

Israel Connection

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The Power of the Messenger

DURING YOM KIPPUR, we read the famous story of Jonah and the whale. In the passage, God asks Jonah to travel to Nineveh and demand that its citizens atone for their misdeeds.

An unwilling Jonah decides to run away instead. While trying to escape by sea, his ship is overwhelmed by a sudden storm and Jonah is cast overboard. A large fish swallows Jonah whole and then spits him back on land. Faced with the realization that he could not escape the task God assigned him, Jonah accepts the mission.

He travels to Nineveh and conveys the threat of impending destruction. Upon hearing Jonah's warning, the King and the people of Nineveh immediately repent and are spared God's wrath.

By examining the role that Jonah played in saving the lives of the residents of Nineveh, we understand the power of the messenger—even a reluctant messenger.

Today, the need for effective messengers has never been more important. In the face of a growing tide of calls for boycott, divestment or even the very destruction of the state of Israel, we are in desperate need of messengers willing to stand up for Israel.

As the Jerusalem Talmud relates, "Jonah, the son of Amitai, was a prophet of truth." So too, it is essential today that we have men and women willing to speak truth to power.

As advocates for a strong U.S.–Israel relationship, we have the opportunity to strengthen America and Israel and change the world for the better. Only the United States has remained a faithful friend, standing beside Israel in the face of mounting adversity. We have a responsibility to ensure that support continues and grows in the years to come.

While many of us feel like Jonah—unsure of our abilities or overwhelmed by the task—we cannot escape our essential role.

Now is the time for each of us to increase our pro-Israel activity by communicating with our leaders and educating those who seek to lead about the importance of Israel to America's interests and the growing need for Israel to have America's abiding friendship.

May this new year, 5771, be a year that brings us closer to a time of peace, a year where we seize the chance to make a difference for our brothers and sisters in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Relationships Matter



AIPAC activists work with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to strengthen the U.S.–Israel friendship.

WHAT DO a gospel singer, auctioneer, car dealership owner, cardiologist and former Miss USA have in common? They all are running for Congress this November.

Mid-term elections are still a couple of months away. Already we know that even if all of the incumbent members running for office win, at least 55 new members of Congress will cast their first votes this winter.

Turn-over in Congress is nothing new. In fact, half of Congress has changed over the past decade. Newly elected officials come from a variety of backgrounds, and many have never held local or state office or ever considered the foreign policy issues we care about so deeply.

These facts underscore the need for each of us in the coming weeks to redouble our efforts to reacquaint ourselves with incumbents running for office and get to know newcomers to the political scene.

We should ask them to write pro-Israel position papers. We should invite them to our homes and synagogues to share their thoughts, and we should financially support the candidates of our choosing. This is the best way to ensure that America's policymakers continue to stand by Israel, our friend and ally—a relationship that matters.

Strategic Partnership: Alliance Enhances America and Israel's Security

When Vice President Joe Biden was a senator, he often said that if Israel didn't exist, "we would have to invent it for our own naked self interests."

For decades, the United States has recognized Israel's importance to America's strategic interests in a number of ways.

Today, Israel remains America's most reliable and stable Middle Eastern ally; a dependable democracy that shares our values and world view in a region often dominated by radical forces and dictatorial regimes.

Israel's military strength and central geo-strategic location provide a strong deterrent against forces that threaten America's overall regional and global objectives.

The two allies routinely engage in combined military exercises, involving American and Israeli land, sea and air forces. Israel and the United States have cooperated on a wide range of intelligence-sharing programs, including monitoring Iran, al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

The close partnership between the two nations has yielded many military technologies as well. The most important of these is the Arrow, a missile defense system that is currently deployed in Israel and on U.S. bases throughout the world. It is the only operational system that has consistently proven that one missile can shoot down another at high altitude and speed, thus protecting citizens.

Joint projects like the Arrow have produced ground-breaking technologies and security techniques that are incorporated by the armed forces of both countries. The United States is currently putting these Israeli innovations to use to save American lives on the battlefield.

One such Israeli invention is the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System, currently used by U.S. fighter aircraft. The remarkable innovation allows a pilot to simply point his or her head at a target and weapons are then directed to where the pilot is looking. The system increases the pilot's safety since he or she does not have to suddenly maneuver the aircraft to defend against enemy fire.

Israel, a leader in homeland security, also shares its priceless information with the United States to help develop technologies and equipment which ultimately safeguard American and Israeli lives. In addition, Israel trains delegations of American police chiefs, sheriffs and emergency responders. These U.S. lawmen have routinely returned to the States with information and lessons to share with their colleagues about how Israeli techniques to prevent terrorist attacks can be applied here at home.

In a dangerous world, Americans and Israelis continue to work closely with one another to ensure the security of their homes and the safety of their people.

Learn more about Israel's strategic importance to the United States at www.aipac.org/StrategicPartner.



Israel helps strengthen the United States at home and abroad. In addition to lending its expertise when it comes to homeland security, Israeli technology and joint defense research have strengthened America's abilities in the battlefield and in the area of missile defense technology.

Pictured above left, the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System helps U.S. pilots more easily and safely combat enemy fire. Also, pictured below, the Arrow missile defense system is considered the cornerstone of U.S.-Israel defense cooperation. The Arrow is able to intercept an incoming missile at high altitude.



Life-Saving Asset: Israeli Know-How Helps Save American Lives

While the United States has long viewed Israel as a strategic asset because of its location in an unstable region, the U.S. also has grown to view Israel as a vital partner because of its innovation.

Israel shares lessons learned from its own battles to help Americans avoid injury or even death.

National Security Advisor Jim Jones stated it best when he said, “Our military benefits from Israeli innovations in technology, from shared intelligence, from exercises that help our readiness and joint training that enhances our capabilities and from lessons learned in Israel’s own battles against terrorism and asymmetric threats.”



THE EMERGENCY BANDAGE

Used widely in Iraq, this state-of-the-art bandage is one of several Israeli inventions which help ensure American men and women come home safely.

HUNTER UAV

The Israeli-developed drone has been used daily by U.S. commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to gather critical intelligence without risking the lives of pilots.



LITENING POD

Israeli-developed and American-produced, this sophisticated system has revolutionized the targeting and navigation capabilities of American aircraft, enabling older aircraft to carry advanced precision guided weapons.

BRADLEY REACTIVE ARMOR TILES

Hundreds of U.S. soldiers have been saved by the Israeli-developed armor-plating that explodes outward, diffusing the impact of incoming fire.



Economic Asset: Why Foreign Aid is a Solid Investment

President Obama’s budget request for fiscal year 2011 includes \$3 billion in vital security assistance to Israel.

Aid to Israel is part of the president’s overall request from Congress for \$58.5 billion in international affairs spending.

At little more than one percent of total federal spending, these programs are an essential, cost effective tool for promoting American interests abroad and supporting important allies such as Israel.

Foreign aid serves American interests by promoting our humanitarian and democratic values. Democrats and Republicans agree that spending a little more than one penny of every federal dollar on preventing wars and the spread of terrorism, disease and poverty is a wise investment.

The bulk of U.S. security aid to Israel, **75 percent**, is spent on **procuring American defense products**, thus boosting America’s defense industry.

U.S. aid helps Israel **maintain military superiority** and counter the great disparity in defense spending by Arab states and Iran.

Joint strategic cooperation helps develop **new technologies for protection** of both Americans and Israelis.

Assistance shows Israel’s adversaries that **American commitment** to the Jewish state is **unwavering**, offering greater incentive for them to make peace with Israel.

A Happy, Healthy New Year

AS WE OFFER ONE ANOTHER WELL WISHES IN THE NEW YEAR, one country in particular continues to work for ways to make our lives healthier. Here are just some of Israel's fascinating findings and innovations.

STEM CELL PROGRESS



Mass-market manufacturing of stem cells is closer than ever thanks to a breakthrough by researchers from Hadassah University

Medical Center. The center discovered a way to grow the embryonic cells in suspension, paving the way for making the therapy available to everyone, instead of just those who can afford it. The team plans to begin clinical trials in the next two years. Stem cell therapy offers hope to millions suffering from diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes.

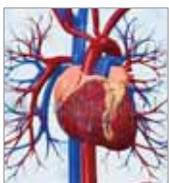
SOOTHING SALTS



There is no known cure for psoriasis, a skin condition affecting about three percent of the world's population.

But an Israeli study found that sufferers can get relief from an ancient holistic treatment—Dead Sea salts. While the healing effects of the Dead Sea have been known anecdotally for years, these days, U.S. medical spas are using the salts to treat their patients and reporting remarkable improvement.

HEALING HEARTS



An Israeli company developed a compound based on brown seaweed which medical professionals say could repair damaged heart

muscles after cardiac arrest, and therefore help prevent repeat heart attacks.

The compound is injected into the heart as a liquid, and then turns into a gel, protecting the heart muscles so they heal properly and fully. The compound could be ready for general use as early as 2012.

GOOD NIGHT



Thanks to an Israeli medical company, it is easier than ever to detect sleep disorders. The company developed a device which

patients can wear on the wrist and one finger, allowing them to spend the night in their own beds, rather than a sleep lab.

The apparatus measures signals that indicate changes in the nervous system caused by respiratory disturbances during sleep. The signals are stored in a memory card and downloaded in the doctor's office for analysis. The results are usually more accurate when people are monitored in their own beds. The invention was named one of the 10 best medical innovations for 2010 by the Cleveland Clinic.

FIGHTING THE FLU



Israeli-technology which helps boost the body's response to a vaccine was purchased by pharmaceutical giant

Norvartis to develop new immunizations that can better combat influenza and strains like H1N1.

AVOIDING SURGERY



Researchers from the Technion and Hebrew University helped develop an injection to stop the erosion of cartilage in the joints, a degenerative disease known as osteoarthritis. In

the U.S., it is estimated that 80 percent of the population will have some evidence of the disease by the age of 65. The ailment can sometimes require surgery, but the innovative technology could one day make procedures like hip replacements a thing of the past.

Learn more about Israel's innovations at www.israel21c.org.



www.aipac.org

The AIPAC Policy Conference

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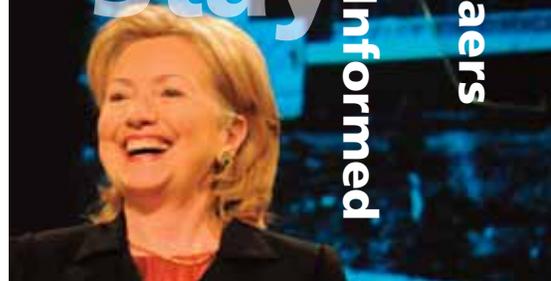
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