



ISRAEL MATTERS!

Publication of the Israel Affairs Committee of Temple Beth Sholom
1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517-1401

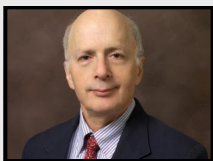


Issue Number 110
March 2017

Trump, Netanyahu Hold First Summit

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, MAY 7th, 2 P.M. at TBS



Mark your calendars to attend a special presentation by Dr. Itzhak Brook of the Israeli Embassy.

Dr. Brook will speak on his personal account of the Yom Kippur War.

The Yom Kippur War was launched in 1973 in a surprise attack by Syria and Egypt. This Arab-Israeli war posed the most serious threat to the existence of Israel in modern history. Even though Israel was eventually able to achieve a military victory, the country paid a steep price, both in lives lost and in the citizenry's self confidence.

Dr. Brook served as a battalion physician during the war and authored the book, "In the Sands of Sinai: a Physician's Account of the Yom Kippur War."

Dr. Brook's presentation will include a description of the historical background of the Yom Kippur War and its effects on the Israeli society, as well as his experiences and challenges as a battalion physician in the Sinai. He will speak on the physical and psychological traumas with which his soldiers had to cope, the effect of religion on them, the cost of war in human life and suffering, and the daily struggle for survival in the difficult war which threatened Israel's existence.

Dr. Brook's appearance is sponsored by the Adult Education Committee, the Israel Affairs Committee, the Men's Club, and Sisterhood.

Refreshments will be served.

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT!



On Feb. 15th, President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held their first meeting of the Trump presidency. The prime minister was the first Middle East leader to visit the White House during the Trump Administration.

In a joint press conference, the two leaders underscored the shared values of their countries and pledged to work together on matters affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. They agreed to address the threat posed by Iran's nuclear weapons program, confront one-sided actions against Israel at the UN, and explore ways to promote peace.

"The partnership between our two countries, built on our shared values, has advanced the cause of human freedom, dignity and peace," said Trump. He continued, "These are the building blocks of democracy. The State of Israel is a symbol to the world of resilience in the face of oppression. I can think of no other state that's gone through what they've gone through, and of survival in the face of genocide. We will never forget what the Jewish people have endured."

Netanyahu added, "To me, to the State of Israel, it was so clearly evident in the words you just spoke, Israel has no better ally than the United States. And I want to assure you, the United States has no better ally than Israel. Our alliance has been remarkably strong...and is based on a deep bond of common values and common interest."

"The security challenges faced by Israel are enormous, including the threat of Iran's nuclear ambitions," said Trump. "My administration has already imposed new sanctions on Iran, and I will do more to prevent Iran from ever developing—I mean ever—a nuclear weapon. Our security assistance to Israel is currently at an all-time high, ensuring that Israel has the ability to defend itself from threats, of which there are unfortunately many."

"You [President Trump] call for confronting Iran's terrorist regime... [and you] have said that the United States is committed to preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons," said Netanyahu.

Trump stated, "America and Israel are two nations that cherish the value of all human life. This is one more reason why we reject unfair and one-sided actions against Israel at the United Nations, which has

(Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

treated Israel in my opinion very, very unfairly, or other international forums, as well as boycotts that target Israel.”

Netanyahu said, “I certainly welcome your forthright call to ensure that Israel is treated fairly in international forums and that the slander and boycotts of Israel are resisted mightily by the power and moral position of the United States of America.”

Trump stated, “Our administration is committed to working with Israel and our common allies in the region towards greater security and stability. That includes working toward a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States will encourage a peace and really a great peace deal. We’ll be working on it very, very diligently.”

“[W]e can seize an historic opportunity because for the first time in my lifetime and for the first time in the life of my country, Arab countries in the region do not see Israel as an enemy, but increasingly as an ally,” said Netanyahu. “I believe that under your leadership, this change in our region creates an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen security and advance peace. Let us seize this moment together. Let us bolster security. Let us seek new avenues of peace and let us bring the remarkable alliance between Israel and the United States to even greater heights.”

On the two-state solution, Trump said, “I’m looking at two-state and one-state and I like the one that both parties like. I can live with either one. I thought for a while the two-state looked like it may be the easier of the two but honestly, if Bibi and if the Palestinians—if Israel and the Palestinians are happy, I’m happy with the one they like the best.”

After the meeting, Trump and Netanyahu issued a joint statement in which they announced their “mutual goal of making the United States-Israel relationship even stronger as both countries pursue shared interests in the region.” To further this goal, the two leaders “directed their respective teams to form joint working groups in the months ahead to dramatically improve bilateral relations in a number of areas including cyber, intelligence, security, trade, technology, countering the threats posed by Iran and other actors, and promoting Arab-Israeli cooperation, including economic cooperation. A working group will also focus on enabling the growth of the Palestinian economy.”

In addition to meeting with President Trump, Netanyahu also dined with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and held a number of meetings with Republican and Democratic leaders of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

[aipac.org]

Treating Wounded Syrian Children Hospitalized in Israel

Seven-year-old A. sits in the Department of Pediatrics at the Ziv Medical Center in Safed. She is waiting for another surgery at the Israeli hospital. A. arrived at the Pediatrics Department after being critically wounded in an explosion near her home in Syria. She and her mother arrived together from their small village, which got caught in the middle of the civil war in the country.

“The girl arrived at our trauma room last November on a Saturday morning,” says Dr. Lili Hayari, a senior surgeon at Ziv’s Pediatrics Department. She was brought here after the hospital in Quneitra failed to stabilize her condition. We immediately sent her into a life-saving emergency operation, with two teams doing everything possible to save the girl.”

Doctors believe she is expected to recover and return to her village in Syria. A. is one of dozens of Syrian children who arrived at the Israeli border over the past two years and were rushed from there, with the IDF’s help, to the Ziv Medical Center. “The children come here with no referral, with no records,” says Dr. Hayari. “We have to start from scratch and hope that we can give them the best medical care possible.”

Ten-year-old J., who arrived from a different Syrian village after touching an exposed high voltage line, is hospitalized in the adjacent room. Both his hands were burned and turned black. He was rushed to a hospital in Damascus, but could not be treated due to the lack of medical equipment. He arrived at the Israeli border and was taken to the Ziv Medical Center. “I was afraid to come to Israel,” he admits, “because I was afraid of the Jews, but now I’m not afraid at all.” When he was hospitalized more than two months ago, J. underwent immediate surgery to save his hands. When the doctor removed the cast from J.’s hands, he discovered that the boy had recovered and that his hands would heal completely after a rehabilitation process.

The treatment of the 900 Syrian adults and children is overseen by Dr. Salman Zarka, the hospital director. Zarka is an IDF colonel in the reserves. “There is no sweeping order in the IDF to coordinate the treatment of the Syrian children here at Ziv, but that’s the way it turned out, likely for reasons of convenience,” he says. “We give the children and all the Syrian patients medical care beyond the defined level of humanitarian aid, which is primarily defined as saving lives and providing immediate and basic needs. As far as they are concerned, they are coming to an enemy state. They were told for years that we are as bad as Satan. It’s not easy and it creates natural initial fear. That’s why I am so proud to show them and the world our humanity.”

[ynetnews.com]