

Supporting Israel in Difficult Times

Dear chaverim,

The boycott effort

One of the more destructive international efforts against Israel is the effort to boycott Israeli products (the "b" of "bds"). Some have pushed a boycott of all products made in Israel. Others have sought a boycott of products from the Territories (Judea and Samaria, and the Golan). A variation of this effort is the effort to insist on labeling products from those areas, as is now being implemented by the European Union.

Davka- to make the point

One way we can show our support for Israel is to **davka** purchase Israeli products and, I would contend, **davka** those from the Territories. You might have done your Chanukah shopping already (if that's your thing in the first place), but you might want to consider doing some extra purchasing from Israel as a sign of solidarity.

Here are some ways in which you might spread this message.

The "klee"

This is a symbolic vessel, which sits on a table in the home, filled with various products from Israel. Go to <http://www.theklee.org/> for more information. Though you might purchase a specially designed *klee*, maybe make it an art project with your children.

Buy products from Israel

Here's one link to follow. <http://www.buyisraelgoods.org/>.

Of course, when you shop at local supermarkets, and especially the kosher markets, look for Israeli goods (please be mindful of purchasing produce that might have *shmittah* and *maaser/trumah* rules applying to them).

Consider products from the Territories

Here's one link to find a list: <http://www.israellycool.com/2015/11/26/buy-israel-support-eu-labeled-businesses/>

Admittedly, many of these are services and products not accessible in our markets. But some of the wine and cheese etc are, and consider purchasing them **davka** now.

Purchase Israel Bonds

Be in touch with our Westchester Israel Bonds representative, Cynthia Blustein at cynthia.blustein@israelbonds.com or 800 720-4743. You might also be in touch with our member Stuart Himmelfarb (Stuart.Himmelfarb@israelbonds.com) at the Bonds office as well. They have bonds in all denominations, some which make perfect gifts for Chanukah and Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

We are hoping to have a Bonds event at the Hebrew Institute in the months ahead.

Give to institutions and organizations that matter

Research and support any number of valuable organizations that do good work in Israel.

And get involved in our Five Synagogues of WP Israel Action Committee which helps spread awareness and creates collective support efforts too.

Advocate

Write letters, raise your voice, and participate in Pro-Israel organizations which work to defend and advance Israel in this country. We have had a poster up in shul inviting you to join a shul delegation to the upcoming AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington in March. Go to <http://www.policyconference.org/> for information. I hope to be in attendance and I hope you'll join me!

Go there!

Of course, one other way to show your support for Israel, especially at a time when its citizens are feeling vulnerable in the face of terror, is to **davka** decide to **make a trip there in the coming months**. As you know, I visited there last week, as your representative. In addition to the shiva presence component of my trip, I went to give some chizuk (strength) to our children who are studying there and those who are living there too. Baruch Hashem, we have seven shul teens who are studying there in post-High School programs. Make a trip, visit friends, family, and our kids (take them out to dinner?).

I intend to return on an Israel Bonds Rabbinic Mission in early February.

The cost of flights is down- now is the time to plan such a visit!

With love of Zion, and in the effort to give her strength,



Rabbi Chaim Marder