

Dear friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

Many of you know Gina Friedlander, a relatively new, but very active member of Hillcrest Jewish Center. When Gina is not busy coming to shul on Shabbat or organizing pickleball at HJC with her husband Alan Bloom, she gets busy writing blogs on Israel, American politics, and Jewish topics in general.

Last June 30, a piece by Gina entitled *the Good Jews Are at It Again*, appeared in the Times of Israel.

The scope of Gina's article is beyond this short message (I encourage you to find it online and read it), but I wanted to incorporate into my article the last part of her blog, in which she makes "some suggestions that will have a real impact if you want to be a good Jew" (almost all of which I've done myself, Gina).

1. *Place a "We stand with Israel" banner or a Jewish flag in front of your home.*
2. *Write a letter of gratitude to all those Republican and Democrats who have spoken out in support of Israel.*
3. *Thank President Trump for the courageous decision he has made to back Israel, not only with words but with actions.*
4. *Tell your synagogue to place an Israeli flag or a sign of support for Israel in front of their building. (Mine has had one for a long time.)*
5. *How about making a pledge to give money just to or mainly to Israeli causes this year due to the drastic situation they are facing due to the continuing after-effects of its long war with Gaza, the bombing from Lebanon and the Houthis and most recently the ballistic barrage from Iran. The needs are endless.*
6. *If you have been a supporter of your alma mater in the past, there's a very good chance that you may not want to continue if you truly care about Israel. Please examine their position on dealing with antisemitism on campus. Find out if they accept money from questionable foreign sources, especially Muslim countries who are intent on spreading lies about Israel. And then if you are not satisfied, don't continue to give them donations and tell them why you are no longer doing so. Instead give that financial aid to a worthy Israeli or Jewish cause.*
7. *Wear a dog tag that says "Bring them home," or "Together we will win." They are easy to obtain online. I almost always wear mine, even on the subway. You could also wear a yellow hostage ribbon like some Congresspeople do or a Jewish star. Don't hide your identity.*

8. *Volunteer, if at all possible, in Israel, helping to restore the destroyed buildings, food kitchens, farms which can't attract farmworkers from foreign countries due to the war, at army bases, etc. There are lots of options.*
9. *Pray regularly for the brave, caring Israeli soldiers and others who make Israel the amazing country it is.*
10. *Buy products from Israel. Buy Israeli Bonds instead of CDs.*
11. *Fight Jew Hate by sending pre-written letters from one of the great ad-hoc organizations on WhatsApp such as Stronger Together or Israel Action Alert. Or subscribe and support Camera (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis) whose mission is to call out and correct misinformation spread by the media about Israel and Jews on a global level.*
12. *Vote only for those candidates who are outspoken in their support of Israel.*

*If you really want to be a good Jew, try doing some of the activities listed above.*

Gina, thank you for your activism and good suggestions. Hopefully the readers of this article will follow up with some, or all, of your suggestions.

We are very blessed to have you as a member of Hillcrest Jewish Center.

May we all hear good news and have a restful and meaningful Summer.

Rabbi Manes Kogan