

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish (Internet) Connection!

Be a BIG Person

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee – Written by Linda S Trapasso

Have you ever wanted to find that special gift for someone, and you just couldn't find what you had in mind? So you ended up settling for something that was close, but not quite right? Well, if you become a BIG person, that could change.

BIG is Buy Israel Goods (<http://www.buyisraelgoods.org>) and is a consumer guide for the retail purchase of Israeli products brought to you by the [American-Israel Chamber of Commerce](#) (AICC) and [StandWithUs](#) (SWU). Go to the BIG web site and click on Boston at the top of the page. When the Boston page displays, there's a long category of products on the left, from baby items and B2B to jewelry to women's items. It's amazing how many places you can find Israeli products. Check out the Library and Links pages for more web sites that support BIG.

At the top of the page, click on BIG Blog. You'll find recent blog posts here, including one about argon oil in Israeli hair products, and one about Dorot Garlic and Herbs (fresh frozen herb cubes), which I've seen locally at Trader Joe's.

If you're a stamp collector interested in Israeli stamps, you won't want to miss the Israel Post Online Shop (<http://www.israelpost.co.il/mall.nsf/en/home>). On the left, click on Gifts and Collectibles to see recently issued stamps. There's a list of new Philatelic

Issues on the left side of the page.

Maybe you have a kid who adores the Israeli military. Then the Israel Army Surplus Store is the place to go (<http://www.israelmilitary.com/default.aspx>). You can find just about anything here for the top of your head to your toes – t-shirts, jewelry, shoes, insignia, protective gear, and more. If you're looking for something truly different in jewelry, this could be where you'll find it.

There are several things I like about the Israel Catalog site (<http://www.israel-catalog.com>). You can search by item, by price, or by recipient. And you can get suggestions for gifts. The variety is such that it will fit everyone's taste and budget.

The Judaica Web store (<http://www.judaicawebstore.com>) is another site I like. It has products from Jewish and Israeli artists, and categories from art, music, and wine to clothing, food, and Dead Sea cosmetics. Click on Israel Museum in the menu bar to find out about museum gift shop items.

If you're more traditional and prefer to buy Israel bonds, go to <http://www.israelbonds.com/home.aspx>. The site has information on how to invest and lists rates and FAQs. You can also learn how Israel bonds transform Israel by clicking This is Israel at the bottom of the page.



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Lifeline for the Old, Yad LaKashish, is an organization in Jerusalem that I visited many years ago. Among other things, they provide support services and intergenerational programs for needy elderly and disabled. And they sell a wide variety of items made by their clients. Go to <http://www.lifeline.org.il/shop-online?vmcchk=1> and click Shop in the menu bar. The embroidered items are handmade and beautiful.

Maybe you have family or friends living in Israel, and every time you visit them, you schlep a suitcase full of online purchases that they had sent to you. To understand why they do this, read this article about making online purchases in Israel and how shipping costs and VAT fees affect those purchases (<http://www.timesofisrael.com/does-it-pay-to-shop-and-ship-to-israel/>).

Show your support for Israel and become BIG!

