

# YOUNG JUDAEA'S



THE ZIONIST YOUTH MOVEMENT OF HADASSAH

## ISRAEL BASICS KIT 5771 (2011)

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**\*\*For Internal Young Judaea Use Only\*\***

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# Fighting Distortion, Denial and Delegitimization

This kit includes materials to help you plan events and activities in your community for the holidays of **Yom Hashoah** (Holocaust Remembrance Day), **Yom Hazikaron** (Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror attacks) and Yom **Ha'atzmaut** (Israel's Independence Day).

These three holidays are the most recent major addition to the Jewish calendar and were placed between Passover and Shavuot. The placement of these holidays casts the Holocaust and the Creation of the State of Israel as the modern day equivalent of our ancient passage from bondage to redemption.

## Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day

The importance of observing Yom Hashoah has only grown over the last sixty years. As we get further away from the Holocaust and fewer survivors are alive to tell their story, we must fight the denial of preserve the historical truth that six million innocent Jews (plus millions of others) were slaughtered by the Nazi regime between 1939 and 1945. Some on the fringes of the academic community have attempted to rewrite history; they claim six million is an exaggerated number or that Jews have distorted what really happened in those years to leverage financial and political gain today. Some of these "historians" are even Jewish themselves, and are a discredit to our people and the academic community. We must take serious our responsibility to protect the truth and to honor those who suffered and to learn from history so as to pursue the motto we have embraced as our own: Never again.

## Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut – Memorial Day and Independence Day

Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut are on consecutive days and one of the most unique and fascinating moments of the year is the moment transitioning from Israel's most somber of days, remembering all those who have been killed that Israel can exist, and the exuberance and joy of independence day, the celebration of the modern miracle of the creation and prosperity of the Jewish state of Israel. This transition is less an intellectual understanding as it is a tangible, visible phenomenon, with millions of Israelis nearly instantly transforming from sincere grieving to joyful singing and dancing; as they say, "*Rak B'Yisrael!* (Only in Israel!)".

For us in the US, while we are somewhat removed from the personal nature of the holiday, we still feel connected to those we have lost, as the Jewish People, to have our own state today and marvel at the existence of our own country in our historical land. However, also in the US, we have an obligation to fight the crusade of Israel delegitimization, which is as old as Zionism itself. The ways this attempt to delegitimize Israel take form through a United Nations resolution declaring "Zionism as racism," the attempted academic boycott by European universities or the "Divest Israel" campaign at American universities, and countless other initiatives by those who wish to see Israel disappear.

By celebrating Israel's existence, and commemorating the sacrifices to make that a reality, we send a message: **We will never forget those we have lost, we Love Israel, it is not going anywhere!** At a time when our history, statehood and validity as a people and nation is being attacked, public observance and education around those holidays is one of the most important things we as Jews can do.

# Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust Peulah

## Goals:

1. To understand how Jews respond to anti-Semitism
2. To see different definitions of Jew: Jew as defined by anti-Semitism.
3. To see how Jews kept their Judaism during the Holocaust.
4. To understand the relationship between anti-Semitism and Zionism

**Age: Can be adjusted for all ages, grades 2-12**

**Time: 60 minutes**

## Materials:

- Laptop with YouTube Clips and speakers
- Paper with questions (for part 1), markers and tape
- Copies of stories for Part 4 (attached)
- Extra shirts or blindfolds for four chanichim

## Part 1 – Are you a Jew? (15 minutes)

The chanichim will enter the room where there will be questions about their Jewish identity on the wall. The questions are:

- Does Shabbat have any special meaning to you?
- Do you have a Christmas tree in your house on Christmas?
- Do you celebrate Hanukah?
- Was your grand grandfather a Jew?
- Is your mother a Jew? Your father?
- What is your family name? Does it have any Jewish roots?
- What is your first name? Does it have any Jewish connection?
- Are you a Jew?

The madrich will a remark about the questions and ask the chanichim to look at them and think about them during the various activities.

## Part 2 – Short film about the holocaust and a testimony. (5 minutes)

Show this clip provided by Yad Vashem:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3mYzrkGOCl&feature=related>

Now divide the group into 4 smaller groups.

## Part 3 – Understanding Persecution: (10 minutes)

The madrichim will choose 4 chanichim who will be asked to get from one point to another. After they will accomplish it they will have to return but using only their left leg, then walking without moving their hands, and then walk with their eyes closed etc. Then they will be asked to talk about something but will be given more and more restrictions (like not using certain letters or words).

After the activity the madrich will ask the chanichim questions such as “how did you feel when people told you what to do?”, “was it hard?” etc. Then the madrich will explain that this is how the Jews lived in the years before the holocaust (with rules and איסורים ).

#### **Part 4 – Stay or leave? (10-15 minutes)**

Two groups will be the Levi's family and the other two will be the Cohen's family. After reading the background about the family each group will have to agree about reasons to stay or leave. Then the two families (Levi and Cohen) will meet and will have a discussion of why they decided to stay or to move.

Discussion – The two families sit in circle, Levi on one side and Cohen on the other. Each family will choose one chanich as a representative to go to the center and speak for them. When one of the chanichim has nothing to say he will raise his hand so another chanich from the same family can switch in for him.

Then show the following YouTube on Krystallnacht:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDUwxS893CM>

#### **Part 5 – Shhhh.... (15 minutes)**

The chanichim will have to answer the question “What is the Jewish identity?” (kashrut Shabbat holidays etc). After they do that they will have to make “something” that will collect all the Jewish identity into this something. Then they will play a game that will explain how the Jews kept their Jewish identity.

The madrich will pick 4 chanichim that will play the roll of the guards (Germans). These guards will blindfolded and will protect a piece of area. The goal of the rest of the group is to get into this area and do their “something” that will all Jewish holidays or kosher or tfilot. Afterwards the madrich will gather the group and ask questions about the game. How was it, what did you feel, what was important to you. This game represents that the Jews had to sneak to everywhere and hide in order to keep their traditions.

#### **Part 6 – The Warsaw Ghetto Revolt. (10 minutes)**

The madrich will give a short explanation about the revolt that happened in the Warsaw Ghetto and will explain that the Jews wanted a land of their own.

The chanichim will play another game:

- a. The madrich designates an area as safe land and 2 chanichim to protect it
- b. The rest of the chanichim will have to try and get to that land (the game could be played couple of times)
- c. Whoever makes it over, wins.

To sikum the Warsaw Ghetto revolt part, play this YouTube Video by Yad Vashem:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhDu\\_Y1sPiE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhDu_Y1sPiE)

#### **Sikum in groups: (5 minutes)**

The madrich will sikum the peulah by explaining the relationship between anti-Semitism the pre-1948 Zionist Movement.

### **The Cohen family Story**

When Hitler was elected to lead Germany you weren't afraid. You were sure that everything would be alright, and that he wouldn't be in government for long.

But as time passed you started to realize that maybe you were wrong.

Your father, who worked as the administrator for one of the biggest banks in München, got fired. You and your sister Hana got kicked out of school, although you were one of the best students. After a couple of years you and your family weren't allowed to ride on certain buses or to shop in to certain stores and eventually you weren't even allowed to gather with your friends in public. One day your father came back home all bruised and beaten. He said that he fell down the stairs but you didn't believe him. Newspapers talked about Jews who got arrested for no reason and about violence against Jews everyday. Your mother didn't aloud you to get out of the house and you hadn't spoke to your friends for about a month. In 1937 your family gets a letter from your uncle Moshe that lives in America. He says that the situation will only get worse and he tells your family to move to America with him. The next day you find yourself one a boat to America.

### **The Levi family**

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# A Taste of Israel: Beit Café Peulah

**Goal:** For chanichim to be exposed to and discuss different issues in Israel today as well gain exposure to Israeli culture

**Time:** 30-45 minutes

**Age:** High School students

## Materials

-Snacks in bowls for different stations (Israeli if you can find!)

-Apron or costume for waiters for tsevet

-iPod with "Shirat Hasticker" by Hadag Nachash

-Attached lyrics to Shirat Hasticker"

-“Siren” by Etgar Keret, Page 77-83 in [“The Bus Driver that Wanted to Be God”](#) (also available on Google Books)

-Attached article from Haaretz

-Laptop with [YouTube clip of Eretz Naderet: Angry Birds](http://www.mako.co.il/tv-erez-nehederet/season7-articles/Article-e38ab43900e6c21006.htm) (<http://www.mako.co.il/tv-erez-nehederet/season7-articles/Article-e38ab43900e6c21006.htm>)

## Setup:

Set up the room like a café with or without tables and chairs. If there are not tables and chairs, just set up snacks (pretzels, chips, Israeli snacks if you can find them!) in bowls on the ground spread out so small groups can sit around them.

At each “table” there will be the following discussion pieces. You can either have chanichim rotate to each table for a different discussion. Or the tsevet can be the “waiters” and bring each item to each table as if they were courses of a meal. Each discussion piece will have a 5-10 minute discussion.

- 1) An iPod and Speaker playing “Shirat Hasticker” by Hadag Nachash
- 2) A short story by Etgar Keret
- 3) An article from Haaretz
- 4) A laptop with the YouTube clip of the Israeli sketch comedy show of “Eretz Naderet”

## Shirat Hasticker Station:

1. Pass out translation to lyrics and explain that all of the lyrics are from different popular bumper stickers in Israel. (provided below)
2. Play Song
3. Discussion
  - a. On a scale from 1-10, how political would you say this song is?
  - b. On a scale from 1-10 how political do you think music is in America today?
  - c. Is it good for music and musicians and artists to take a stand on political issues?
  - d. If it's good, do you think there should be more American artists taking political stances?
  - e. If it's not good, do you think there should be fewer songs like Shirat Hasticker?

## “Siren” Short Story Station

1. Explain that Etgar Keret is a well respected Israeli short story author. Pass out “Siren”, and have chanichim read the story out loud together (one at a time in a circle).
2. Discussion
  - a. What is the role of the janitor in this story? Why is it important that he's a holocaust survivor and that it's Yom HaShaah in Israel?
  - b. Why is it *ironic* that the older boy who wants to serve in the army doesn't understand

- why it's wrong to steal from a Holocaust survivor?
- c. Does anyone know what the sirens are? (if not explain, that on Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron, sirens blare across the whole country for one minute and everyone stops for one minute to listen). Do you think it is strange that it ends with the Yom Hazikaron siren?

### **Eretz Naderet Angry Birds Clip (warning: brief obscene language)**

1. Explain that Eretz Naderet is a sketch comedy show that satirizes life in Israel, especially politics and that the clip they're going to watch was one of its most popular

2. Play Clip

3. Discussion

- a. Does this remind you of an American style sketch comedy show? How so or how not so?
- b. How does this reflect the Arab-Israeli conflict?
- c. Who do you think the Israelis are: the pigs or the birds?
- d. Why does having a vibrant culture with an open society and free press that could make a show like this important for a country?

### **Bibi vs. Bieber Article**

1. Pass out article to be read out loud by group (provided below)

2. Discussion:

- a. Do you agree boycotting the meeting was the right thing to do?
- b. Should Israel have tried to use Justin Bieber to raise awareness?
- c. If Bieber did agree to meet with the children of Sderot, would he need to also meet with children in Gaza or the West Bank?

# Netanyahu cancels Bieber date over refusal to meet kids affected by Gaza rockets

*PM was scheduled to host pop star at his Jerusalem office; taking advantage of the PR situation, Netanyahu's advisers invited group of kids from communities near Gaza border to attend.*

By **Haaretz Service** and **Barak Ravid**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has canceled his date with pop sensation Justin Bieber over the singer's refusal to meet with children living in communities affected by Gaza rocket fire, Channel Two reported on Tuesday.

The prime minister was scheduled to host the young singer at his office in Jerusalem on Wednesday evening, before Bieber's Thursday night concert.

Taking advantage of the PR opportunity presented by the meeting with Bieber, Netanyahu's advisers invited a group of children from communities near the Gaza border to attend.

The children had disembarked from a school bus just before it was hit by a Hamas rocket last Thursday, critically wounded a teen and moderately wounding the bus driver.

Bieber reportedly refused to meet the children, which led Netanyahu to cancel the meeting.

Upon arriving in Israel on Monday, the singer was met by throngs of tween girls who mobbed his Tel Aviv hotel.

Some 200 young fans gathered at Tel Aviv's Sheraton Hotel Monday morning, staying there for hours in the hope of catching sight of the phenom. Bieber is scheduled to give a concert in Tel Aviv on Thursday night.

"We arrived especially on a flight from Eilat," said Yaakov Melamed, father of a 12-year old girl - one of about 200 groupies in the hotel's lobby on Monday. "We are following him everywhere," said Adi, 14, from Ganei Tikva. "I will go with him to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, and I've been waiting here since eight in the morning," she said.



## SHIRAT HASTICKER

Dor shalem doresh shalom,  
tnu tzahal lenatze'ach,  
am chazak oseh shalom,  
tnu letzahal lekaseach,

ein shalom im aravim  
al titnu lahem rovim  
kravi zeh hachi achi  
gius lekulam, ptor lekulam,  
ein shum ye'ush ba'olam  
yesha zeh kan  
na nach nachman me'uman  
no fear, mashi'ach ba'ir  
ein aravim ein pigu'im

bagatz mesaken yehudim  
ha'am im hagolan  
ha'am im ha transfer  
test beyerka  
chaver, atah chaser  
hakadosh baruch hu  
anachnu bocharim becha  
b'chirah yeshirah zeh rah  
hakadosh baruch hu  
anachnu kana'im lecha  
yamutu hakana'im

kamah ro'a efshar livlo'a  
aba terachem aba terachem  
kor'im li nachman ve'ani megamgem  
kamah ro'a efshar livlo'a  
aba terachem aba terachem  
baruch hashem ani noshem.

medinat halachah - halchah hamedinah  
mi shenolad hirvi'ach  
yichyeh hamelech hamashi'ach  
yesh li bitachon bashalom shel sharon  
chevron me'az uletamid  
umi shelo nolad hifsid  
chevron ir ha'avot  
shalom transfer  
kahane tzadak

CNN meshaker  
tzarich manhig chazak  
sachtin al hashalom  
todah al habitachon  
ein lanu yeladim lemilchamot meyutarot  
hasmol ozer la'aravim  
bibi tov layehudim  
posh'ei oslo ledin  
anachnu kan hem sham  
achim lo mafkirim  
akirat yeshuvim mefaleget et ha'am  
mavet lebogdim  
tnu lachayot lichyot  
mavet la'archim.  
kamah ro'a efshar livlo'a...  
(x3)  
Lechasel, laharog, legaresh, lehat'ot  
lehadbir, lehasgir, onesh mavet, no fear  
lehashmid, lehakchid, lemager, leva'er,  
hakol biglalcha, chaver.

## SONG OF THE BUMPER-STICKERS

A full generation demands peace,  
let the IDF win,  
a strong nation makes peace,  
let the army mow them down,

no peace with the Arabs,  
don't give them guns,  
combat's where it's at, bro  
draft for all, exemption for all  
there's no despair in the world  
judea and samaria is here  
na nach Nachman from Uman  
no fear, the messiah's in town  
no arabs, no bombs

the supreme court endangers jews  
the nation with the Golan  
the nation with the transfer  
test in Yirka  
my friend, you are missed  
the holy one, blessed be he  
we vote for you  
a direct vote is bad  
the holy one, blessed be he  
we are jealous to you  
may the jealous die.

how much evil can be swallow?  
father have mercy, father have mercy  
my name is Nachman and I stam-stammer  
how much evil can be swallow?  
father have mercy, father have mercy  
blessed be He, that I breathe...

a state of religion - the state is gone  
whoever's born benefits  
long live the king messiah  
i'm secure in Sharon's peace  
Hebron always was and will be  
whoever was not born missed out  
Hebor of the forefathers  
hello to transfer  
Kahane was right

CNN lies  
a strong leader's needed  
nice going on the peace  
thanks for the security  
we have no children left for futher wars  
the left helps the Arabs  
Bibi's good to the Jews  
Sentence the Oslo criminals  
us here, them there  
we don't desert brothers  
uprooting settlements splits the nation  
death to the traitors  
let the animals live  
death to values!  
how much evil can be swallow...  
(x3)  
To liquidate, to kill, to banish, to deport  
to sanitise, to lock up, death sentence, no fear,  
to wipe out, to annihilate, to cut off, to burn.  
all for you, my friend.

## How Israel Got to Where it is Today Peulah

**Objective:** To give chanichim a basic understanding of how Israel was born and has evolved today

**Age:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Materials:**

- Israeli flag stickers
- Herzl Beard
- Laptop
- Rikud music
- Eye Patch
- Larger paper
- Markers
- Picture of Kotel
- Map of Israel and Middle East

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Trigger:** The Chanichim will be given stickers with Israeli flags on them and told that they are now Israel today, and they must “find themselves” and understand how they got to become the Israel they are today. A tour guide will come and bring them back in time to main events that shaped them into the present day Israel.

**Implementation:** The tour guide will bring them all on a time machine (Be creative here! You can do fun actions or maybe have them all spin around to show that they are moving from time to time). The Chanichim will go around from “time to time” where they will meet someone from the time to tell them about what they (meaning Israel) were like then. Once they complete each station they will get a piece of a map of modern day Israel- so they are literally building Israel out of our history.

\*This must all be done together in the exact order\*

### 1. 1897 The first Zionist congress

Actor Needed to Play Theodor Herzl (Bear recommended!)

Script:

Hello my name is Theodore Herzl! Some call me the father of Zionism. I thought of the idea of Jews having their own home land. Just like I thought of the Idea of Israel you will have to think of your own country. I am currently in the First Zionist congress. This is really important in your history because before Israel was an official state all of us Zionist leaders got together and talked about the future and idea of having a Jewish state. We even got offered to have our country in Uganda but we didn't accept because the land that you all have now has so much history behind it that we decided we needed it.

Activity:

Give them all a blank piece of paper and markers and they will have to “create” their own country's name and a flag!

## 2. 1948, Independence war

### Actor Needed to Play David Ben Gurion:

Shalom, my name is David Ben Gurion. I was the first prime minister of Israel. On May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948 we declared the state of Israel and right after we did this FIVE Arab countries attacked from all around! How in the world a brand new little country like us survived is a miracle! This was a horrible war, after we finally got the country we wanted everyone tried to take it away from us!!

Activity: M&M war- give everyone a paper bag with M&Ms in it (they will all be really happy this to get candy) but then tell them they now have to fight to keep this thing that was given to them. Tape the bag of M&Ms to the chanichim backs and tell them that they have to try to steal each other's M&Ms. They will have 45 seconds to try to steal as many M&Ms as possible.

## 3. 1967 Reunification of Jerusalem

### Actor: To Play Moshe Dayan (wear eye patch)

Script: Shalom! I am Moshe Dayan and I was one of the brave soldiers that helped recapture Jerusalem in the 1967 Six Day War. In the spring of 1967, we really had our back to the wall when Egypt, Jordan and Syria all coordinated to attack Israel at the same time, but we outfought them and gained back more of the ancient land of Israel than we had before, including Jerusalem, Israel's capital today!

Activity: Chanichim will write one wish for the State of Israel on a post-it and put it onto the wall that will be made to look like the Kotel (include an actual picture of the Kotel).

## 4. 1979, Israel and Egypt Peace Agreement

### Actor to Play Menachem Begin (wear thick glasses)

Script: Shalom, I'm Manachem Begin. I played a large role in the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. In this agreement we gave the Sinai peninsula to Egypt in exchange for peace. (\* show map of Israel and how it has changed).

Activity: M&M trade-For this give everyone a handful of M&Ms and tell them each a color that they have to get. They will then have to go around and trade M&Ms until they each have only the color they are assigned. This shows that if they work together they can each get what they want.

## 5. 1984, Operation Moses

### Actor: to play Ethiopian Jew in Israel Kabede (if a boy) Chekolech (If a girl)

Script: Hello my name is Kabede/Chekolech. My family recently came over to the Land of Israel in Operation Moses. This was when Israel brought over 8,000 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel. Aliyah (moving to Israel) is very important to Jews all over the world including us Jews from Ethiopia. Many of us had to walk many miles to get here, just like in the story of Passover!

-Listen to the song *Hamasa L'erezt Yisrael*. This song is about Ethiopian Jews journey to Israel

(with translation).

#### 6. 1990's, Hi Tech Boom

Actor: to play Yossi, young Israeli professional

Script: Shalom, my name is Yossi! I am a scientist and work with the same Israelis that helped invent much of the technology that we all love today like instant messaging (Gchat) and cell phone technology! Today Israel still loves its farms and kibbutzim, but the main source of our economy is our innovation in science and technology!

Activity: Watch Hi Tech YouTube Clip - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYXk16Xnp6g>

#### 7. Insert today's date here

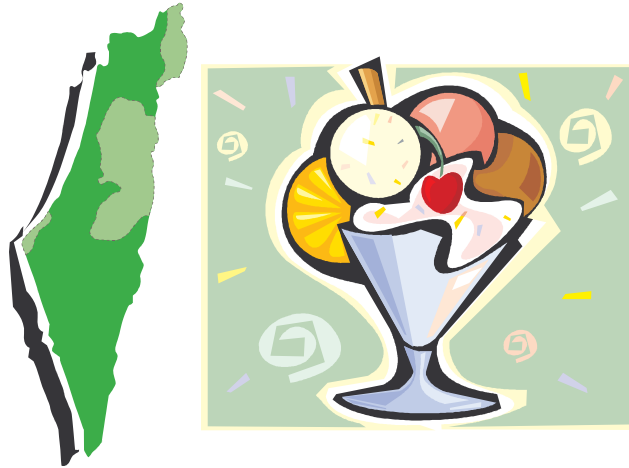
On (today's date) a group of (number of kids at event) chanichim in Young Judaea gathered together and learned about Israel!

Now the chanichim will be able to put together their map of Israel that was built by history.

Sikum: Celebrating getting to where we are now! And Yom Ha'atzmaut

Play Israeli music, pull out some bamba and bisli, have a good time and socialize as people leave!

# Classic Israel Ice Cream Peulah!



**Goal:** To reinforce Israel's geography and important cities

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Age:** Any!

**Materials:** (For each group)

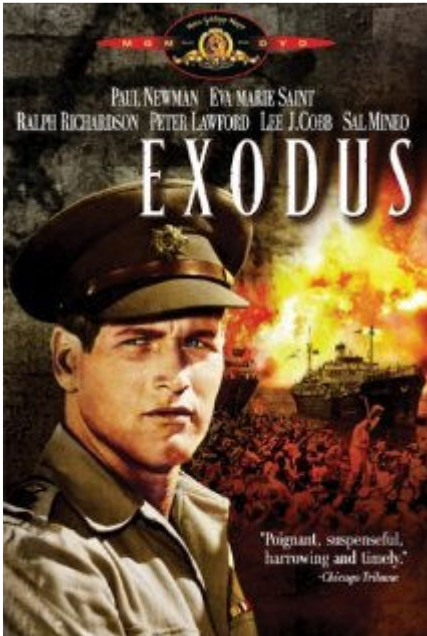
- a map of Israel,
- several flavors of ice cream,
- several varied toppings: chocolate syrup, chocolate chips, licorice, gum drops, m & m's, whipped cream, colored and brown sprinkles, cherries, etc.),
- a cookie sheet covered in aluminum foil,
- ice cream scoop,
- knives,
- spoons,
- bowls
- paper towels.

*Step 1:* Name Games and Mixers [10 minutes]

*Step 2:* Implementation [35 minutes]

- A. Divide the chanichim into small groups. Give each group food supplies and a map of Israel.
- B. Instruct the groups that they need to create Israel out of ice cream. Encourage them to include topography, bodies of water and cities. Or you can also have different groups make different types of maps: one natural/geographic, another one for different cities, another one for different religious cites, etc.
- C. Allow each group to present their map then eat! A variation can be done with frosting and toppings on top of cake, rather than ice cream

# POPCORN PEULAH



## Exodus (1960)

208 min - [Action](#) | [Drama](#) | [History](#) - [15 December 1960 \(USA\)](#)

**6.8/10**

Users: ([3,720 votes](#)) [57 reviews](#) | Critics: [11 reviews](#)

The theme is the founding of the state of Israel. The action begins on a ship filled with Jewish immigrants bound for Israel who are being off loaded on Cyprus...

### Director:

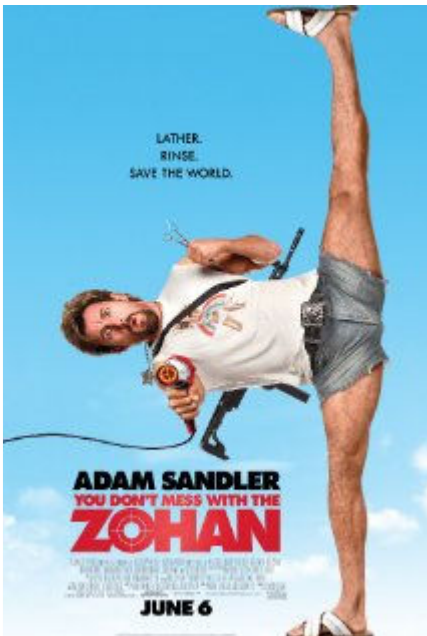
[Otto Preminger](#)

### Writers:

[Dalton Trumbo](#) (screenplay), [Leon Uris](#) (novel)

### Stars:

[Paul Newman](#), [Eva Marie Saint](#) and [Ralph Richardson](#)



## You Don't Mess with the Zohan (2008)

**PG-13** 113 min - [Action](#) | [Comedy](#) | [Drama](#) - [6 June 2008 \(USA\)](#)

**5.6/10**

Users: ([59,176 votes](#)) [341 reviews](#) | Critics: [181 reviews](#) Metascore: **54/100** (based on [37 reviews](#) from [Metacritic.com](#))

An Israeli Special Forces Soldier fakes his death so he can re-emerge in New York City as a hair stylist.

### Director:

[Dennis Dugan](#)

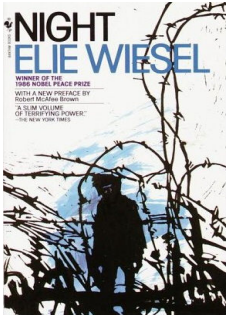
### Writers:

[Adam Sandler](#), [Robert Smigel](#), and [1 more credit](#) »

### Stars:

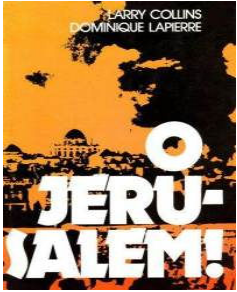
[Adam Sandler](#), [John Turturro](#) and [Emmanuelle Chriqui](#)

# RECOMMENDED AND RELEVANT BOOKS



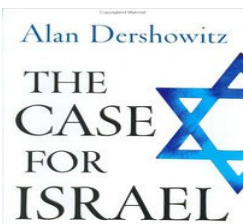
## [Night, by Elie Wiesel](#)

Acclaimed author and human rights advocate of Elie Wiesel tells his story village's imprisonment in a ghetto in under Nazi control and eventually his time in a Nazi Concentration camp.



## [O! Jerusalem. by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre](#)

An incredibly well told story of the politics, diplomacy, intrigue and combat that led to Israel's declaration and war of Independence from 1947 to 1948. It is told from a combination of Jewish, Arab, British and international perspectives.



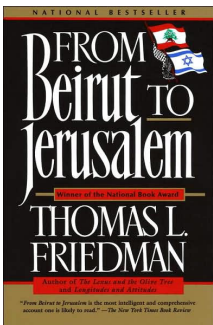
## [The Case for Israel, by Alan Dershowitz](#)

Lawyer and Israel advocate Alan Dershowitz lays his case for the validity of Israel in its handling of the Israeli-Arab conflict and its pursuit of peace.



## [Start Up Nation, by Dan Senor and Saul Singer](#)

This recent best seller examines how the culture, diversity and political situation of Israel have propelled it to be one of the most economically innovative nations in the world.



## [From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas Friedman](#)

New York Times writer Thomas Friedman explains his up close exposure to the Arab Israeli conflict as a reporter on the ground in Beirut during Israel's war with Lebanon in 1982 and in Jerusalem during the first *Intifada* in 1987.

# **RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS:**

## **Israeli Foreign Ministry: [www.mfa.gov.il](http://www.mfa.gov.il)**

A major branch of the Israeli government, the foreign ministry is the government's mouthpiece, communicating messages and responses to the world through its emissaries, press releases and their website.

## **Jewish Agency for Israel: [www.jafi.org.il](http://www.jafi.org.il)**

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) has been at the center of Israel and world Jewish relations for decades and has recently shifted its focus from encouraging Aliyah (migration to Israel) to reinforcing Jewish identity in Jewish communities around the world.

## **World Zionist Organization: [www.wzo.org.il](http://www.wzo.org.il)**

The World Zionist Organization continues its tradition from the original Zionist Congress in 1897 to today, to continue to ongoing debate and evolving understanding of the role of Zionism and Israel in the world today, as well as the Jewish People's responsibility to Israel.

## **AIPAC: [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org)**

One of the most effective lobby organizations in the US, AIPAC is a political action committee dedicated to strong ties and an unshakable relationship between the governments of the United States and Israel.

## **J Street: [www.JStreet.org](http://www.JStreet.org)**

J Street has made ripples in the Jewish community recently with its stated "Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace" tagline and acts as a lobby organization that advocates for the "Land for Peace" approach to solving the Palestinian conflict, and encouraging the US government to support the more left-leaning parties in Israeli politics.

## **Makom: [www.makomisrael.org](http://www.makomisrael.org)**

A branch of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Makom deals with Israel-Diaspora engagement and more sophisticated Israel education, dealing with some of the most challenging questions that Israel deals on how it promotes Jewish values and identity.

## **The David Project: [www.TheDavidProject.org](http://www.TheDavidProject.org)**

This organization helps American Jews advocate on behalf of Israel.

## **StandWithUS: [www.Standwithus.com](http://www.Standwithus.com)**

StandWithUs helps organize and support American college students to fight Israel delegitimization on US College campuses.

# **ISRAELI NEWS WEBSITES**

Having a hard time keeping up with the news in Israel? Use these Israeli and Jewish news sites to stay in the loop!

Ha'aretz Daily: [www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)

Jerusalem Post: [www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

Yediot Acharanot: [www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com)

Jewish Telegraph Association: [www.JTA.org](http://www.JTA.org)

# 4 WAYS TO SUPPORT ISRAEL

An essential part in celebrating and uniting with Israel is giving back to the country. As Jews in America, there are countless ways we can help. Here are four ways to start!

## Stand With Sderot

### **Background**

Sderot is a small city in Israel on the bordering the Gaza Strip. Sderot has been a constant target for Qassam Rockets over the past few years fired from Hamas out of the Gaza Strip. From June 2007 to February 2008, 771 rockets and 857 mortar bombs were fired into Sderot and the western Negev. While most of the rockets have stopped, we can in no way turn our attention from Sderot. The city is still in need of major reconstruction and an extremely large portion of the residents (mainly children) suffer from Post Traumatic Stress (PTS).



### **What can you do to help?**

#### 1. Sderot Media Center

This organization helps the citizens of Sderot rebuild their lives. Based through Sderot they use journalism to bring the citizens' plight to the world's attention. They also use therapeutic media and drama to help teens and adolescents in Sderot recover from their PTS. Donate to the Sderot Media Center to help these people. <http://www.sderotmedia.org.il/contribute.html>

#### 2. **Garin Ha'AM**

This group of activists on [Young Judaea's Year Course](#) is dedicated to helping individuals in Israel who have been personally and individually attacked in some way. Garin Ha'AM is involved in helping Sderot rebuild itself from the ongoing attacks it suffered from 2007-2008.

#### 3. **Community Benefits**

Attend one of Young Judaea's benefit concerts or dinners across the country to help the people who live there (proceeds will be split between the Sderot Media Center and Garin Ha'AM). If you live in San Diego you may have already attended one of these concerts! Go to the following Facebook event pages for Sderot Benefits in: [Maryland, on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>](#), [North East on June 19<sup>th</sup>](#) (Location TBA), and [Portland, Oregon on May 1<sup>st</sup>](#):

*\*\*If you do not live in one of these areas contact Talia Niederman, National Social Action Programmer, at [talia.niederman@gmail.com](mailto:talia.niederman@gmail.com) or Rachel Comstock, Young Judaea Year Round Programs Associate, at [RComstock@youngjudaea.org](mailto:RComstock@youngjudaea.org) to find out how to do something in your area!\*\**

# Gilad Shalit



## **Background**

Gilad Shalit was born August 28, 1986. Like most Israelis, Gilad went into the army when he was 18 and loyally served in the army until he was kidnapped by Hamas from within Israeli territory in 2006. Since then, Gilad has been denied any humanitarian aid or contact with his family. Noam and Aviva Shalit (Gilad's parents) have been without their son for almost five years now. Hamas however, has set a costly price for Gilad's freedom, demanding the release of 1,000 plus known terrorists for Gilad.

## **What can you do to help?**

1. Write to the [Red Cross](#) to pressure them to work harder to visit Gilad. (See attached Sample Letter)
2. Email Gilad's parents, Noam and Aviva Shalit, through Koach, at [freegilad@uscj.org](mailto:freegilad@uscj.org) telling them that you stand with them and are praying and hoping for Gilad's return (See attached sample letter).
3. Lobby or [write to your congressmen](#) or [President Obama](#) explaining Gilad's plight. Urge them to put pressure on Arab leaders to release Gilad (See attached sample letter).

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

4. Raise awareness at your synagogue, schools or club. Materials can be found at <http://giladshalit.fr>.

# Hadassah Hospital

## [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org)

## **Background**

Founded in 1934 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah Hospital has been at the forefront of medical research for decades. A beacon of light for modern medicine in the Middle East, Hadassah Hospital is not only a progressive medical center but is also a path to conflict resolution. Hadassah Hospital treats all patients equally regardless of race and ethnicity, treating Arabs and Jews side by side.

## **What can you do to help?**

1. Help Hadassah Hospital to continue making a better, healthier Israel and Middle East by donating online to the build the [Sarah Wetson Davidson Tower](#).



# JNF (Jewish National Fund)

[www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org)

## **Background**

Established in 1902, JNF has been a leading environmental group over the past century. They have, "planted 250 million trees, built over 210 reservoirs and dams, developed over 250,000 acres of land, created more than 1,000 parks, provided the infrastructure for over 1,000 communities, brought life to the Negev Desert and educated students around the world about Israel and the environment."



**JNF, for  
ISRAEL  
forever.**

## **What can you do to help?**

1. Participate in your local JNF programs!

Go to this link to see a list of events: <http://www.jnf.org/about-jnf/in-your-area/>

2. Donate to JNF here: <http://www.jnf.org/support>

## **Sample letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross:**

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*Gilad Shalit was born August 28, 1986. Like any other Israeli, Gilad went into the Israel Defense Force when he was 18. He loyally served his time in the army until he was brutally kidnapped by Hamas in the summer of 2006. Since then, Gilad has been denied any humanitarian aid or contact with his family. Over this time Gilad's family and people have had almost no knowledge of his livelihood or situation and have lived in constant distress and fear. This unlawful capture violates the Geneva Convention on uncountable levels and breaches the basic human rights with which every man should be treated. As a "part of a worldwide movement that offers neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war" it is the Red Cross' fundamental obligation to fight for Gilad Shalit's rights and pressure Hamas to let you visit Gilad. Almost five years have gone by since Gilad's capture. It has been five years to long that he has gone without your humanitarian aid. I urge you to change this and do all you can to visit Gilad Shalit.*

*Thank you,*

## **Sample letter to Noam and Aviva Shalit:**

*Dear Noam and Aviva,*

*The past five years have been a time of hurt and pain for our people. With one of our brothers gone, we have dealt with tremendous loss. This time has been the hardest for you. Yet through the hardship, you have been so admirably able to stand up and fight for Gilad's release with all of your hearts and strength. Know that while I will never be able to fully comprehend what you are going through, I will stand behind you and fight for Gilad's freedom with whatever means I have. My heart and prayers are with Gilad and your family.*

*B'Shalom,*

**Sample letter to a US Government elected official (President Obama or member of Congress):**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

*Gilad Shalit was born August 28, 1986. Like any other Israeli, Gilad went into the Israel Defense Force when he was 18. He loyally served his time in the army until he was brutally kidnapped by Hamas in the summer of 2006. Since then, Gilad has been denied any humanitarian aid or contact with his family. Over this time Gilad's family and people have had almost no knowledge of his livelihood or situation and have lived in constant distress and fear. This unlawful capture violates the Geneva Convention on uncountable levels and breaches the basic human rights with which every man should be treated. Please make this issue a priority in American foreign policy towards the Middle East.*

Thank you,