youth villages, Ruach Tova can place you according to your interests and time with a charitable organization that needs your help. THERE IS NO FEE. While planning your next trip to Israel , plan some time to volunteer.

If your synagogue or organization is planning an event to help Israel, please send us the details and/or if you know of a store which carries Israeli products please inform us so we may publicize these items in a future edition of this bulletin. Feel free to use all or parts of this bulletin in your organizations newsletter.