

What Does Showing Up for Israel Mean?

Showing up for one another doesn't require heroic gestures. It means training ourselves to approach, even when our instinct tells us to withdraw. It means picking up the phone and calling our friend or colleague who is suffering. It means going to the funeral and to the house of mourning. It also means going to the wedding and to the birthday dinner. Reach out in your strength, step forward in your vulnerability. Err on the side of presence.

Small, tender gestures remind us that we are not helpless, even in the face of grave human suffering. We maintain the ability, even in the dark of night, to find our way to one another. We need this, especially now.

Rabbi Sharon Brous citing Middot 2:2

A Prayer for Seeing a Soldier

At the corner of Kaplan and Ibn Gvirol,
you stand next to me waiting to cross,
a tower of olive with dust on your
boots, and I barely subdue a primal
urge to wrap my arms around you.

Soldier, what can I say to you?
For centuries, we had no defenders,
just amulets and allies,
and now your body is but one brick
in a massive wall of protection.

There is a prayer for seeing a rainbow,
but what about seeing a soldier?

Hannah Yenufshimi

Showing Up for Israel 2025/5785

Donate

1. Invest in Israel Bonds and buy bonds for simchas and holidays; buy them as a sound investment for you and as a way of sending a message about your love of Israel. The Israel Bond has never defaulted.
2. Investigate and invest in a micro loan via SparkIL.org to aid small businesses struggling in Israel.
3. Buy simcha gifts from Israel including Judaica and jewelry. Beth El and Ohev Sholom have gift shops.
4. Buy Israeli wine. KI has a wonderful wine cellar with an excellent selection of kosher Israeli wines.
5. Purchase Hadassah memberships for your family. (Architect of first Israeli Health System, great magazine and amazing medical research)
6. Buy Israeli products such as Trader Joe's Israeli feta, Giant's Jaffa oranges and Kedem sparkling grape juice, Amazon's Har Bracha Tahina, Israelcart.com's hoodies, olive oil, chocolate and amazing Halvah!
7. Have a group yard sale with proceeds to a worthy Israeli cause.

Educate

8. Watch and learn with JBS (Jewish Broadcasting Services for adults and children), daily Israel briefings on Xfinity or on its streaming app on demand: Movies, 92 ST Y lectures, Israel music, military briefings.
9. Explain to everyone in your world why Israel's existence is important to you.
10. Read or listen to Noa Tishby's book [Israel, a Simple Guide](#).
11. Read Bernard-Henri Levi's 146 page book, [Israel Alone](#).
12. Write a letter or poem to yourself or your family and friends about how October 7th has affected you and what has changed for you as you navigate as a Jew after October 7th.
13. Borrow courage from the Israeli people living, working and parenting in Israel and from Israelis living here. Both groups have much to offer those of us who have never felt one day of war on our own soil. Listen and learn.
14. Go to Israel on a Bearing Witness mission www.israellawcenter.org. Chip in to send a relative or friend on a JNF volunteer mission.
15. Defer your college admission and do a gap year in Israel. (Young Judea Year Course)

Advocate

16. Reach out to people you know in Israel. Use WhatsApp, email and Facebook. The briefest words of encouragement or simple Shabbat Shalom will be deeply appreciated. Contact is showing up in troubled times and sharing joy via a joke or photo.
17. Contact the White House and your senators and congress members about freeing hostages.
18. Donate to Israeli charities by creating a Facebook or Instagram fundraiser or send a check or through a donor advised fund in the JCF of Central PA.
19. Join Harrisburg's Whatsapp prayer group that reads Psalms 24/7 in English or Hebrew.
20. Wear blue clothing, nail polish, dye your hair blue or make and wear blue and white yarn bracelets.
21. Volunteer ASAP in Israel for desperately needed harvesting through www.leket.org. Join Facebook **Swords of Iron** for other volunteer opportunities.
22. Plan a trip to Israel. A new airline is flying Arkia beginning February 8th.
23. Contribute to a relative or family friend who can and wants to volunteer now in Israel. (**SAR EL, JNF, Masa Missions**)
24. Place a lawn sign supporting Israel and fighting terror.
25. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the world.
26. Have casual Shabbat dinners to help isolated local community members who have family members in Israel. We need each other!
28. Make your new year about deeds. Build and be built. (D. Ben Gurion) Take what you like & leave the rest!