



ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

1200 ATTEND STAR-STUDDED ZOA DINNER INCLUDING 260 STUDENTS

SPRING
2015



Global Philanthropists Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson and ZOA President Morton A. Klein



FOX-TV's Judge Jeanine Pirro and ZOA Board Member Myron Zimmerman

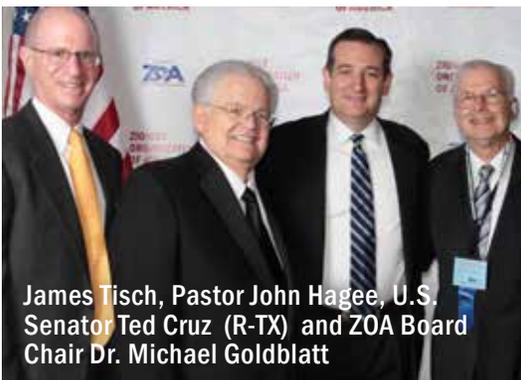
Adelsons, Dershowitz, Zuckerman, Cruz, Tisch, Hagee, Judge Jeanine, Home Depot Founder Bernie Marcus, Emcee, and more...



Bernie Marcus giving Brandeis Award to Las Vegas Sands President, Michael Leven



U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Dr. Bob Shillman



James Tisch, Pastor John Hagee, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and ZOA Board Chair Dr. Michael Goldblatt



Mortimer Zuckerman and Professor Alan Dershowitz

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TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015



**ZOA PRO-ISRAEL
CAPITOL HILL MISSION**



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President's Message

Obama's Hostile Positions Cause Tense US/Israel Relations

When Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's National Security Adviser, was interviewed on PBS's *Charlie Rose* program, she criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to accept the invitation of House Speaker John Boehner to address Congress on the issue of Iran's looming nuclear threat. Rice claimed that the decision "injected a degree of partisanship, which is not only unfortunate, I think it's destructive of the fabric of the [U.S./Israel] relationship."

Nothing could be further from the truth: President Obama's partisanship has produced a crisis in relations between the White House and Jerusalem—and the record shows it.

President Obama doesn't mind foreign leaders speaking to Congress—as long as they support his policies. That's why he was happy for British Prime

Minister David Cameron to do just that. But he objected to Netanyahu critiquing his Iran policy to Congress. It is not hard to see why: Netanyahu demolished the Obama claim that negotiations with Iran would lead to a deal that stops Iran from going nuclear.

Indeed, President Obama has elevated to crises disagreements that previous administrations tamped down. Obama has continually criticized, and even "condemned" as anti-peace, Israel merely announcing the building of homes in Jewish neighborhoods of eastern Jerusalem—a bipartisan Israeli policy—that would remain Israeli under any peace agreement.

Conversely, Obama has not condemned the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas for incitement to hatred and murder—though his ad-



Photo Credit: Caleb Smith

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel addresses a joint meeting of Congress on March 3, 2015

ministration said it would hold the PA accountable. Last month, a federal jury held the PLO and Abbas' PA liable for six terrorist attacks in Israel that killed and wounded Americans more than a decade ago—but President Obama has not commented on it.

The current problem in U.S./Israel relations is not based on Mr. Netanyahu addressing Congress. Rather, it is based on President Obama's anti-Israel policy, of which Netanyahu's address to Congress was merely a symptom, not a cause. Put simply, President Obama seems willing to tolerate an Iranian nuclear



MORTON A. KLEIN
President,
Zionist Organization
of America

The current problem in U.S./Israel relations is not based on Mr. Netanyahu addressing Congress. Rather, it is based on President Obama's anti-Israel policy, of which Netanyahu's address to Congress was merely a symptom, not a cause.

weapons threshold capacity, but Israel is not. Of course there's a crisis.

President Obama's determination to cut a deal with Iran, free from congressional scrutiny and approval, that enables Iran to become a nuclear threshold state, complete with a sunset clause that would lay the path for Iran developing nuclear weapons in ten years, would explain much else that is now occurring.

The staunchest Democratic critic of Obama's Iran policy, Senator Robert Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has recently been indicted on corruption charges. Former U.S. federal prosecutor Andrew McCarthy opined, "If Menendez were running interference for Obama on the Iran deal, rather than trying to scupper it, I believe he would not be charged."

Senator Menendez is scarcely alone in finding Obama's approach deeply troubling. A recent McLaughlin poll found that 59% of Americans supported Netanyahu's speech to Congress, while only 23% opposed it.

Moreover, President Obama's true feelings about Israel are reflected in his recent appointment of serial Israel-basher Robert Malley as Middle East Coordinator on the National Security Council. Malley

is not only an advocate of U.S. recognition of the terrorist groups Hamas and Hizballah, but also a proponent of containing Iran (i.e., not preventing Iran from attaining nuclear weapons). In fact, Malley has criticized President Obama—because supposedly he "took containment of a nuclear-armed Iran off the table."

In 2001, in the pages of *The New York Times* and *The New York Review of Books*, Malley blamed Israel and exculpated Yasser Arafat for the failure of the Camp David peace talks, contrary to the accounts of all the other Americans and Israelis involved in the negotiations, including President Bill Clinton himself. Malley has essentially sought to legitimize the Palestinian Arab opposition to Israel's existence.

Malley was seen as toxic to President Obama's pro-Israel bona fides when he was running for president in 2008, so Obama fired Malley at the time. But he later appointed him as a senior adviser on Iraq, Iran and Syria. When the 2014 Congressional elections were imminent, President Obama said that Malley would not be involved in Israeli/Palestinian issues. Now, free of all electoral considerations, President Obama has done what he said he wouldn't do and

placed Malley in a position to give a still stronger anti-Israel tilt to his policy.

We see, then, the sheer hollowness of the Obama Administration's claim that the Israeli government has soured relations with the White House. Has not President Obama said that allies sometimes have the obligation to speak out, even when their advice is uncomfortable? Did he not tell Jewish leaders that "daylight" between the U.S. and Israel might be necessary? But he objected to the Israeli Prime Minister informing the world that there is indeed daylight on a major issue of policy on Iran.

President Obama only imagined himself advising Israel, not Israel advising him. He seeks no meeting of the minds. The evidence shows that he seeks only to foist his dangerously anti-Israel foreign policy on the region.

With Zionist Greetings,



Morton A. Klein
National President

Brandeis Award Dinner



ZOA Dinner Before Record 1200 People Headlined by Mike Leven, Sen. Ted Cruz, Harvard Prof. Alan Dershowitz, Pastor John Hagee, Sheldon & Dr. Miriam Adelson, Mort Zuckerman, Bernie Marcus, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach

Sheldon and Dr. Miriam
Adelson, Pastor John
Hagee, Mrs. Hagee

A record crowd of 1200 people attended the Zionist Organization of America's (ZOA) 116th Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner on Sunday, November 23rd, at Manhattan's elegant Grand Hyatt Hotel. The generosity of major ZOA donors enabled 261 student activists from various universities around the country to be part of this exciting event.

Rising Republican star and future presidential can-

didate Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX); renowned Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz; legendary founder of Christians United for Israel (CUFI) Pastor John Hagee; global philanthropists/humanitarians Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson; and businessman Michael Leven all spoke. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the crowd by video. Sheldon and Miriam Adelson presented the Adelson

Defender of Israel Award to Pastor John Hagee. Senator Cruz received the Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Legislator; Professor Dershowitz received the Mort Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Journalism; and Michael Leven, president of Las Vegas Sands Corporation, received the Louis D. Brandeis Award. Bernie Marcus—an extraordinary businessman, founder of the national

The generosity of major ZOA donors enabled 261 student activists from various universities to be part of this exciting event.

BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



ZOA President Morton Klein, Bernie Marcus presenting Brandeis Award to Michael Leven



Kenneth J. Bialkin, Esq. and Professor Alan...

...ZOA is a rare voice among major American Jewish organizations, telling the truth about the decades-old Arab war on Israel to kill Jews and destroy the Jewish state...

retail chain, Home Depot, and a major supporter of Israel who was inducted into the U.S. Business Hall of Fame in 2006—was the Dinner emcee. Also attending the Dinner were Fox News television host Judge Jeanine Pirro, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN), former presidential candidate Gary Bauer, Middle East scholar Dr. Daniel Pipes, along with renowned businessmen and Jewish leaders Ken Bialkin, Esq., David Brog, Martin Gross, Jack Halpern, Irwin Hochberg, Ira Rennert, Richard Stone, Jim Tisch and Rabbi Avi Weiss.

In a pre-recorded video address, Prime Minister Netanyahu thanked the ZOA for profoundly aiding the defense of Israel by its extraordinary support for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), especially during the recent Hamas

war against Israel and a worldwide Hamas-compliant media. Mr. Netanyahu reminded the audience that in the final analysis, it is the IDF which ensures the survival and security of the state of Israel and its citizens.

Dr. Bob Shillman, Founder and Chairman of Cognex Corporation, the world's leading supplier of machine vision systems, introduced ZOA National President Morton Klein, observing how Mort is an irrepressible fighter for Israel's right to exist in peace and security. "In that cause, Mort has been called many things, some of them even true. He is among the top ten people in American Jewish life who have made a vital difference."

Looking around the overflowing ballroom, Mort Klein remarked that the streets of New York

City must be empty, since everyone seemed to be in that room: "Had there been Jews and Christian Zionists in the world like these in this room in the 1930s and the 1940s, history would have been very different," he said.

Klein shared that *The Jerusalem Post* recently noted that ZOA is a rare voice among major American Jewish organizations, telling the truth about the decades-old Arab war on Israel to kill Jews and destroy the Jewish state, and criticizing the U.S. administration when appropriate. Klein emphasized that in speaking out, the ZOA was



n Dershowitz

“not being right-wing, but simply right. The truth is not a political position.”

Klein spoke of Mahmoud Abbas’ “phony condemnation” of the recent terrorist attack on a Jerusalem synagogue, where four Jews at prayer were hacked to death, and a Druze policeman was killed defending the worshipers. Abbas, far from being critical of, or ceasing to incite violence, incited it immediately afterward, calling the Israeli police “terrorists” and repeating lies about Israel seeking to destroy the Al Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount. Abbas—who names schools, streets, and

sports teams after terrorists, authorizes posters of Jew-killing terrorists, and pays pensions to jailed Palestinian terrorists in proportion to the number of Jews they murder—is not part of an extremist Palestinian fringe, but sadly represents the “Palestinian mainstream,” observed Klein.

Palestinian society encourages, praises, and honors Jew-killers. What is worse, the Obama Administration and world governments say nothing about this; it is a blanket of silence that Klein described as a “diplomatic Kristallnacht.” Klein cited a quote from the Irish political philoso-



U.S. Senator Ted Cruz

pher, Edmund Burke, who famously said, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Klein continued, “In this instance, the U.S. not only says nothing, we pay the PA \$500 million per year, including an additional gift of \$47 million that went to Hamas during the Gaza war. This sends the clear, unmistakable message that, no matter what the PA does, it will pay no price. Remembering the Holocaust and the murder of the Jews of Europe means more than just holding commemorative services. It means the duty of acting decisively to safeguard the Jewish people.”

Klein also turned to the subject of Jerusalem and debunked the Palestinian falsehoods about the city, which is, in fact, one

“Remembering the Holocaust and the murder of the Jews of Europe means more than just holding commemorative services. It means the duty of acting decisively to safeguard the Jewish people.”



Tzivia Orbach, daughter of Board Member Michael Orbach

of the oldest cities in the world and the holiest city in Judaism, a capital established by King David in biblical times: “Jerusalem has only ever been the capital of a Jewish state, and has never been a Palestinian Arab state capital.” Klein reminded his listeners that the city is mentioned 638 times in the Bible, but is not mentioned even once in the Quran. During the years of the illegal Jordanian occupation (1948-67), no Arab leaders other than Jordan’s King Hussein ever visited the city. The city has

also had a Jewish majority population since the 1870s, “so the Palestinian Arabs have no claim on Jerusalem. The Palestinians’ claim to Jerusalem is propaganda and myth.”

Klein debunked the idea that Palestinian Arabs are “occupied” by Israel, noting that 98% of the Arabs of Judea/Samaria live under PA rule, with their own police, courts, schools and textbooks, and that Israeli forces remain in certain areas on account of continuing terrorism. If there were no terror or danger, there would be no need for Israeli troops.

Moreover, Israel is not occupying someone else’s land. Judea/Samaria is unallocated territory under international law, which was previously illegally occupied and annexed by Jordan in 1948. The truth of the matter, concluded Klein, is that the Palestinian Arabs don’t want their own state unless they can deprive the Jews of theirs. This can be the only reason why Palestinian leaders have turned down statehood alongside a Jewish state on every occasion — in 1937, 1947, 2000 and again in 2008.

Klein said, “The U.S. should therefore demand the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem without delay, demand of Abbas an utter and immediate end to incitement to hatred and murder of the Jewish

people, and Israel should, instead of demolishing the homes of terrorists, take the homes, sell them, and give the proceeds to the victims of terror.

“We might sometimes ask,” Klein said in conclusion, “Can it be that we Jews are right and the whole world is wrong? The answer is yes, it can be true and it has been true throughout history. When Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak in 1981, the whole world condemned Israel — and now everyone knows it was the right thing to do. In the ancient world, we were derided by everyone for having a day of rest; people said we were lazy, but we were right. We were accused of killing Jesus, and everyone was wrong. In the Middle Ages, people thought we killed gentile children to use their blood in matza; only we knew otherwise, and we were right. People believed we poisoned wells; we never did. They were wrong, we were right.”

David Kadosh, Managing Director of ZOA’s Campus Activism Network, addressed the crowd, describing the ZOA’s vital campus activism and the exponential increase in ZOA’s activities on campuses across the country. This is made possible by the generosity of Myron Zimmerman, the San Francisco-based real estate magnate, pro-Israel philanthropist,

BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

leader of Birthright, officer of several Jewish Federations, and former Louis D. Brandeis Dinner Awardee.

In a self-effacing speech, Louis D. Brandeis Award recipient Michael Leven chose not to speak of himself but rather of Justice Louis Brandeis, after whom the award is named. Mr. Leven noted the powerful and compelling views on Zionism that Brandeis espoused in his lifetime, regarding how a commitment to Jewish national independence by American Jewish citizens made them stronger, rather than weaker U.S. citizens, just as individuals loyally devoted to their family, careers, district, and state also made for stronger American citizens. Brandeis always maintained that such multiple loyalties should not be a source of suspicion but rather should be mutually reinforcing, provided they were not in conflict. “Zionism enlarged, rather than reduced, human freedom,” Mr. Leven shared.

Bernie Marcus described Mr. Leven as “a real mensch” and then introduced “another real mensch” — Harvard University Law Professor, world famous attorney and defender of Israel, Alan Dershowitz, who opened with the exclamation, “Wow, what a gathering! I’m here as a liberal, Democrat and Zionist.” Dershowitz, who later introduced his former



Harvard student, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), spoke of the underlying principle he followed in advocating for Israel. He focuses unrelentingly, not on what might divide Zionists of different stripes, but on what united Zionists across the board — for example, the vital Zionist position that Iran must not be permitted to become either a nuclear power or a nuclear threshold state.

Dershowitz continued, “I make the 80% case — that on which virtually all Zionists are in agreement. There are reasonable disagreements between Zionists but the difference, for example, between ZOA and J Street, is that J Street

emphasizes only the 20% case not shared by others. They speak often of an open tent, but they have driven out the 80%. To be anti-Israel today is to be also anti-American. It is no coincidence that those who hate Israel also despise the United States of America — Norman Finkelstein, Noam Chomsky and so on.

“I have significantly different views from many other Zionists on social, economic, and political issues, but I unite with other Zionists on that about which we agree. I don’t attack other Zionists for disagreeing with me on these matters, just as I don’t necessarily agree on Zionism with others who might

**Cantor Joseph Malovany,
Dr. Bob Shillman, Senator
Ted Cruz, Mort Klein and
Professor Alan Dershowitz**

BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Board Member Robert Jacobs, Dr. Esther Chouake, ZOA Board Members Dr. Ben Chouake and Sylvia Freyer, Jeffrey and Naava Parker

share my social, economic and political views. And it's also so clear that true liberals must support Israel over its adversaries, the only state which has the rule of law, that safeguards minorities, that protects gays, and so on. . . . Senator Cruz was one of my most brilliant students and I'm proud to introduce him tonight. Even though we don't agree on many issues, we agree on Israel."

Dershowitz went on to explain how Senator Cruz walked out of a Defense of Christians Dinner earlier this year when he encountered deep hostility from some of the audience for his strong

defense of Israel and the Jewish people. "Had John F. Kennedy been writing *Profiles in Courage* today, this would have to be one of them. Ted Cruz is an intellectual powerhouse. He could have done anything in life, but he chose to devote himself to public service."

Senator Ted Cruz opened by saying, "G-d bless the nation of Israel and G-d bless the United States of America." He quipped, "Alan Dershowitz was an incredible teacher who fiercely defends his principles, even when he's wrong." Turning to his former professor, Cruz added, "I have to warn you that if you keep on saying nice things about me, they

won't let you back into the Harvard faculty lounge." Senator Cruz paid handsome tribute to ZOA's National President, saying, "As for Mort Klein, what an incredible, powerful voice! He reminds me of the book of Exodus, when G-d called upon Moses, who spoke with a clarion call when the situation demanded it."

Senator Cruz also paid tribute to the Adelsons, especially their courage and fortitude in fighting for what they believe is right: "If there is a fight for them from which to run away, we have yet to see what that fight is." Turning to the political situation, Senator Cruz forcefully noted that "Jerusalem is the holy and

BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

eternal capital of Israel,” and he lamented the turn of events in the Middle East, in which Hamas and other Palestinian Arab groups murder Jews, while Abbas’ Fatah/PA celebrates and justifies their acts. Senator Cruz especially commended the fight ZOA is waging to inform the world about the truth of the Arab war on Israel, saying, “If there is one principle ZOA is committed to, it is the principle that the truth has real power. There is no equivalence between Jews being murdered and Palestinians being killed as a result of Israeli action in dealing with terrorism.

“Today, the threats to Israel have never been greater. We need leaders who will act decisively to strengthen the unshakable alliance with the nation of Israel. To this end, I pursue a tripartite strategy. First, I work towards all that we can achieve on a bipartisan basis, such as legislation to bar entry to the United States of the proposed Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, which passed the Senate by a vote of 100 to 0, and the House by a vote of 435 to 0. A known terrorist simply cannot live in Manhattan. I also pushed for legislation offering a \$5 million reward for the capture of terrorists who have murdered American nationals, which also passed the Senate by 100 to 0. When President

Obama banned flights to Israel, I spoke up about this obviously hostile decision, given that we don’t stop flights, even to the Ukraine where a passenger plane was actually shot down.

“Second, I look at our overall direction with regard to Iran, where we are on the verge of a very bad deal and historic mistake on its nuclear program. We should not only re-impose sanctions on Iran, but strengthen them — and make it clear that unless Iran dismantles all 19,000 centrifuges, hands over every pound it has ever produced of enriched uranium, terminates its ICBM program — a program which can only exist to deliver a nuclear warhead to Israel or the U.S.—and ceases being a state sponsor of terrorism, we do not have a deal.

“Instead, under President Obama, we repeat the mistakes we made with North Korea, even employing the same official from that debacle, Wendy Sherman, to negotiate another bad deal. This will lead to a situation in which there is no deterrence on the mullahs in Tehran. And the most significant thing about the ‘chickens--t’ episode is not the hostile comments about the Israeli Prime Minister, but that the official involved was crowing that the Administration had delayed Israel from acting against Iran.

“Third, I believe strong-



Roberta and Irwin Chafetz

ly in telling the story. Why do we fight? My father came here from Cuba 57 years ago with only the clothes on his back and \$100 in his pocket. He worked for 50 cents an hour and saved to open his own business and fulfill the American dream. He said that when he had to flee, he had somewhere to go to live a free life. But if we lose our liberties here, where will we go? In this battle, ZOA tells the truth all the time.”

Morton Klein introduced global philanthropists Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson, paying particular tribute to Miri Adelson’s work with drug addiction and Holocaust issues. Dr. Adelson, for her part, spoke of the indelible impression Pastor John Hagee left upon her at their first meeting, through his stirring oratory: “I fell in love with this inspiring lover of Israel, the most effective Christian Zionist in the world.”

“President Obama speaks of the ‘unbreakable’ bonds that bind the U.S. and Israel—and he knows they are unbreakable because he’s been trying to break them for over five years.”

John Hagee is the pastor of the mega-church Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, which has 20,000 active members, and President and CEO of John Hagee Ministries, which telecasts his national radio and television ministry (carried in the United States on 10 networks, including 62 high-power stations broadcast to more than 150 million households). Pastor Hagee received the Adelson Defender of Israel Award for his consistent and pioneering work in mobilizing the Christian Zionist movement in America. He opened by saying how deeply humbled he was to receive this honor, because he considers the Adelsons to be some of the greatest people for what they do for Jews and, indeed, for the wider world, with their incredible philanthropic projects. Pastor Hagee then thanked Mort Klein for what he has done to make ZOA such a vibrant and productive organization.

Pastor Hagee spoke of CUFI, which is now 33 years old and at 2 million members, is the strongest and most powerful pro-Israel organization, now in the process of radically increasing its presence in Washington, D.C. CUFI, he said, is also expanding its efforts to Britain because “we must win this fight. At CUFI, we don’t bark, we bite. Whenever we don’t like what a legislator says or does, 1.8 million members can send a deluge of emails and letters to get our view across where it matters.”

Turning to the international scene, Pastor Hagee said that President Obama is anxious to accommodate Iran. “Our Executive branch is in the hands of one of the most anti-Israel presidents in the history of Israel. . . President Obama speaks of the ‘unbreakable’ bonds that bind the U.S. and Israel—and he knows they are unbreakable because he’s been trying to break them for over five years.”

The Pastor continued, “The disgusting verbal attack on Prime Minister Netanyahu from within this Administration is unprecedented. Had this ‘chickens—t’ comment been said of Mahmoud Abbas or the Iranian leadership, it would not have been tolerated. I call upon President Obama to find out who this official is and have him removed from public office. . . . Jeru-

salem has been the Jewish capital for 3,000 years. Telling Israel what it can and cannot do in Jerusalem is, as President Obama might have put it, above his pay grade. . . . For Zion’s sake, speak out. Israel’s fight is our fight. Do not be silent. Not to speak is to speak. . . . John Kerry, your efforts to win the Nobel Prize at Israel’s expense have failed. Now is the time to cut off all aid to the Palestinians. . . . ZOA is the only major pro-Israel organization that said—at the time—that Oslo would not bring either peace or security to Israel. It’s time for the PA to embrace peace, not Hamas.”

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, named one of the top ten influential Rabbis in America by *Newsweek* magazine, delivered the D’var Torah for the night.

Renowned Cantor Malovany of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue sang the American and Israeli national anthems.

This year’s ZOA Dinner would not have been possible without the hard work of Howard Katzoff, David Drimer, Kathy Branch, Phyllis Meiner, Enid Roman, Harriet Bachmann, Paul Basisty, Felice Capustin, Zach Stern, Debra Benjamin, Susan Tuchman, Josh Teplow and Devorah Yarmush. The Dinner Chairs were Bernie Marcus and Cherna Moskowitz. [ZOA](#)



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IN WASHINGTON

AT THIS
CRITICAL TIME



ZOA PRO-ISRAEL CAPITOL HILL MISSION **TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015**



- Personally** lobby members of Congress on issues of vital interest to Israel's security*
- Attend** private luncheon with dozens of members of Congress addressing us*
- Gain** valuable insights into the Arab war against Israel and pertinent U.S. policy positions*
- Meet** and greet ZOA members from around the country*
- Round** trip transportation is available from New York Metro Area & Philadelphia*
- Early Registration** including glatt kosher meals – ZOA-subsidized cost of only \$125
After March 26, Registration cost is \$180*
- Special** Student and Young Professional Discounts Available online*



SAVE! REGISTER BY MARCH 26 AND SAVE \$55

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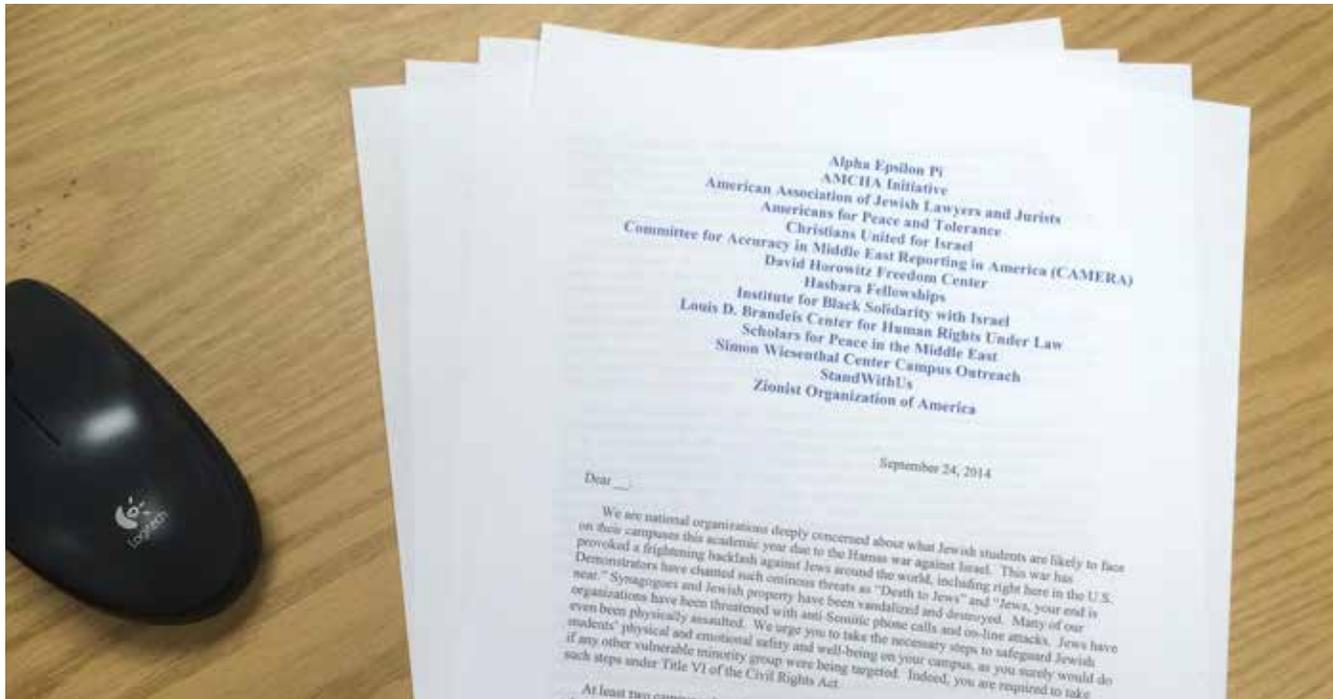
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Chairman

MORTON A. KLEIN
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Center for Law and Justice



ZOA Spearheads Group Effort Alerting U.S. College Presidents to Growing Anti-Semitism and Urging Action to Protect Jewish Students



SUSAN TUCHMAN
Director, Center for
Law and Justice

The ZOA spearheaded a letter, co-signed by 13 other national organizations, that was sent last September to more than 2,500 college and university presidents across the U.S. The letter expressed concern about rising anti-Semitism worldwide, and urged college and university leaders “to take the necessary steps to safeguard Jewish students’ physical and emotional safety and well-being on your campus, as you surely would

do if any other vulnerable minority group were being targeted.”

The 14 groups recommended the following “appropriate and doable” steps:

(1) Review and augment campus security and ensure that security personnel are prepared for the potential for violence and are appropriately trained to respond to it. Local police officials should also be alerted.

(2) Ensure that there

is a clear mechanism for reporting harassment, intimidation and hate crimes on campus and that students are made aware of it.

(3) Issue strong public statements to the university community, urging students, faculty and other members of the community to engage in discussion and debate in a civil, tolerant and respectful manner.

(4) Respond promptly to any anti-Semitic incidents that do occur by publicly condemning the

anti-Semitism and the perpetrators and publicly affirming that anti-Semitism is inconsistent with the university's values of civility, respect and tolerance.

(5) Immediately and thoroughly respond to possible infractions of university rules and policies (including student-filed grievances and complaints) and hold wrongdoers accountable for their misconduct. No student or student group should be given special treatment and allowed to violate rules and policies without consequence. If a student group engages in hateful, bigoted conduct that creates a climate of fear or disrespect on campus, then that group should not be entitled to the rights and privileges afforded to registered student groups, and those rights and privileges should be revoked.

(6) Immediately report alleged or suspected criminal conduct (e.g., violence, threats of violence, vandalism) to the appropriate authorities.

(7) Familiarize administrators, faculty, security and other university personnel with the U.S. government standards on anti-Semitism, so that they will recognize when anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism cross the line into anti-Semitism.

(8) Ensure that anti-Semitism in all its forms (using the U.S. government standards on anti-Semitism

as a guide) is a focus of the university's diversity education for students, staff and faculty. Students and student groups that engage in anti-Semitic conduct should be supervised and appropriately mentored.

(9) Issue a statement to faculty making it clear that students must be able to express their views in class without fear of intimidation or reprisal from other students or professors.

(10) Exercise your moral duty as a leader and educator and publicly speak out if anti-Israel speech and conduct on campus cross the line into anti-Semitism.

The ZOA and other groups wrote: "We appreciate that college campuses should encourage free and open debate and the robust exchange of ideas. We support these principles. But none of us should tolerate a campus where students and student groups flagrantly disregard university rules and policies—supported by university funds, no less—without consequences. None of us should tolerate a campus climate of fear or disrespect, which can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of students and create conditions that negatively affect their learning and their ability to achieve their full potential."

The other groups that joined the ZOA in signing this letter were Alpha Epsilon Pi, the AMCHA

Initiative, the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Americans for Peace and Tolerance, Christians United for Israel, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA), the David Horowitz Freedom Center, Hasbara Fellowships, the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, the Simon Wiesenthal Center Campus Outreach and StandWithUs.

Nazi propaganda poster posted on Tumblr by Vassar's Students for Justice in Palestine, described in letter to college presidents





ZOA Appeals Dismissal of Its Title VI Action Against Rutgers

In September 2014, the ZOA appealed a decision by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to close the ZOA’s complaint against Rutgers University, which was filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. In its complaint, the ZOA had alleged that Jewish students were subjected to anti-Semitic harassment, intimidation and discrimination at Rutgers and that the university had failed to take appropriate remedial steps in violation of Title VI.

Specifically, the ZOA had alleged that Rutgers failed to respond appropri-

ately when:

(1) The Outreach Coordinator for Rutgers’ Middle East Studies Center harassed a Jewish student by physically threatening him (i.e., charging and lunging at him, pounding her chest and yelling, “Do you want to take me on? I’m Palestinian. I have thick Palestinian blood.”) and posting anti-Semitic comments about him on Facebook (i.e., calling the Jewish student “that racist Zionist pig!!!!!!!” and referring other Facebook users to a hate page about him);

(2) Students harassed the same Jewish student by posting life-threatening

comments about him on Facebook (e.g., threatening to “beat” him “with a crowbar” to “shut up people who shouldn’t [sic] speak”); and

(3) At an anti-Israel event that was advertised as free and open to the public, an admission fee was suddenly imposed and selectively enforced against anyone perceived to be Jewish or pro-Israel, after the event organizers saw how many “Zionists” showed up.

In its 15-page appeal, the ZOA urged OCR to reverse its decision, on grounds that it was based on an incomplete review of the evidence, that OCR’s analysis of the facts was incorrect and that OCR did not apply the appropriate legal standard. The ZOA showed that the evidence and the law support the conclusion that Jewish students had been subjected to anti-Semitic harassment, intimidation and discrimination at Rutgers and that the university failed to take appropriate remedial steps in violation of Title VI.

Title VI cases are typically resolved by OCR within 180 days. It took OCR approximately three years to complete its investigation of the ZOA’s allegations and to decide that the complaint should be closed. It is unclear when a decision on the ZOA’s appeal, which was filed with the director of OCR’s New York office, will be issued.

For Second Time, Supreme Court Considers Jerusalem Passport Case; ZOA Files Amicus Brief

On November 3, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court heard, for the second time, oral argument in *Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, the legal action to enforce a 2002 federal law giving Americans born in Jerusalem the right to have “Israel” listed as their birthplace on their passports and other official documents. Prior to the law’s enactment, Jerusalem-born American citizens could only have “Jerusalem” recorded as their birthplace, with no country of birth. As we had done twice before in the litigation, the ZOA submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of Menachem Zivotofsky, a Jerusalem-born American who was denied a passport listing Israel as his birthplace.

This time, the Supreme Court is deciding whether the 2002 law is constitutional—i.e., whether Congress had the authority under the Constitution to pass the law, or whether the law impermissibly interferes with the President’s foreign policy powers. In refusing to enforce the law, the U.S. State Department claims that the law is unconstitutional and that enforcing it would be tan-

tantamount to recognizing Jerusalem as part of Israel, when the status of Jerusalem is undecided and a matter to be negotiated between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs.

Zivotofsky is represented by an amazing father-daughter legal team, Nathan Lewin (who is a member of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice’s advisory board) and Alyza Lewin. Alyza Lewin argued the case before the Supreme Court. The Solicitor General himself, Donald Verrilli, argued on behalf of the U.S. government.

Alyza Lewin argued that the law is constitutional because it does not impact the President’s foreign policy powers. She explained to the Court that the law was an appropriate exercise of Congress’ commerce power to regulate passports and that the law is simply a means of allowing individuals born in Jerusalem to self-identify with Israel, rather than a foreign policy declaration about the status of Jerusalem. The Solicitor General disagreed, describing the question of Jerusalem’s status as “the most vexing and volatile and difficult diplo-

This time, the Supreme Court is going to decide whether the 2002 law is constitutional...

matic issue that this nation has faced for decades.” He claimed that enforcing this law would undermine the President’s credibility and his ability to negotiate an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Both lawyers were peppered with questions. While it is difficult to predict how the Justices will ultimately vote in this case, Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor did not seem supportive of Zivotofsky’s claims, based on their comments and questions. Justice Sotomayor characterized the request to have “Israel” listed on a passport in accordance with the law as asking the U.S. government to “lie.” But listing “Israel” on a passport cannot possibly be described as a lie when, the ZOA’s amicus brief documented how frequently and



Photo Credit: Rikki Gordon Lewin

Menachem Zivotofsky (left), his father Ari, and Attorneys Alyza and Nathan Lewin at the Supreme Court, Nov. 3, 2014

routinely the Executive Branch itself—including the State Department—refers to Jerusalem as part of the State of Israel. Even the Solicitor General acknowledged during his argument that the Executive recognizes, “as a practical matter, the authority of Israel over West Jerusalem [sic].” Menachem Zivotofsky was born at Shaare Zedek Hospital, in western Jerusalem.

Justice Kagan referred to the law as a “very selective vanity plate law.” This statement demeaned the personal significance for many people born in Jerusalem, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who self-identify with Israel as their country of birth. The statement also overlooks the fact that the State Department will honor the personal preferences of individuals who do not want

to identify with Israel, even if they are born in areas that are indisputably part of sovereign Israel (such as Tel Aviv or Haifa); these individuals can choose to list their city of birth on their passports instead of listing Israel.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito and Antonin Scalia seemed more receptive to Zivotofsky’s claims. Justice Scalia seemed to recognize that Congress had the authority to pass the law, commenting “that the State Department doesn’t like the fact that it [the law] makes the Palestinians angry is irrelevant.” Justice Kennedy suggested that the law could be enforced with a “disclaimer”: The State Department could issue passports to Jerusalem-born Americans with “Israel” recorded as their birthplace and include a

statement that this listing should not be construed as a declaration of U.S. policy that Jerusalem is part of Israel.

By the time the Supreme Court heard the case last November, the case was more than 10 years old. It was filed at approximately the same time that the ZOA filed its own lawsuit to enforce the 2002 law. (The ZOA’s case was consolidated with the Zivotofsky case, but was ultimately terminated after our plaintiff decided not to proceed.) The ZOA was the only Jewish organization to file a legal action to enforce the law and the only Jewish organization that sought the law’s enforcement from the start.

A decision in the case is expected in or around June. Menachem Zivotofsky, who was a baby when his family filed this legal action in 2003, will end up playing a pivotal role in an important constitutional issue concerning the respective powers of Congress and the President.

Several ZOA Board members provided valuable input to the ZOA in its efforts to uphold and enforce the 2002 law: Clifford A. Rieders, Esq.; Cardozo Law School Professor Malvina Halberstam, Esq.; Edward M. Siegel, Esq.; and in particular, David Schoen, Esq., who was also the ZOA’s counsel of record in this case.

ZOA Helps Reinstate Holocaust Survivor's Compensation Payments



With the ZOA's assistance, an elderly and sickly Holocaust survivor's compensation payments from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany ("Claims Conference") were recently reinstated.

In the summer of 2014, Howard Schaerf, Esq. sought the ZOA's help. Mr. Schaerf was representing a Holocaust survivor ("E.S.") who was appealing the Claims Conference's determination that she was no longer eligible for compensation. Her appeal of this decision had been pending at the Claims Conference for over two years. In the meantime, E.S.'s husband had recently died, she herself was in poor health, and she feared that she would meet the same fate as other members of her Brooklyn community who had died while waiting for the Claims Conference to decide their appeals.

Before her payments were terminated, E.S. had been compensated by the

Claims Conference, based on her being a Jewish Holocaust survivor who had lived in a ghetto during World War II. The Conference decided that she was not eligible for compensation, based on autobiographical information that E.S. had provided in 1954, to a school located in the former Soviet Union, when she applied for admission there. E.S. had represented to the Soviet school that during the war, she and her mother fled to Deribent [likely Derbent] and that her father was drafted and killed during the war.

In support of her appeal and to explain why she would have represented in her school application that she had not lived in a ghetto during the war, E.S. submitted a letter from an historian. He explained that Soviet Jews who survived the Holocaust—in the ghettos and elsewhere—were regarded with suspicion by Soviet authorities after the war. They were believed to have survived be-

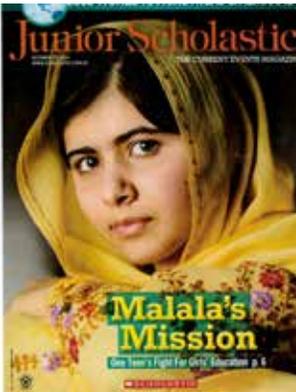
cause they had collaborated with the Nazis, and they were considered traitors to the Soviet government. To avoid persecution—and maybe worse—by the anti-Semitic Soviet regime, Jewish Holocaust survivors like E.S. tried to conceal that they had been in ghettos during the war. According to the historian, it was a matter of survival.

In a letter to the Ombudsman of the Claims Conference, urging a speedy and just determination of E.S.'s appeal, the ZOA wrote that E.S. "was a victim of Nazi persecution. It is disgraceful that she is being victimized again by an organization that is supposed to be there to help her."

Shortly thereafter, the Ombudsman notified the ZOA that E.S.'s compensation payments were reinstated. Howard Schaerf expressed his appreciation to the ZOA for contributing to this positive result, in which we are proud to have played a part.

Holocaust survivors and their extended family

ZOA Addresses Anti-Israel Bias at Scholastic



In a “special issue” of Junior Scholastic magazine, some of the information relating to Israel was misleading and inaccurate.

The ZOA contacted Scholastic, Inc.—reportedly the world’s largest publisher and distributor of children’s books—after it published and distributed a children’s book containing a map of the Middle East that omitted Israel. The book, entitled “Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt,” is part of the children’s Geronimo Stilton series. It was initially published in Italy and was translated into English by Scholastic.

After the omission of Israel came to light, Scholastic committed to stop shipping the offending book, revising the map and reprinting it. In a letter to the company, the ZOA urged Scholastic to take additional steps “for the sake of all the families, teachers and schools around the country who rely on Scholastic for high quality, accurate books and educational materials.” Among the ZOA’s recommendations were to (1) ensure that Scholastic’s editors and proofreaders have the requisite experience, competence and attention to detail to prevent such errors and omissions from recurring; and (2) conduct a thorough review of Scholastic’s other books

to verify their accuracy.

The ZOA also issued an Action Alert to its supporters, urging them to check their own children’s books for anti-Semitic and anti-Israel content, including any anti-Semitic and anti-Israel errors and omissions, and report them to the ZOA. Soon after the Action Alert was issued, a teacher contacted the ZOA about another Scholastic publication reflecting bias against Israel. In a “special issue” of Junior Scholastic (the company’s current events magazine for middle school students) focusing on world affairs, some of the information relating to Israel was misleading and inaccurate.

For example, a footnote about Israel erroneously referred to “Israeli-occupied parts of the West Bank.” In a letter to Scholastic, Inc., the ZOA informed the publisher that “to be accurate and to avoid bias,” the company should instead have used the term “disputed territories whose final status is a matter to be negotiated between the parties.”

The ZOA also alerted Scholastic to problems with the way in which Hamas was described in the Junior Scholastic is-

sue. Scholastic identified Hamas as “the Palestinian group that controls Gaza.” The ZOA suggested using the phrase “Palestinian Arab” instead of just “Palestinian,” since the word “Palestinian” has historically been used to refer to Jews, not Arabs in what was once called Palestine and is now Israel. In addition, the ZOA advised Scholastic that simply identifying Hamas as a “group” was inaccurate and misleading; it should have been identified as a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization.

In addition, the ZOA objected to how Scholastic depicted the 2014 war between Hamas and Israel. The description wrongly suggested to students that Palestinian Arabs suffered more than Israelis did in the war and could lead students to wrongly believe that Israel was responsible for their suffering.

After Scholastic received the ZOA’s letter, the company requested that the ZOA speak with the managing editor of Scholastic’s classroom magazines. As a result of that conversation, Scholastic agreed to raise the ZOA’s points with the editors of Scholastic’s news magazine going forward. 

Government Relations Department



Photo Credit: wbeem

Ending The Existential Threat Of Iranian Nuclear Weapons



JOSH LONDON
Co-Director,
Government Relations
Department



DAN POLLAK
Co-Director,
Government Relations
Department

The highest priority of the Government Relations Department has been the issue of Iran. ZOA has been urging the U.S. Congress to play a role in stopping the Iranian regime from developing a military nuclear capability. The administration is doing everything it can to head off any congressional action, and hopes are high in the new Congress that additional sanctions will be conditionally approved, if a deal is not in place by the end of June 2015, obligating Iran to roll back its nuclear program. It should be remembered, though, that sanctions are not the goal of ZOA, but rather the ending of the existential threat of Iranian nuclear weapons. The

only thing that might prevent this catastrophe for American policy in the region is the threat of an attack on Iran by the U.S. or our allies. Instead, American policy seems focused on creating the illusion of progress so that a military attack on Iran is deemed unthinkable. Opponents of military pressure should be forced to explain for history why they are acquiescing to Iran's achievement of a nuclear capability. It may be that supporting military action against Iran is the only way, in the final analysis, to end the Iranian threat.

The Government Relations Department also continues to focus on our other regular legislative priorities, including the end-

ing of aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and making any future aid contingent upon the PA fulfilling its many interim peace accord obligations; educating Congress about the ongoing Arab war against Israel; and communicating ZOA's insights and reactions to the news of the day.

During this past 113th Congress, ZOA's educational efforts helped create a bipartisan climate of distrust of the PA's intentions and active concern over the disbursement and use of U.S. financial aid to the PA. Likewise, ZOA has helped contribute to the bipartisan determination to maintain sanctions against Iran and to hold Iran accountable for its human rights violations. ZOA advocates

The ZOA believes the plain language of the Cromnibus law requires funding to be cut off to the PA immediately.

for letters, resolutions and bills based on their content, even when the prospects for passage are remote. Nevertheless, the end of the 113th Congress saw some major accomplishments. Both the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) and the so-called “Cromnibus” bill, aka the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235; enacted in the waning days of 2014), contained language [see Sec. 7041(j), A(i)(II)] to prohibit funding for the PA should “the Palestinians initiate an International Criminal Court judicially authorized investigation, or actively support such an investigation, that subjects Israeli nationals to an investigation for alleged crimes against Palestinians.”

While this seems straightforward enough, on Dec. 31, 2014, PA President, Fatah leader and PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas signed 20 international treaties and conventions, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The name of the statute re-

fers to the 1998 conference that established the treaty-based court, which began operations in 2002.

This move will theoretically enable the ICC to assert jurisdiction over future developments in Judea and Samaria, and empowers any signatory to the Rome Statute—currently including 160 countries—to claim that Israel should be brought to the court on charges of war crimes. In the first week of January, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon publicly confirmed that the Palestinians will become an ICC member on April 1, 2015. On January 16, ICC Chief Prosecutor and Gambian attorney Fatou Bensouda announced that she would start a preliminary examination into last summer’s Gaza war. It remains unknown whether the Bensouda preliminary inquiry will transition to a fuller examination in the coming weeks, months or years. (It is worth noting that the ICC engaged in a preliminary examination against the U.S. in 2007 due to its role in Afghanistan, but that examination appears to have been abandoned as were other preliminary investigations against both Russia and the United Kingdom.)

When the Palestinian Arabs signed the Rome Statute, they attached a letter asking for an investigation into last summer’s

Gaza war, even though the war predated their signing of the statute. Abbas’ letter asked that the investigation start with events that occurred after June 13, which, not coincidentally, is just hours after three Israeli youths were kidnapped and murdered by Palestinian Arab terrorists. Israel launched a manhunt for the boys the following day. The actual war began on July 8, when 210 rockets were indiscriminately fired by Hamas on Israeli cities. Once any such inquiries are concluded, it would be up to the ICC’s chief prosecutor to move forward with actual cases against Israeli officials.

The ZOA believes the plain language of the Cromnibus law requires funding to be cut off to the PA immediately. Funding has not yet been cut to the PA, despite the existing law, because the State Department maintains that, under the current language of the law, the Palestinian Arabs have yet to technically trip the wire that would automatically result in the cutting off of aid. With this interpretation, the language does not require the cutting of aid to the Palestinian Arabs simply for seeking to join the ICC, for being admitted as a member to the ICC or even for asking the ICC to investigate Israelis. The Obama administration’s position is that the law is triggered only if

the ICC actually ends up investigating Israel as the result of action initiated or supported by the Palestinian Arabs.

This all means, in effect, that so far the Palestinian Arabs have received no substantive penalty or rebuke for their ongoing international lawfare belligerence towards Israel, their ongoing incitement to murder Jews and Israelis, their active coalition and partnership with Hamas, their continued failure—for 20 years—to fulfill any of their obligations under the peace agreements they have signed, or their clear contempt for the U.S., which continues to fund the Palestinian Arabs (total funding since 1994 exceeds \$5 billion). In January 2015, 75 U.S. senators, led by Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), sent a bipartisan letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, expressing deep concern regarding the PA's steps to bypass Israel in the peace process. The letter supported a suspension of aid to the PA while the State Department reviews the Palestinian Arabs' actions at the UN Security Council and the ICC. This is merely a preliminary step, and much more robust congressional action must be taken. ZOA will continue to work closely with Congress to facilitate the next step.

Beyond this ICC lan-

guage, the Cromnibus bill included:

- Language that directs the State Department to reduce U.S. foreign assistance to the PA in amounts equal to what the Palestinian Arabs regularly pay out to families of imprisoned or dead terrorists, estimated to total at least \$60 million annually.
- Language that requires the State Department to report to Congress with an approximate number of people currently served by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) who actually lived in then-Palestine between 1946 and 1948 and were displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. (This reporting requirement is designed to increase the transparency and accountability of UNRWA; the U.S. has provided more than \$4 billion to UNRWA since 1950.)
- \$3.1 billion in U.S. military assistance to Israel (per the U.S. commitment outlined in the U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding); and doubled funding for Israeli missile defense systems.

Along with the Crom-

nibus bill, the House also passed H.R. 5739, the No Social Security for Nazis Act, designed to close loopholes that allowed Social Security benefits to convicted war criminals who had been deported from the U.S., and H. Res. 754, calling on the government of Iran to abide by all of its international and domestic obligations with respect to human rights and civil liberties, including the free-

...the Palestinian Arabs have received no substantive penalty or rebuke for their ongoing international lawfare belligerence towards Israel...

doms of assembly, speech and press. It also urges President Obama to impose sanctions on Iranian government officials and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses.

Restrictions on aid to the PA, and even an outright ban on all aid to the PA, may actually be a realistic goal for congressional action during the new Congress. Establishment Jewish leaders have reacted with fury to Palestinian Arab provocations, such as continued attempts to join the UN unilaterally, continued Jew-hatred and, especially, the attempt to

join the ICC and prosecute Israeli military and government leaders there. There is some real momentum for holding the Palestinian Arabs accountable in Congress, despite probable attempts at obstruction by the administration.

Following the war in Gaza last summer, the leadership of ZOA issued a press release calling for Qatar—which has been the leading funder of the Islamic terrorist group Hamas—to be denied landing rights for its airline in the U.S.; for American universi-

ties, cultural institutions and think tanks to end or suspend their programs in Qatar; and for the country to be designated formally as a supporter of terrorism. During the war, liberal icon Alan Dershowitz had also written a column critical of

both Qatar and Turkey for those countries' support of terrorism. Several key senators and congressional leaders were contacted by ZOA and urged to sponsor legislation to take action against Qatar.

Following extensive lobbying, the chairs of two subcommittees of the House Foreign Affairs Committee announced a hearing on September 9, 2014.

The House hearing was a joint subcommittee convened by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, and Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX), chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-proliferation, and Trade. The ranking members of the subcommittees are, respectively, Reps. Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Ted Deutch (D-FL). The hearings, entitled "Hamas' Benefactors: A Network of Terror," attracted an unusual number of participants. It quickly became evident that many of the congressmen and women ZOA had reached out to on the Qatar issue were taking the issue very seriously. In fact, several questions came directly from ZOA-supplied talking points.

During both their opening statements and the questioning of the witnesses, the lawmakers urged consequences on Qatar and

Turkey for those countries' support of Hamas terrorism. Not a single congressman spoke in defense of Qatar and the bankrolling of Hamas, and the usual "humanitarian" defense of such contributions was simply not offered by the witnesses or by the congressmen. Instead, the focus was on concrete steps to put pressure on Qatar and Turkey.

The Government Relations Department continues its ongoing work of building and maintaining relations with members of Congress and their staffs. Following the 2014 mid-term elections, there was a great deal of turnover in staff as the Republicans increased their majorities in the House and took control of the Senate. New members require special handling to be brought up to speed on the issues. Another development from recent history is the extreme partisan atmosphere in both the House and Senate. Support for Israel has traditionally been one of the few issues that transcends the partisan divide, but—as illuminated by the fight over the invitation to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to speak before Congress—partisanship is creeping into every issue in Washington. The ZOA supports the idea of bipartisan support for our closest ally, but we do not make a fetish of this ideal, and

Not a single congressman at a House hearing spoke in defense of Qatar and the bankrolling of Hamas, and the usual "humanitarian" defense of such contributions was simply not offered by the witnesses or by the congressmen. Instead, the focus was on concrete steps to put pressure on Qatar and Turkey.

ties, cultural institutions and think tanks to end or suspend their programs in Qatar; and for the country to be designated formally as a supporter of terrorism. During the war, liberal icon Alan Dershowitz had also written a column critical of

substance—for example, the need to stop a bad deal on Iran—must take precedence over the principle of bipartisan consensus.

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, the Government Relations Department interacts with Jewish and Christian Zionist organizations in DC, as well as other American Jewish groups. For example, in conjunction with ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, we continue to pursue opportunities to team with other Jewish groups to ensure that the Department of Education is properly overseeing federally funded Middle East studies programs pursuant to Title VI of the Higher

Education Act, so that these programs reflect diverse perspectives rather than one-sided anti-American and anti-Israel bias. In addition, together with the Center for Law and Justice and other Jewish groups, we are working to ensure that the Department of Education enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from anti-Semitic harassment and discrimination at federally funded schools. We also work closely with ZOA's regional directors and with Jeff Daube, director of the ZOA's Israel office. In addition, we participate in meetings, public forums and policy discussions with foreign policy

and political professionals, and we continue to engage in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues.

ZOA grassroots activism—particularly at our annual DC Pro-Israel Capitol Hill Mission, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2015—helps underscore that at the heart of all of ZOA's Government Relations efforts stands the dedication, passionate advocacy and depth of knowledge of ZOA members across the country. Please continue to stay involved in the grassroots advocacy that is so critical to our being effective in Washington, DC. [ZOA](#)



Photo Credit: Daniel Memerich

Brandeis Award Dinner Pictorial



1. Pastor John Hagee, Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson
2. Board Member Bob Guzzardi and Chief Of Staff to Sen. Cruz, Paul Teller
3. Gov't Relations Co-Director Dan Pollak
4. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, Board Member and Vice Chairman Dr. Alan Mazurek and Karen Mazurek
5. Midwest Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami, Southeast Campus Coordinator Cesar DeGracia-Morales, ZOA West Director David Kadosh, Israel Office Director Jeff Daube, Activist Chloe Valdary and ZOA students
6. Dr. Joseph Frager, MK Yaakov Katz (Katzela), Eli and Bertel Gluck
7. Two students thankful for Dr. Bob Shillman's dinner sponsorship

Brandeis Award Dinner Pictorial

1. Andrea Leven and Judge Jeanine Pirro
2. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and NORPAC President and ZOA Board Member Dr. Ben Chouake
3. Rita Klein, U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann, Pittsburgh Executive Director Stuart Pavilack, Rachel Glazer and Development Director Howard Katzoff
4. U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann and American Values President Gary Bauer
5. Board Member Dr. Arthur Kook, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Dr. Daniel Pipes
6. Sheldon and Dr. Miriam Adelson and ZOA President Morton Klein
7. Student activists enjoying the Brandeis dinner
8. Mortimer Zuckerman, Judge Jeanine Pirro, Pari Schwartz, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, Board Member Myron Zimmerman and Board Member and Treasurer Henry Schwartz



Brandeis Award Dinner Pictorial



- 1. Board Members Eli Hertz and Irwin Hochberg
- 2. Eytan Laor, Board Member Gene Shusman and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz
- 3. Cantor Joseph Malovany and Dr. Bob Shillman
- 4. ZOA West Executive Director David Kadosh, President Morton Klein, Southeast Executive Director Sharona Whisler, Board Member Myron Zimmerman, Myron Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Student Activism Awardee Ron Feingold and Emcee Bernie Marcus
- 5. Mark Simon and Samantha Schneider, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, Susan Schneider and Judy Taylor
- 6. Board Member Mark Levenson, Esq., U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, National Executive Director David Drimer, Board Member Ruben Margules



Brandeis Award Dinner Pictorial

1. ZOA guests listening to U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz

2. Jonathan Pontell, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, Josh Pontell, Shoshana Pontell and Bonnie Pontell

3. Board Member Bart Blatsein, Dr. Cory Ruth and Board Member Kevin Ross

4. Judy Rosenberg, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Board Member Stanley Rosenberg, Esq.

5. Gov't Relations Co-Director Josh London, ZOA-Greater Philadelphia Co-President Lee Bender, Esq. and ZOA Center for MidEast Policy Director Daniel Mandel

6. U.S. Sen. Cruz and ZOA President Mort Klein

7. Board Member Michael Orbach, Mortimer Zuckerman, Prof. Alan Dershowitz and Bonnie Orbach



Campus Activism Network



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WESTERN REGION

The ZOA's West Coast Campus Coordinator, David Kadosh, has expanded Zionist outreach throughout the region. David has continued to deliver his presentation on the importance in Zionist philosophy of Jewish self-defense, providing students with an introductory Krav Maga demonstration. This program has been very successful, empowering students at a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise globally. Since the last issue of the ZOA Report, this program has been brought to San Francisco State University, UC Santa Cruz, Loyola Marymount University, San Jose State University (two programs, including one entirely for women on campus) and two regional conferences. One of the re-

gional conferences was organized by the Rimon Club Z organization, which works with high school students throughout the Bay Area. At that retreat, David also led a discussion for the students on the history of Israel and the Middle East conflict. The other regional conference was organized by student activists from the San Diego area, with representation from UC San Diego, San Diego State University and surrounding community colleges.

Of the 40 students on the 2014-2015 ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel, nine were from the western region. David has continued to work with these students, bringing effective pro-Israel programs to campus. One of the trip participants returned from Israel inspired to engage in more pro-Israel activism on campus, and helped create a new pro-

Israel club at UC Berkeley. Three students in the western region—at UC Irvine, De Anza College and UC Davis—have signed on for a one-year term as ZOA Campus Fellows. The mission of these Fellows is to increase ZOA's presence at their schools and promote Zionism to their peers. The ZOA Fellow at UC Irvine brought Noam Bedein of the Sderot Media Center to campus, to convey the terror of life under rocket fire from Gaza for Israelis living in the western Negev.

NORTHEAST REGION

During the fall 2014 semester, ZOA acted as a leading resource for students in the northeast region. The ZOA's Northeast Campus Coordinator, Zach Stern, led educational events at 14 campuses in the



Midwest Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami with student representatives from various Ohio schools after his speech about Zionism at the "Ohio Loves Israel" festival at Ohio State University



West Coast Executive Director David Kadosh teaches students in San Diego about the importance of Jewish self-defense through Krav Maga lessons

region and helped organize other pro-Israel activities and speakers at other universities. The events Zach led included presentations and discussions about the Jewish connection to Israel, the war in Gaza, Palestinian incitement and how to formulate and promote effective Zionist messages on college campuses. These discussions helped educate students about the real issues in the Middle East and prepared them to stand up for the Jewish state on campus.

Zach organized other pro-Israel events, including lectures from prominent pro-Israel figures, such as Kasim Hafeez, a former radical anti-Semite turned proud Muslim Zionist, and Noam Bedein, director of the Sderot Media Center.

These events gave campus communities the opportunity to hear from experts in their fields about key issues facing Israel.

In addition to leading and organizing events, Zach spent much of the semester recruiting students in the northeast to attend the ZOA Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner. Approximately 270 students attended the event and connected with ZOA and its mission. Furthermore, 15 students from the northeast attended the 2014-2015 ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel, learning to become more informed and effective pro-Israel student leaders on their campuses.

Zach is excited to keep working with these students in 2015 and to keep

building the ZOA's presence on campuses in the northeast.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

ZOA's Brian Albert spoke on a variety of issues at colleges in the mid-Atlantic region. In September, Brian spoke at George Washington University on Israel's legal rights to Judea and Samaria under international law and on ways to effectively debate anti-Israel activists. That same month he gave a guest lecture at the University of Delaware on the water libel against Israel (i.e., the falsehood promoted by the Palestinian Arabs that Israel limits their access to clean water). In early November, Brian spoke at back-to-back events at

Temple University and Drexel University, where he gave presentations on Israel's ongoing conflict with Hamas in Gaza. Brian also gave firsthand accounts of his experiences as an IDF soldier during Operation Cast Lead in 2009.

In addition, Brian assisted ZOA's regional and national offices with their two most important events of the year. In September, he helped bring over two dozen students to the ZOA-Philadelphia chapter's Annual Gala. In October and November, he advertised the ZOA's Brandeis Award Dinner to Philadelphia's student and young professional communities, with positive results: Over ten percent of student attendees at the dinner came from the Philadelphia area.



Northeast Campus Coordinator Zach Stern worked with students at NYU to organize a panel on combating anti-Semitism on campus



Northeast Campus Coordinator Zach Stern speaks to students about the war in Gaza and effective pro-Israel messages to use on campus

SOUTHEAST REGION

ZOA's Southeast Campus Coordinator, César DeGracia-Morales, has traveled throughout the region, partnering with student groups and organizations to create and sponsor events that address the complicated situation in the Middle East and how it impacts Israel and its actions. César has traveled to Texas, Louisiana and across the state of Florida. In re-

cent months, he has been able to engage political groups, such as the Young Republicans, and create a strong network of college political advocates.

Under the leadership of ZOA Regional Director Sharona Whisler, the ZOA's Florida chapter is organizing Israel advocacy classes for high school students in conjunction with synagogues in South Florida. Recently, as part of this new project, César was a guest speaker in Palm Beach.

As an AEPi alumnus,

César has been visiting AEPi chapters across the region to spread the ZOA message among the fraternity community. He plans to visit campuses across Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas, where he already started to build relationships during the fall semester.

MIDWEST REGION

This year, ZOA's new Midwest Campus Coordinator, Pandit Mami, has

spent a great deal of time on campus, shedding light on the often-ignored problem of Palestinian incitement and exploring the anti-Semitism embedded in popular anti-Zionist and anti-Israel rhetoric found on social media.

On Martin Luther King Day at Capital University, Pandit engaged a group of students, community members and university professors in a workshop on anti-Semitism in the modern world. The workshop encouraged students to think critically about rising anti-Israel and anti-Zionist sentiment among university scholars and academics, and to appreciate that throughout history the world of academia has coexisted with anti-Semitism instead of eroding it.

In addition to educating students about anti-Semitism on their campuses, Pandit engaged students on the peace process and the obstacles to peace. He led a presentation at the Ohio Loves Israel convention last November at Ohio State University with students from various Ohio universities.

Pandit brought ZOA presentations to Augsburg College, the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin. He is also working closely with ZOA's Campus Fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL

The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel has continued to expand in both participation and content from previous years. The 2014-15 Mission hosted 40 college activists, representing every region of the country. This is a significant increase from the previous year, in which 35 students participated, and from past trips, which averaged 25 students per trip. This year's students came from many different campuses, backgrounds and political orientations, but they shared a willingness to learn, and they united over their Zionist leadership.



Students explored the tunnels of the ancient City of David in eastern Jerusalem

All of the participants hold leadership positions in their Israel clubs or CUFI (Christians United for Israel) chapters.

The main focus of the trip has always been to educate and lay a strong,

Zionist foundation for college activists through their first-hand experiences with Israeli leadership in government, the military and grassroots movements. In addition, students hear from policy experts, journalists and academics. That goal was achieved. Students were exposed to key themes such as the importance of an undivided Jerusalem as capital of the Jewish state; the propaganda war against the so-called "settlers" and the Jewish historical, legal and moral rights to Judea and Samaria; and Israel's management of both domestic and external threats. The Jewish connection to the land was emphasized through tours of the site of the Mishkan (the tabernacle from the pre-Temple period) in Shiloh as well as the historic Jewish sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, the tunnel complex of the City of David, the Mount

of Olives cemetery and the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs in Hevron, among others. The group also had the rare opportunity to meet with Professor of Archaeology Gabi Barkai to sift through Jewish artifacts excavated from the Temple Mount and to see their ancestral history in their own hands.

The ZOA Mission always exposes students to the security issues facing Israel, especially relating to the border regions. The group met with soldiers working on the front lines and learned about their efforts to keep Israel safe. Students were able to see across the border into Gaza from often-rocket-targeted vantage points in Sderot and into Lebanese homes flying the Hezbollah flag from the farms of Kibbutz Misgav Am along the northern border. Up



The students with Jeff Seidel in the Old City of Jerusalem only days after Mr. Seidel was wounded in a rock-throwing terrorist attack



Students stopped in the Jordan Valley to learn about the strategic importance of the area and to meet with the local communities

north, the students were introduced to a group called HaShomer HaHadash (the New Guard), which volunteers to protect Jewish farms and property from Arab vandalism and theft. Part of the expansion of the trip included new security briefings and site visits to Israel's strategic Jordan River Valley, an area the international community is pressuring Israel to give away, and site visits to the Negev with Regavim, a group which monitors and reports illegal Arab construction on private and public lands.

For the first time, the ZOA Campus Department launched a Campus Fellows program in conjunction with the Israel trip. Fellows sign a contract

to work with ZOA for a year, to bring pro-Israel programs to their colleges and universities. We are proud to welcome our 10 ZOA Campus Fellows for this year: **Sharon Shaoulian, UC Irvine; Mikaela Tenner, UC Davis; Spencer Kinsey, De Anza College; Liron Ozery, Stern College; Grant Goldberg, Ohio State University; Derek Silver, Florida State University; Samantha Rothman, University of Pittsburgh; Sarah La Pearl, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Jason Vessal, Yeshiva University; and Lindsey Rivka Cohen, Boston University.**

Many of the student leaders that attended the trip have already brought ZOA programs to their



Students learned about the Jewish connection to Israel as they sifted through thousands of years of Jewish history near the Temple Mount

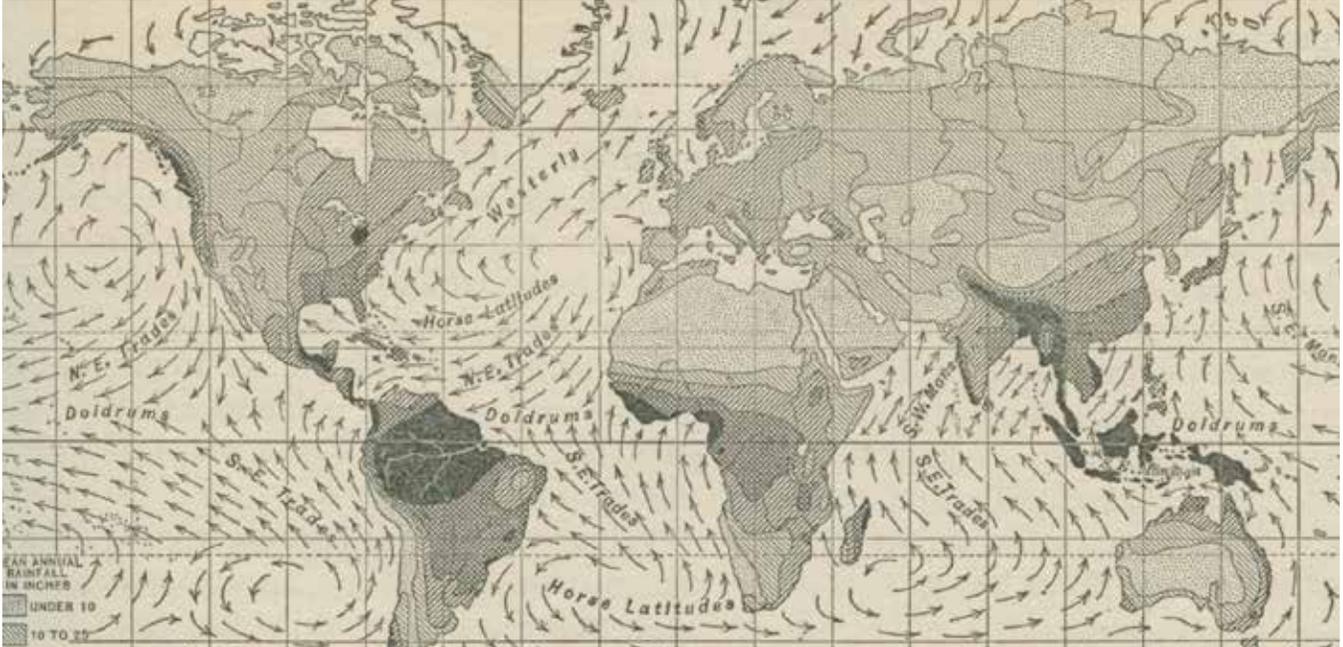
campuses. The new Campus Fellows program is a means of ensuring a long-lasting and committed relationship between the

ZOA Campus staff and student leaders. If it is successful, we hope to expand the program in the coming years. [ZOA](#)



ZOA's Jeff Daube spoke to students at the Mount of Olives Cemetery in eastern Jerusalem, which is the oldest and largest Jewish cemetery in the world

Around The Country With Mort Klein



BELGIUM

Mort was the keynote speaker at a major conference on anti-semitism in Brussels, Belgium. This Conference was organized and sponsored by the anti-semitism division of the World Zionist Organization in Israel. There were Jewish leaders from many countries around the world in attendance, including France, England, Russia, Ecuador, Argentina, South Africa, Australia and Israel

WASHINGTON, DC

Mort spoke at many rallies including a “Rally

for Israel” on Capitol Hill organized by Gov. Mike Huckabee. Other speakers included former Presidential candidate, Gary Bauer; *Weekly Standard* editor Bill Kristol; Reuven Azar, Deputy Head of the Israeli Embassy; and Cong. Trent Franks (R-AZ), among others.

NEW YORK

Another major rally at which Mort spoke was outside NY’s Lincoln Center protesting the anti-semitic opera, “Death of Klinghoffer.” Other speakers included former Attorney General Mike Mukasey; former NY Governor, George Pataki; U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY); criminal lawyer, Ben Braff-

man, among others.

NEBRASKA

Mort was the keynote speaker at the Christian Rally for Israel in Omaha, Nebraska. He also spoke at a church and a synagogue there.

JERUSALEM

Mort addressed 300 Christian Zionists who came to Israel under the auspices of Gov. Mike Huckabee. The speech was delivered at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem and was reported in the *Washington Post*.

TV

Mort appeared on nu-

merous radio and TV programs including debates on CNN with Erin Burnett; Al Jazeera, NPR, JBS, RT, ABC/TV and many others.

OP-EDS

Mort’s op-eds appeared in the *Washington Times*; *Idaho Daily*; *Kansas City Star*; and numerous Jewish newspapers.

AND MORE...

Mort continues lecturing around the country in venues like Engelwood, NJ; Orlando and Daytona Beach, FL; Omaha, Nebraska; St. Louis, Missouri; and Jerusalem, Israel, among others. [ZOA](#)

ZOA People

Daniel Katz: *A Profile*

Daniel Katz is very passionate about being Jewish and defending Jewish causes, in particular, the State of Israel.

Born in Milwaukee in 1956 into a largely secular, Zionist family, Katz remembers Menachem Begin staying with them on Begin's visits to Milwaukee and also, on occasion, Jewish Defense League founder Meir Kahane.

Katz and his family went to Israel when he was 10, just two weeks after the

Six Day War.

They toured extensively and visited the newly captured Gaza Strip and the Sinai desert, where they saw dead Egyptian servicemen and bombed out Egyptian tanks. In Gaza and El-Arish, local Arabs came out to greet the family and sell pottery and other trinkets. "It was very different then," Katz says. "Today, no Jew in his right mind would want to walk down the main street in Gaza, as I did at the age of 10."

The Katzes also visited the newly captured Golan Heights, including the battle-damaged town of Kuneitra. They saw the bombed-out Allenby Bridge and a host of other localities, including Jericho, Nablus and Bethlehem. Katz says: "Now, we are no longer in control in these places. Back then, it was a different atmosphere. They may have hated us,

but they also feared us." The Katz family enjoyed their trip so much that in 1970 they moved to Israel, settling in Tel Aviv. They moved frequently, and Katz attended a number of schools.

He spent time on Kibbutz Kfar Bloom, as well, in 1972-73, during his tenth grade year. The family was living in Tel Aviv during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and they experienced, with all Israelis, the shock and trauma of those tense weeks of fighting. They lived just around the corner from Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. They would often see him, in the boulevard that today bears his name, sitting in front of his house, and they occasionally engaged him in conversation.

In 1975, the family returned to the U.S., where Katz attended Washington University's business school, followed by law school. He graduated in 1980 and founded Katz Properties. In time, he became involved with Israel Bonds, eventually becoming North American chairman for new leadership. In that capacity, he organized trips to the former Soviet Union, the Czech Republic and Poland, where he visited Nazi death camps.

Through Katz's deep involvement in Israel Bonds, he met leading Israeli political figures, including Benjamin Netanyahu. They



first met in the early 1990s in Jerusalem, and Netanyahu sounded out Katz on the idea of heading Likud in America. While nothing came of this proposal, Katz was impressed by Netanyahu, even before he assumed the Likud leadership. During his involvement with Israel Bonds, Katz met other giants on the Israeli political scene, as well—Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Shamir and Ezer Weizman—and served on the organization's national board for 10 years.

Among other Jewish causes in which Katz has been involved, he takes particular pride in the Israel Scouts, a non-affiliated movement that is 70,000 strong in Israel, with 2,500 to 3,000 U.S. members. He has been North American chair for the past 15 years.

While Katz's background was secular, his life in Israel and deepening involvement in Jewish affairs led him to modern orthodoxy and, in turn, to his involvement in the Jewish day school movement. For the past 10 years, he has been president of the Hillel Day School of Boca Raton, Florida, where he, his wife and six children live. Until two years ago, he was also president of his Boca Raton synagogue.

Katz says: "To continue the line of yiddishkeit, you have to be religious; to be Zionist is not enough. And I'm not talking here nec-

essarily about being Orthodox. Whether one is Reform or Conservative, you have to be involved, you have to study, you must gain Jewish knowledge, must do things, give to tzeddaka, because in Judaism it is by our acts, not only our thoughts and beliefs, that we live. Only Jews are going to sustain the Jewish people, and that includes the realm of philanthropy. I'm shocked to see Jewish money go to institutions that give platforms to murderous enemies of the Jewish people. I was shocked to see people giving tens of millions of dollars to Columbia University after they had Mahmoud Ahmadinejad there."

Katz's involvement in ZOA goes back to the dawn of Morton Klein's presidency, and it came about in an unusual way. In the late 1980s, Katz was chairing an Israel Bonds mission to Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). In the course of the trip, they visited a big, old synagogue filled with old-timers who had survived the cultural and religious repression of Soviet communism.

They spoke about their pride in being Jewish and their aspirations to revive yiddishkeit in Russia now that Soviet oppression was gone. But a dissenter put up his hand and asked a simple question: "Why do

you wish to revive yiddishkeit here? This is a Jewish wasteland. Why don't you go to Israel, go to the U.S., but why on earth stay here? We've been screaming from America: Let my people go."

Says Katz: "I looked around and discovered that the person who asked this question was Mort Klein. He's the picador—he knows where to hit the bull. At the end of trip, he got the award for asking the best pithy questions. We became friendly then.

"Many years later," Katz says, "I discovered that Mort had become president of the ZOA. I was excited and went to see him. We embraced and became good friends. Mort is a special kind of courageous person. My son put it very well: 'Mort is a guy who isn't afraid to eat alone.' 'He's always right. I never found him to be anything other than truthful, honest and accurate. I also agree with his conclusions, which derive from facts, not opinions. It's a privilege to call him my friend, whose heart and soul is ZOA. I love, him, he's a wonderful man.

"Back in 1993, when he expressed his deep skepticism about the Oslo process, other people were dreaming of peace with Arabs, but he recognized that they didn't want peace with us. Mort and the ZOA have been right all along the way." 

"Only Jews are going to sustain the Jewish people, and that includes the realm of philanthropy. I'm shocked to see Jewish money go to institutions that give platforms to murderous enemies of the Jewish people."

Israel Office



Jerusalem Is Terrorized

Left: Israel Director Daube, BESA Director Efraim Inbar and ZOA Board member Henry Schwartz, overlooking Jordan Valley.

Right: MK Danon activist motivating voters for yet another election



JEFF DAUBE
Director,
Israel Office

In the first six months of 2014 alone, thousands of attacks already had overwhelmed eastern Jerusalem, including the Mount of Olives area where we are most focused. A more frightful cycle of violence then erupted with the Gaza war and escalated into late fall. Stronger police enforcement – and the weather—eventually reduced the mayhem. But an average of five high-profile assaults each day is still unacceptable, as are the near lynchings and targeting of kindergartens and funeral

processions.

A series of desecrations in the Gerrer Hasidic section of the Mount of Olives Cemetery particularly got under our skin. After the gravestone of MK Rabbi I.M. Levin, a co-founder of the State of Israel, was found pulverized, and dozens of other graves vandalized, ZOA-Israel helped organize a media-covered vigil and brought haredi MKs Yisrael Eichler and Menachem Moses to the scene. The briefing of the former ended with a barrage of fireworks aimed di-

rectly at us.

In a series of meetings, new Jerusalem police chief Moshe Edri repeatedly assured us he would do everything he could to apprehend the perpetrators. While it appears he means business, instituting punitive measures for effective deterrence—not his bailiwick—is also needed.

Legislative deterrence is the domain of the Knesset Interior Committee, last headed by MK Miri Regev. We facilitated a highly publicized tour of neighborhoods plagued by



Arab violence for MKs Regev, Moshe Feiglin, Moti Yogev, Yisrael Eichler and David Azoulay. MK Regev's team then resolved to introduce tougher legislation – now pending until the Knesset reconvenes—based upon U.S. state laws that we translated and broke down for them.

ZOA-Israel also brought U.S. Consul General Michael Ratney to the flashpoints. American Israeli residents of the Mount of Olives spoke about lives consumed by fear, especially for their children, and of aborted attempts at coexistence with Arab neighbors. In addition, we underlined the importance of Israeli control in the context of the 1949 armistice agreement with Jordan, which had guaranteed safe access and use but resulted in sacrilege and destruction.

We also presented the consul with concurrent reports about massive Arab attacks (nearly

a hundred on the Light Rail alone) against the Jerusalem services meant to better integrate Palestinian Arab residents into the economic, social and cultural fabric of the city. We highlighted the paradox of Israel being blamed for “deepening the occupation” specifically because it provides these services.

Months later, we updated U.S. Justice Department official Heather Cartwright, who had asked us to be her “eyes and ears” the last time we discussed neglect of terror victims. A spate of new Palestinian Arab terror crimes against Americans in Jerusalem had since been added to our roster, the most horrifying of which were the slaughter and dismemberment of three rabbis (and another from England) at prayer; the slaying of Chaya Braun, whose three-month-old body had been flung in the air by a terrorist-driven car; and a deliberate, vicious attempt on the life of Rabbi

Yehuda Glick.

Glick's peaceful activism against relinquishing Jewish rights on the Temple Mount continues with ZOA-Israel's involvement. As we have emphasized, making the case for the Jewish people's holy sites is as much about reinforcing Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem as protecting lives and preserving our history. A joint report with and initiated by Greater Philadelphia ZOA Co-President Lee Bender, “The Mount of Olives: The Most Significantly Forgotten Component in Israeli-Palestinian Arab Relations,” plainly made that point.

Left: At the Knesset with PM Netanyahu and American Jewish leaders. Right: Security balloon monitoring violent outbreaks in eastern Jerusalem

Making the case for the Jewish people's holy sites is as much about reinforcing Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem as protecting lives and preserving our history.



Israel's Rights Are Denied

Members of Forum Nashim, MK Danny Danon, and ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler

Within little more than 24 hours, on December 17, 2014, the European Union's Court of Justice removed Hamas from its terror list and recognized a Palestinian state in principle. In addition, at the behest of Mahmoud Abbas, Jordan introduced a UN Security Council resolution to set a deadline for the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state. Between this concentrated assault and the International Criminal Court's having accepted the PA's application for membership, we could do no less than redouble our efforts fighting for Israel's rights and legitimacy.

ZOA-Israel intensified its Legal Grounds activities, providing leadership with the push, platforms and information needed to keep our concerns on their respective front burn-

ers. The approach of the "Levy Report"—a key repository of relevant legal and historical data justifying settlement in Judea-Samaria—was quietly adopted by those not wishing to lock horns with Prime Minister Netanyahu, who had previously shelved the document.

Israel's lawmakers then virtually abandoned the Knesset to attend to their election campaigns. We turned this into a net positive by publicly engaging national camp MKs at their events—asking for heartier statements about Israel's legal rights in front of their constituents and a commitment to do more once they were seated in the Knesset.

So far, Bayit Yehudi head Naftali Bennett, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, Deputy Minister Tzipi Hotovely and MKs Danny

Danon and Ayelet Shaked have displayed the greatest enthusiasm in favor of Israel's legal rights. Deputy Foreign Minister Tzachi Hanegbi and former Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren showed considerable interest, too.

Our talk at a packed Emunah Seminars gathering – "Campaigning Right, Governing Left: Post-Election Realities in Schizophrenic Israel"—raised the specter that party planks might be jettisoned later, as in the past. We charged the attendees with informing candidates they would not abide disingenuous or deliberately misleading promises.

Meanwhile, we continued to work closely with international law experts, former Israeli Ambassador to Canada Alan Baker and Professor Eugene Kon-

torovich, who issued opinions on such matters as baseless antagonism toward building on Etzion Bloc state land and the hypocrisy of tolerance for truly illegal occupations, such as those in northern Cyprus and Western Sahara.

We also planned BDS-opposing strategies with longtime partners Stand-WithUs and Israel campus watchdog Im Tirzu; and entered active relationships with two new kids on the block, Face of Israel and the Tazpit News Agency, both of which cultivate rapport with foreign journalists in order to foster a more informed perception of Israel. We are cooperating with CAMERA staff to present “The J Street Challenge” documentary to Israeli and visiting students.

Equating Zionism with Nazism was the subject of a community event we co-led with Nidra Poller, who has been writing about the rise of European jihad in relation to poor public diplomacy (hasbara) by Israel. We also co-led an exciting world premiere screening and panel discussion with “Body and Soul” filmmaker Gloria Greenfield and media personality Melanie Phillips; and we presented practical ideas for combating lawfare in the “Setting the Record Straight” seminar series.

Republican presidential hopeful Governor Mike Huckabee once again

thanked us for our role in his latest Israel visit, which included arranging for former Israeli Ambassador to the UN Dore Gold to address Huckabee’s 250-person mission. With U.S. pursuit of a perilous Iran accommodation on everyone’s mind, Gold separated the facts from the lies, as did ZOA President Morton Klein in his address to the group. Later, Gov. Huckabee raved to us, “Mort always tells it like it is.”

The Israel office has been sounding the Iran alarm. With Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and



Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif talking a good game to the West—abetted by anti-Israel elements—Iran remains an uphill challenge in some circles. We are using our connections in the Hebrew-language, Israeli-Anglo and American media in service of this critical agenda.

ZOA Student Leadership Mission in front of Hebron's Cave of the Patriarchs

Ties Are Energized

Bringing our fight for Israel’s security and legitimacy back to Washington, we began our latest round with a satisfying meeting at the State Department, convened after we had written Under Secretary of State Sarah Sewall about developments on the Mount of Olives. With photographic and incitement evidence in hand, we made the case for qualifying Arab attacks and desecrations as terror, as anti-Semitism and as human rights violations in the State Department’s own

reporting. We followed up with the interpreted data and trends requested, culled from the Jerusalem security officers’ report we monitor daily.

On the Hill, we presented the Israeli perspective on the Jerusalem depredations and other compelling recent issues: nuclear-bound Iran; PA improbity and unilateralism; threatened U.S. sanctions against Israel because of building in Jerusalem; and brutally murdered American terror victims. Members of



**MKs Regev and Azoulay
condemning terror from
atop the Mount of Olives**

Congress were especially perturbed by our examples of PA incentivization of terror through the salaries and grants it pays terrorists, its latest stratagem being to switch those to the PLO budget, which has no U.S. oversight.

After discussing the misappropriations with us in DC a year ago, as he had in Jerusalem the summer before, an incensed Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL) introduced the Financial Assistance Accountability Act. We reminded like-minded members to cosponsor Yoho's resolution, which recommends a suspension of funding to the PA until it repeals its own obligatory terrorist salary laws. We also received good news from Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) about language written into the Foreign Operations bill, penalizing the PA commensurately.

We once again brought up the discriminatory State Department attitude toward Jewish and Jewish-Arab projects in Judea-Samaria and Jerusalem. This time, we supplied briefs and

charts showing how Palestinian Arab workers fare much better under Israeli employment than under the PA.

We also asked members to support an anti-boycott bill from Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), similar to that of retiring Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX), explaining how we make use of such bills to embolden Israel's more reticent leaders. Meanwhile, Lamborn and Stockman staffers—with whom we had been communicating about getting a major portion of the translated "Levy Report" into the Congressional Record—let us know the entry had just been made.

Deputy Minister Ofir Akounis spoke at ZOA's national office, after we asked him to include ZOA in his December U.S. visit. He is deeply concerned about a Palestinian state led by the currently hostile PA. At another closed meeting of U.S. leaders, PM Netanyahu focused with razor sharp clarity on PA irredentism and unilateralism and also on Iran, ignoring the previous days' scatological ad hominem invective by Obama administration mouthpieces aiming to derail him.

Citing voting records and demographic data, we queried Indiana Governor Mike Pence, at a town hall assembly and privately, about waning Democratic

support for Israel. We also asked about hopes for reviving the 2007 resolution favoring Jerusalem as Israel's united capital that he, as a U.S. congressman, and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) had co-sponsored.

On another occasion, we met with visiting Reps. Robert Pittenger (R-NC) and Dennis Ross (R-FL), discussing, among other topics, the application of the Case-Zablocki Act should a bad Iran deal emerge. Though never invoked previously, this 1972 law permits Congress to review and debate an executive agreement and refuse to fund its implementation if warranted.

ZOA-Israel kicked off a major registration drive at the Knesset, with MK Danon, for the October 2015 World Zionist Congress. We explained to the 60 volunteers in attendance that a strong ZOA slate translates to, among other goals, greater effectiveness against the insidiously anti-Israel, rights-denying positions of competing groups. We took our campaign on the road, canvassing recruits in several Jerusalem neighborhoods and outlying communities, including Hashmonaim, Beit Shemesh and Efrat. MK Danon also appeared with us in Ra'anana, at the home of former Democratic South Florida Rep. Peter Deutsch. 

Around the Country

FLORIDA

Programming in Florida picks up during the snowbird season, and pro-Israel events are no different. In October, ZOA's Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler presented "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" at Boca Raton's Temple Beth Ami. The presentation was composed of a talk, PowerPoint and video clips. It served as a tutorial and workshop to educate the congregation about the false accusations commonly leveled against Israel in the media and on college campuses, and ways to effectively respond with the truth. The workshop was interactive and engaged the audience, who left the event with a helpful summary of what they had learned.

ZOA Florida ended the year on a strong note with the southeast regional premiere of award-winning director Gloria Greenfield's newest film, "Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation" (co-produced by ZOA). The *Florida Jewish Journal* published an article about the premiere in advance of the event. The premiere took place at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU and was filled to capacity. The audience was treated to a "meet and greet" reception with Ms. Greenfield before the screening, and a discussion with Professor Alan Dershowitz and Ms.



Florida Executive Director of Israeli American Council, Denise Tamir and ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler, ZOA National President Morton Klein, and Rabbi Scheiner of West Palm Beach Synagogue

Greenfield followed the screening. Leaders from the Israeli Consulate, Israeli American Council and StandWithUs attended the event. ZOA Florida was proud to host the Miami premiere of this important film at a time when enemies of the Jewish people want to rewrite history and so many—Jews included—have come to believe the false Arab narratives.

Addressing the audience, Ms. Greenfield said that her motivation for making the film was to "wake us up to the importance of being educated Jews." She posed the question: "What is the danger to us as a people if we don't understand, and our children don't understand, what our history is about and what our texts are



ZOA Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler and Carolyn and Prof. Alan Dershowitz at Miami Premiere of *Body and Soul*

about?" To resounding applause, she expressed the hope that the film would "re-polish the honor of Zionism," and that we "and our children should be proud of what Zionism is and reclaim the term 'Zionism.' Take back Zionism." Keeping the term "Zi-

onism" alive in the Jewish and pro-Israel lexicon is a priority for ZOA.

In January, ZOA National President Morton Klein delivered his speech, "The Orwellian Lies About Israel," at the West Palm Beach Synagogue. Mr. Klein's talk came a few



Long Island-Queens Executive Director Liz Berney and daughter

days after Islamic terrorists attacked the Charlie Hebdo newspaper offices and kosher market in Paris, murdering 17 people. Mr. Klein began his presentation with a strong admonishment of those who have continuously failed to identify these acts as Islamic terrorist attacks. He asserted: “We have to deal with Islamic terrorism in America,” and noted that ZOA is lobbying Congress to cut off foreign aid to countries that “are protecting terrorists.” He added that “if the only people murdered in that terrorist attack were Jews, the world wouldn’t have paid attention. Jews are being attacked all the time in France.”

Mr. Klein then addressed the “Orwellian lies about Israel,” explaining

that “I call them Orwellian lies because Orwell spoke of a time when people will think wrong is right and right is wrong—a time of universal deceit, when telling the truth will be a revolutionary act.” There are many examples of this twisted reality today. But he ended on a positive note, saying, “the nation of Israel will always prevail and will always prosper.”

In addition to the media coverage of ZOA events, ZOA letters have been published in the local papers. After the beheading by ISIS of Jewish journalist and Florida native Steven Sotloff, the community came together to mourn with the Sotloff family, and ZOA Florida’s letter of condolence to the Sotloffs was published. In

addition, responding to an op-ed that advocated cutting off support to Israel by painting a horribly inaccurate depiction of the Jewish state, ZOA Florida’s letter to the editor debunked the author’s false assertions and listed the many sacrifices Israel has made for peace.

To bolster ZOA’s platform in the upcoming World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections, MK Danny Danon spoke at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center. It was a heavily attended event. ZOA’s Florida Executive Director Sharona Whisler introduced Mr. Danon. She emphasized the importance of a strong ZOA presence at the WZC and the importance of voting for the ZOA platform because “ZOA is committed to serving the best interests and future prosperity of the Jewish people, Israel and Zionism.”

In February, ZOA’s Sarasota chapter, headed by Dr. Brent Rubin, sponsored a presentation by Professor Mordechai Kedar, in collaboration with the Sarasota Ministerial Association, the Sarasota Patriots and Humanity Working to End Genocide. Addressing a group of approximately 150 people, Professor Kedar spoke about the dangers facing Christians in the Middle East. In May, ZOA’s Sarasota chapter will host Dr. Stephen Steinlight, senior

policy analyst at the Center for Immigration Studies and the author of two books, “Fractious Nation? Unity and Division in Contemporary American Life” (UC-Berkeley Press, 2003) and “Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Islam and Islamism” (Ktav Publishing, 2002), co-authored with one of the foremost scholars/opponents of Islamism, the late Khalid Durán.

Finally, in February, ZOA Florida proudly co-sponsored a CAMERA event in West Palm Beach, titled “Defaming of Israel on College Campuses.” The program featured a panel of professors and students who briefed the audience on how to most effectively advocate for Israel in the face of a hostile campus environment, where BDS campaigns and the anti-Israel hate group, the so-called “Students for Justice in Palestine,” viciously and unfairly target and attack Israel.

ZOA Florida is working tirelessly to build its network and offers valuable resources and educational programming. If you would like to get involved with ZOA Florida, please contact florida@zoa.org.

LONG ISLAND-QUEENS

ZOA’s Long Island-Queens Region (ZOA-LIQ) has a new acting

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



ZOA MI Teens at the 4 Israel Event

president, Martin Sokol; a new chairman, Alan Mazurek, M.D.; a new executive director, Liz Berney, Esq.; and a new board of approximately a dozen terrific, committed members, which we plan to expand. As part of our efforts to build our region, ZOA-LIQ is planning a major public event on Sunday evening, May 3, with former UN Ambassador John Bolton.

ZOA-LIQ is full of caring Jewish activists. We helped organize protests of the Metropolitan Opera's production of the anti-Semitic opera, "The Death of Klinghoffer." Our members were at Lincoln Center protesting every performance (except on Shabbat). Executive Director Liz Berney also gave talks at synagogues in Old Westbury, Great Neck and elsewhere on Long Island and in Queens regarding the opera's falsification of

Israel's history.

Berney also spoke at screenings of "The J-Street Challenge" at several Long Island synagogues.

Many of our ZOA-LIQ members are candidates on the ZOA: Defend Jews & Israeli Rights slate in the World Zionist Congress elections. Several Long Island local newspapers have published articles discussing the large numbers of ZOA-LIQ candidates and quoting their statements about why they are proud to be running on the ZOA slate. With heated debates regarding Middle East issues raging in the local papers, ZOA-LIQ officials have written many articles defending Israel. Members are actively involved, as well, protesting the dangerous deal with the Iranian regime.

In September, ZOA-LIQ hosted a well-received table at the Great Neck Auto Festival, an event that

attracts people from far and wide to view antique cars and enjoy a fun-filled day. We plan to host ZOA information tables at other local events, including an Israeli artists showcase at the Mashadi Jewish Center in Great Neck on March 22.

MICHIGAN TEEN EVENT— ISRAEL IN THE MEDIA

Thirty Detroit-area high school students from across the Jewish spectrum came together over pizza to learn about the ways that Israel is falsely represented in the news and on camera.

ZOA-MI Executive Director Kobi Erez gave an interactive multimedia presentation showing the shocking ways that news reporters falsify real stories about Israelis and Palestinian Arabs and distort the truth using photographs

and videos.

"We learned just how easy it is for a photojournalist to manipulate a photo," said Sam Kole, a sophomore at the Frankel Jewish Academy. "The battle between Israel and her enemies is not exclusive to the battlefield—it extends to every personal computer across the globe." Then the group took a bus to see "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," a comedy about misrepresentation in the media.

VIGIL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

On January 28, 2015, the ZOA hosted its first event of the year at the University of Michigan. It was designed as a candlelight memorial for worldwide victims of terror, specifically those targeted in the recent attacks in Israel, France and Nigeria.



ZOA MI Director Kobi Erez in a ZOA-J Street debate on campus

Several speakers, including ZOA Campus Coordinator Pandit Mami, provided a diverse audience with personal insights into global radical Islamic terrorism. Other speakers, including Kobi Erez, talked about anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Together, the speakers generated a broader understanding of terrorism and the challenges Israel faces.

ISRAEL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

High school students from public and Jewish day schools around metro Detroit participated in a half-day workshop about Israel. The dynamic, knowledgeable guest speakers discussed Jewish heritage, Israel's history and advocating for Israel. Workshop participants became eligible to apply for scholarships to be used toward the cost of summer or year-long educational programs in Is-

rael. The ZOA's Michigan region is happy to educate these future Jewish leaders and help support their travels to Israel.

PAINTBALL, IDF-STYLE

Thirty young adults came together to learn about the Israel Defense Forces as part of ZOA's new young adult division, Israel in Focus. Tal Zirian, a guest speaker from Israel who served in a special unit in the IDF, and Kobi Erez, who also served in the IDF, spoke about what it takes to be a soldier in Israel, the difference between conventional warfare and guerrilla fighting, the Israeli army's tactics to protect civilians and the IDF's spirit and values.

The participants then headed out to play paintball games that were geared towards working as a team under pressure. Daniel

Talmid of Oak Park, who participated in the event, said: "The IDF is fascinating. We didn't have an army for 2,000 years, and now we have the IDF, which should be a source of pride to Jews worldwide. Paintball is the closest thing to a real battle for me. Getting hit can hurt a little, so I can't imagine how soldiers must feel in a real battle!"

Andre Reznic of Southfield added, "We learned firsthand how difficult it is to make a split-second decision under pressure—something the IDF is trained to do in order to protect civilians, even when doing so might endanger the soldiers."

ISRAELI ELECTION DEBATE

ZOA-MI will host a community-wide event in March 2015, co-sponsored by many organizations. A

panel of local experts on Israeli politics from all backgrounds will represent Israel's parties, from left to right, in a realistic debate, giving us a better understanding of Israel's complex political landscape.

BODY AND SOUL

ZOA-MI hosted "Body and Soul—The State of the Jewish Nation," a new documentary by award-winning filmmaker Gloria Z. Greenfield. The film presents a comprehensive examination of the broad and deep connections between the Jewish people and the land of Israel. In the film, renowned historians, archaeologists, political scientists, religious leaders and international law and media experts trace the evolution of the relationship between the Jewish people and their

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



ZOA Event at University of Michigan.



Director of the Middle East Political and Information Network Dr. Eric Mandel and North Jersey ZOA Executive Director Laura Fein

homeland of more than 3,000 years.

FIGHTING INTIMIDATION OF PRO-ISRAEL STUDENTS

In 2014, as part of an attempt to pass a university-wide anti-Israel divestment resolution, students at the University of Michigan were subjected to death threats and such anti-Semitic name calling as “kike” and “dirty Jew.” Students (both Jewish and non-Jewish) said that they felt intimidated and were afraid to go to class after being threatened.

The ZOA sent letters to the leadership of the University of Michigan, calling on them to address this bigotry, harassment and bullying, but the university’s response was insufficient.

ZOA-MI asked members of the community to sign a petition calling on

the University of Michigan to protect pro-Israel students from threats and intimidation on campus. The petition garnered approximately 1,000 signatures, signifying the community’s concern that university administrators address anti-Semitic harassment.

“THE J STREET CHALLENGE”

ZOA-MI hosted “The J Street Challenge,” a film about the J Street lobbying group and its effect on the American Jewish community’s relationship with Israel. The documentary examines and debates J Street’s messages and those of its leaders.

THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM

ZOA-MI presented a panel discussion, “The New Anti-Semitism—Coming Soon to a Theater Near

You,” a shocking look at Jew-hatred in American cinema.

The discussion included a video presentation of the 2010 movie, “Drive,” and explored how the film delivers a subtle, subliminal message, using common Christian and Jewish religious symbols and themes, to justify hatred and violence against Jews.

NORTH JERSEY

ZOA-NJ continued to grow throughout the fall/winter season. In September, we hosted Boston activist Dr. Charles Jacobs and had a very successful showing of the film “The J Street Challenge,” with wonderful attendance and many new members. Later that month, ZOA-NJ members turned out to protest the anti-Semitic opera, “The Death of Klinghoffer,” at the Metropolitan Opera. ZOA-NJ Executive Director Laura Fein was interviewed by two television stations and several news outlets, including *The*

New York Times.

In October, ZOA-NJ hosted a powerful presentation by Susan Tuchman, director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, about anti-Semitism on college campuses. Parents were treated to brunch and to Susan’s incomparable insight on the situation on campus and what can be done by parents and students alike. This event was held in collaboration with the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies.

In November, ZOA-NJ co-sponsored an excellent educational event featuring Dr. Eric Mandel, director of the Middle East Political and Information Network. Addressing the ideological and tactical overlap between ISIS and Hamas, Dr. Mandel presented detailed slides that explained the various threats that Israel is currently facing. ZOA-NJ enthusiastically thanks our board member Elayne

Kalina for her hard work organizing both the Tuchman and Mandel events.

Two national ZOA events also brightened our fall schedule. In October, ZOA-NJ board members and members from across the state joined Harvard Professor Ruth Wisse, Pulitzer Prize winning *Wall Street Journal* columnist Bret Stephens and our own Morton Klein to attend the exciting U.S. premiere of Gloria Greenfield's remarkable film, "Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation." The highlight of the season was the incredible ZOA Annual Dinner, with an unparalleled panel of speakers and palpable excitement for a strong, proud State of Israel. What an unforgettable evening for all.

In December, ZOA-NJ Executive Director Laura Fein traveled to Washington, DC with ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube to meet more than a dozen senators, congressional representatives and State Department officials. Together they advocated for a range of issues, in particular, the need for the State Department to include previously unreported anti-Semitic acts in its official regional reports on worldwide racism and anti-Semitism and the need to find politically viable ways to cut funding to the Palestinian Authority that is being used to fund or reward ter-

ror. Upon their return, Jeff gave a fascinating presentation of his work on protecting Jewish graves and visitors on the Mount of Olives, on behalf of American terror victims, and on the progress of the Legal Grounds project to increase understanding of the legal, legitimate presence of Israel in Judea, Samaria and all Jerusalem. Many thanks to Jodi and Shaul Cohen of Englewood for hosting this event.

More recently, ZOA-NJ hosted two showings of "Body and Soul" in New Jersey, including a new collaboration with Congregation B'nai Tikva (CBT) in North Brunswick. Many thanks to our board member Naomi Vilko for her passionate advocacy and ability to open up this venue to our programming. March 8 was an incredible day for ZOA-NJ. In the morning, we co-sponsored a program at CBT focusing on campus anti-Semitism and harassment and offering an opportunity for our members to meet former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Danny Ayalon. Then, that evening, ZOA National President Morton Klein delivered a lecture at Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood, exposing the Orwellian lies against Israel.

ZOA-NJ will soon launch its website, which will feature current and past events as well as links



National and NJ Board Member Stanley Rosenberg, ZOA-NJ Executive Director Laura Fein, Israeli Deputy Minister to the PM Ofir Akunis, and Board Member Sylvia Freyer attend a briefing in ZOA's NY headquarters

to important information about our key issues, including articles published by Executive Director Laura Fein in local Jewish papers as well as *The Algemeiner*, *The Times of Israel* and Jewish News Service (JNS). Our board continues to grow, as do our membership and programming. Watch for our upcoming initiatives to reach high school students before they arrive on campus, to fight BDS and to educate on legal issues affecting victims of terror. Now is the perfect time to get involved or increase your involvement. Together we can change the conversation on Israel and expose the truth.

NEW YORK

In September, the ZOA hired Eytan Sosnovich as executive director of the New York Metro Chapter, which includes Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and

Staten Island. Prior to joining ZOA, Eytan served as a Middle East analyst for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, working directly for Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein. While earning his master's degree in international affairs at Columbia University, Eytan served as an analyst at the Bureau of Political Military Affairs at the U.S. State Department. His articles have appeared in *The Times of Israel*, *Real Clear World* and *The Harvard Business Review*, among other publications.

Eytan has hit the ground running, organizing a number of ZOA events to galvanize activism and inform the community of the prevailing security challenges affecting Israel today. In December, ZOA-New York Metro hosted Dr. Richard Landes, a professor of history at Boston University, who spoke

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



Dr. Michael Widlanski Speaking at the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue

about Arab intimidation of journalists in the context of Operation Protective Edge. In January, the chapter sponsored lectures by Dr. Michael Widlanski and Professor Eugene Kontorovich. Dr. Widlanski, the former strategic affairs advisor for Israel's Ministry of Public Security, spoke to a packed house at the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue on Manhattan's Upper West Side about how Israel, the Arabs and the world view Jerusalem. Professor Kontorovich, a professor of law at Northwestern University, discussed Israel's standing under international law, specifically focusing on the PA gambit at the International Criminal Court. Just a few days after speaking for the ZOA, Professor Kontorovich testified before Congress on the same topic.

The chapter has also been working to increase ZOA's membership, spe-

cifically among young professionals. In November—thanks to the generous support of one of its members—the chapter held its first young professionals gathering, to introduce the ZOA and the annual Brandeis Awards Dinner. The group is planning additional programs in 2015, including a collaborative event with Party for a Purpose New York, on March 12. ZOA's New York Metro Chapter also has an active Facebook page with nearly 700 followers and a growing email distribution list.

Eytan has been invited to speak at a number of synagogues and organizations around the city. In response to an article he penned for *The Times of Israel*, he was invited to speak at Congregation Ohav Sholom on January 31. His talk, "Terrorism in Jerusalem: The Hidden Hand of Qatar," was well-received, and he was invited to speak there



Brad Shusman presents Philadelphia ZOA's Pillars of the Community Award to his parents, Fran and Nat'l Vice President Gene Shusman at Philadelphia ZOA's Annual Gala.

again. He also delivered remarks when "Body and Soul" screened in December at the Russian American Jewish Experience.

With World Zionist Congress elections now underway, ZOA-New York Metro has been working to get out the vote. To that end, the chapter was honored to host the current World Likud chairman, MK Danny Danon. World Likud has endorsed the ZOA slate. MK Danon addressed packed houses at Manhattan's Jewish Center and at Mikdash Eliyahu in Brooklyn, where he explained why it is critical to vote for the ZOA slate.

The New York Metro Chapter has a number of initiatives in the works for spring and summer. If you are interested in getting involved, or organizing or hosting an event, please contact Eytan Sosnovich at eytan@zoa.org, or by phone at 917-408-3433.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Approximately 330 guests attended the Greater Philadelphia chapter's Annual Gala on September 10, at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue Hotel. We celebrated Israel, Zionism and America and honored three area couples and a journalist.

National ZOA Vice President and Philadelphia ZOA board member Gene Shusman and his wife, Fran, received our Pillars of the Community award. Rabbi Jean Claude Klein, a Philadelphia ZOA board member, and his wife, Miriam, received our Guardians of Israel award. Christian Zionists Susan and David Warner received our Friends of Zion award. Christian Broadcasting Network reporter and Philadelphia native Erick Stakelbeck received our Ben Hecht Award for Out-

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



Susan and David Warner receive Philadelphia ZOA's Friends of Zion Award from CUFI Regional Director Victor Styrsky (right) at Annual Gala



Philadelphia Executive Director Steve Feldman, Co-President Lee Bender present Philadelphia ZOA's Ben Hecht Award to Christian Broadcasting Network correspondent Erick Stakelbeck. Israel Consul General Yaron Sideman and Recording Secretary Heather Berman

standing Journalism.

Our 2015 Gala is scheduled for Oct. 21.

Co-President Lee Bender and Vice President Jerry Verlin have had numerous articles published—primarily in *The Algemeiner*, *The Times of Israel* and *Philadelphia Jewish Voice*.

Executive Director Steve Feldman has appeared several times in

the past few months as a guest on “The Dom Gior-dano Show” (WPHT Radio 1210 AM). Bender, Verlin and Feldman have had numerous speaking engagements throughout the region at prominent congregations and organizations. They gave a presentation on anti-Israel media bias at The Pen and Pencil Club, an organization for current and retired print

and broadcast journalists from the region. In addition, Feldman discussed the Six-Day War, and Bender and Verlin gave a presentation on anti-Israel bias at the University of Delaware-Wilmington campus.

We have presented two screenings of “Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation.” One included a talk by filmmaker Gloria Z. Greenfield, while the

other featured noted area lecturer and attorney Naph-tali Perlberger.

Our twice-a-month, pro-Israel demonstrations across from the Israeli Consulate in Center City Philadelphia continue, as does our ongoing “Buy Israel” campaign. After a big push prior to Chanukah, we are gearing up to urge consumers to buy Israeli products for Pesach.



Philadelphia ZOA's Guardians of Israel Award is presented to Miriam and Rabbi Jean Claude Klein by ZOA Director of Development Howard Katzoff



Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director Steve Feldman talks to a crowd of 150 during a Israel solidarity rally. Other speakers included ZOA President Morton Klein; President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia Sherrie Savett and Israel Consul General Yaron Sideman.

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

Philadelphia ZOA was a co-sponsor of the shloshim memorial service for victims of the Har Nof synagogue massacre.

Nine of our members are on the ZOA slate for the World Zionist Congress elections.

More than 50 people from our area, including nearly 20 students, attend the ZOA's National Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner in November. Approximately 30 of our members attended the North American premiere of "Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation" in Manhattan.

In June, we hosted "An Evening With Caroline Glick," featuring a talk by the celebrated *Jerusalem Post* columnist and author. National President Morton Klein introduced Ms. Glick.

During the 2014 Gaza war, Philadelphia ZOA sponsored or co-sponsored four rallies in support of Israel. We also sponsored a rally in support of the three Israeli teens who were kidnapped, and when they were found murdered, we sponsored a memorial service for them. All of the events took place in downtown Philadelphia.

We co-sponsored two screenings of the documentary "The J Street Challenge," one at the University of Pennsylvania and another in Cherry Hill, NJ. Philadelphia ZOA has



ZOA Philadelphia cosponsored a rally with Philly Israelim in solidarity with Israel for kidnapped Israeli teens Gilad Shaar, Naftali Frenkel and Eyal Yifrach. Participants placed yellow ribbons around the pole that displays the Israeli flag in downtown Philadelphia. Philadelphia ZOA Executive Director Steve Feldman; Rabbi Menachem Schmidt of Lubavitch of Philadelphia and the Jewish Heritage Program who led prayers; Israel Consul General Yaron Sideman; Sharona Durry, executive director of Philly Israelim; Councilman Mark Squilla

been involved in an incident at Temple University in which a pro-Israel student was reportedly hit by another student at a "Students for Justice in Palestine" information table on campus. We have spoken with several students about the anti-Israel climate on the campus. Feldman met with a group of pro-Israel students at Temple University.

Prior to the November congressional elections and earlier, during the primary campaigns, Philadelphia ZOA met with a number of candidates and their staff to introduce them to ZOA, to hear their positions on Israel and to offer them information.

Co-President Lee Bender continues serving on the Jewish Community

Relations Council Board and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Israel Advocacy Committee, actively involved in setting policy for the regional Jewish community. Executive Director Steve Feldman serves on the JCRC Israel Professionals Group, discussing coordinated pro-Israel advocacy initiatives. Both Bender and Feldman meet regularly with Israel's Consul General and other consular staff.

Philadelphia ZOA leadership continues meeting with students, and we have been actively engaged with Christian Zionists throughout the region.

PITTSBURGH

Throughout the year, ZOA's Pittsburgh region

offers numerous educational programs. One such event was a fascinating lecture by Pittsburgh's own Dr. Alexander Orbach, entitled "Aaron David Gordon and Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook; To Renew the Jews and Judaism and to Redeem the World." Dr. Orbach is a faculty member in the European and Russian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was formerly the longtime director of the Jewish Studies Department.

ZOA's Pittsburgh chapter also hosted a screening of "The J Street Challenge." Afterwards, a vigorous discussion ensued about the misguided messages being delivered on college campuses around the country at a time when anti-Semitism

ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY



Mayor William Peduto



Rhonda Horvitz



Ronna Harris Askin

and anti-Zionist activities are rampant.

A joint program with Volunteers for Israel (VFI) and ZOA's Pittsburgh chapter was held to further develop strong Pittsburgh Zionists and to encourage local people to volunteer for various tasks that support Israeli soldiers on their military bases. Volunteers assemble emergency medical kits, repair equipment and perform maintenance on bases around the country. Local VFI coordinator and past participant Jeanne Bair explained the program and showed a video of volunteers in action. Pittsburgh ZOA members who have participated in the program shared their experiences.

ZOA-Pittsburgh is deeply concerned with the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s vote to divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Motorola because those companies do business with Israel in Judea and Samara. Several years ago, the ZOA Pittsburgh chapter sponsored its Ministers Delegation to Israel. Led by ZOA Executive Director Stuart Pavilack, the delegation spent eight days in Israel and included several members of the Presbyterian Church. Director Pavilack has maintained a close friendship with Reverend Ted Martin of the Hampton Presbyterian Church in Gibsonia, PA.

After the divestment

vote, Director Pavilack received this message from Reverend Martin: "Let me first say, I am ashamed of what has happened within the PCUSA. All the more I would like to connect with you in the study of the issue even beyond the heinous work of Zionism Unsettled. Let us keep the dialogue in place." That email engendered the formation of a committee – composed of Presbyterian ministers, church leaders, rabbis, historians and ZOA board members – to examine ways to address the divestment issue and ensure that anti-Israel falsehoods are exposed and the truth about Israel is effectively communicated. Director Pavilack and Reverend Martin are working on a spring 2015 program for his church membership. It is hoped that the program can be used as a template at other Presbyterian churches in the Pittsburgh area.

Pittsburgh ZOA held its annual Gala Awards Dinner on October 22, 2014, at Congregation Beth Shalom. The event was a smash success, with more than 170 people attending, three wonderful honorees and a terrific guest speaker.

ZOA's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto. The award recognizes exceptional leadership and is given to individuals who,

guided by principle and purpose, have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication in service to Israel, the Jewish people and the community. Mayor Peduto has supported ZOA's Tolerance Education Program for Pittsburgh public school students, which culminates in a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Bill served as a chaperone on two trips.

Mayor Peduto was sworn in as Pittsburgh's sixtieth mayor on Jan. 6, 2014. He had served the city for 19 years in administrative capacities and as a councilman from District 8 from 2002 until 2014.

The Natalie E. Novick Community Leadership Award was presented to Rhonda Horvitz. This award was established in memory of Natalie Novick's lifetime of service and leadership in the Pittsburgh Jewish community, and was given to Rhonda because she best represents the spirit of community leadership in Jewish and humanitarian causes. Rhonda's passion for a thriving Jewish community, the State of Israel and her belief in the importance of Jewish continuity led her to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, where she worked as the community outreach coordinator from 2007 to 2011.

Rhonda has served on the boards of the ZOA-Pittsburgh region, Hillel/Jewish University Center and Shaare Torah Congregation. She presently serves on the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee and Partnership2Gether. This past July, Rhonda co-chaired the Jewish Federation's 2014 women's philanthropy mission to Prague and Budapest.

Ronna Harris Askin, who was presented with the Israel Service Award, has a history of helping others. Ronna worked as a psychiatric specialty counselor for Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic at UPMC for 20 years. She ran psychiatric research projects with heart transplant recipients and their primary caregivers, and conducted research with geriatric patients. She was also a special education teacher with the Pittsburgh public schools.

Ronna is a board member of Congregation Beth Shalom and the Hebrew Free Loan Association, president of American Friends of Israel War Disabled, co-chair of Adult Keshet for Partnership 2Gether with Karmiel/Misgav, a mentor with Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwestern PA and a volunteer with the Circle of EKC, a non-sectarian camp for grieving girls.

Guest speaker, Jonathan Adelman, Ph.D., is a



Dr. Joshua Muravchik spoke to San Diego ZOA on "How the World Turned Against Israel"

professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, with extensive experience in both international and domestic affairs. The State Department has sent Professor Adelman on 18 international speaking tours. Dr. Adelman founded and ran both the China Center and the Israel Center at the University of Denver. His presentation focused on the many positive developments and achievements in Israel's international relations and trade.

ZOA-Pittsburgh sponsored the Pennsylvania premiere of "Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation" and hosted filmmaker Gloria Greenfield. ZOA-Pittsburgh also hosted Greenfield when it showed her last film, "Unmasked Judeophobia, The Threat to Civilization." Pittsburghers packed the hall at the JCC and thoroughly enjoyed engaging Greenfield in discus-

sion.

At present, ZOA-Pittsburgh is accepting applications from Pittsburgh-area Jewish high school students for its Israel Scholarship Program. In 1962, under the guidance of the late Hy Kimmel, ZOA-Pittsburgh created this program, which has enabled hundreds of local Jewish high school students to participate in structured study trips to Israel. The trips help to reinforce the commitment of these students to Judaism and give them an appreciation of the centrality of Israel to Jewish life. Scholarships are available for the summer 2015 trip to permanent residents who will be high school juniors or seniors in the fall of 2015. The program is under the guidance of Chairwoman Phyllis Novick Silverman.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego ZOA heard Dr. Joshua Muravchik

speak on the subject of his recent book, "Making David into Goliath: How the World Turned Against Israel." The November 20, 2014 lecture, with an attendance of about 100, was very well-received.

Muravchik contends that the worldview paradigm of the Left shifted from the class struggle of Marxist doctrine, to a new paradigm of imperialism of the West against Third World peoples. After the Six Day War, the Left, which had previously shown considerable sympathy toward then-socialist and pioneering Israel, began to view Israel through this new paradigm. Israel was now regarded as the oppressor of the Palestinian Arabs rather than as the victim of the much larger Arab world. This viewpoint has gained widespread acceptance, to the detriment of Israel. [ZOA](#)

Policy Briefs



ZOA APPLAUDS LEADING AFRICAN AMER. ACTIVISTS/MINISTERS FOR STANDING WITH ISRAEL

SAYING ‘CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY ASHAMED’ FOR BOYCOTT OF NETANYAHU SPEECH

JEWISH FRATERNITY ZBT SAYS: CONTACT ZOA WITH ANY CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM ISSUES

JEWISH FRATERNITY, ZETA BETA TAU (ZBT) EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF JEWISH STUDENTS IN EMAIL TO FRATERNITY MEMBERS NATIONWIDE

NEW POLL: 72% PALESTINIAN ARABS SUPPORT HAMAS’ MILITARY APPROACH, WANT TO USE IT IN JUDEA/SAMARIA AS WELL

61%—32% SUPPORT HAMAS’ HANIYEH OVER ABBAS

NEW ZOA MONOGRAPH EXPOSING “THE TRUTH ABOUT HAMAS’S WAR AGAINST ISRAEL”

FMR. US ATTORNEY GEN’L MUKASEY, KLEIN,

RALLY MONDAY, SEPT 22 AT LINCOLN CENTER

ZOA, OTHERS URGE COLLEGE PRESIDENTS TO PROTECT JEWISH STUDENTS FROM ANTI-SEMITISM

ZOA: STOP SAYING THAT ISRAELIS SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A PAL. STATE — THEY DON’T

ZOA WINS SECOND WEBSITE DESIGN AWARD IN 2014 COMPETITION

ZOA LETTER TO UNIV. OF PITTSBURGH ABOUT SUPPORTING ANTI-ISRAEL PROJECT

PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE TERRORIST STATE—80% SUPPORT TERROR, HAMAS IN POLL

THE JEWISH VOICE ENDORSES THE ZOA SLATE AT THE WJC

NEW POLL: 70% OF AMERICANS FAVORABLY VIEW ISRAEL

BY 62% TO 16%, AMERICANS SUPPORT ISRAEL OVER PALESTINIANS

SHOULD AIPAC ALLOW SUSAN RICE TO SPEAK?

NO CONSEQUENCES FOR RICE SAYING PM DESTROYING U.S./ISRAEL RELATIONS?

ZOA PRAISES BOARD MEMBER DAVID SCHOEN’S VITAL WORK IN WINNING CASE AGAINST PLO/PA

PROOF PLO/PA FUNDS, PROMOTES MURDER OF JEWS

ZOA CRITICAL OF CONGRESSIONAL DEMS WHO BOYCOTTED ISRAELI PM’S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

ZOA CRITICIZES OBAMA APPT OF ISRAEL BASHER ROB MALLEY TO MIDDLE EAST POLICY POST

Article

ZOA ARGUES CASE AGAINST BDS GROUPS AT THE ZIONIST SUPREME COURT

BY ELIZABETH BERNEY, ESQ.

The Zionist Organization of America is running a slate dedicated to defending Jews and Israel's rights, led by ZOA National President Morton Klein, in the ongoing World Zionist Congress election.

ZOA learned that another slate running in the election, misleadingly named the "Hatikvah" slate, is an alliance of the following radical organizations that promote boycotts, sanctions and/or divestment ("BDS") against Israel: (1&2) Partners for Progressive Israel and Americans for Peace Now both openly promote (right on their websites) boycotts against Jewish and Israeli-owned business that have any facility over the "green line" (the indefen-

sible 1949 Armistice lines); (3) Ameinu, through its The Third Narrative subsidiary, promotes severe international sanctions, including travel restrictions and financial penalties, against Israeli officials with whom it disagrees; (4) New Israel Fund ("NIF") funds BDS groups and funded the BDS infrastructure; (5) J Street promotes, honors and features leading BDS speakers to conferences and college campuses; (6) "Open Hillel" works to force campus Hillel facilities to host BDS speakers and BDS events. The Hatikvah slate groups are interconnected; they share offices, directors, and referrals to each other's websites, etc.

ZOA filed a detailed

complaint seeking to disqualify the Hatikvah slate from the World Zionist Congress election because the Hatikvah slate's BDS activities discriminate against Jews and Israelis, which violates the anti-discrimination provisions of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) Constitution and New York State law. Anti-Jewish boycotts also violate Jewish law.

The Hatikvah slate's response was truly sickening. The Hatikvah slate ignored the WZO Constitution, and had the gall to try to justify its discriminatory, economically damaging boycotts against Jewish and Israeli businesses as promoting "peace" and "justice." In fact, Hatikvah's boycotts damage peaceful co-existence; boycotts are causing hundreds of Arab workers to lose their well-paid jobs at Jewish-owned businesses.

The World Zionist Congress's founder, Theodore Herzl, wrote in his famous book, *The Jewish State*, that the scourge of anti-Jewish boycotts was one of the reasons why the Jewish people needed a

Jewish State. Herzl would "roll over in his grave" if he knew that groups that boycott fellow Jews were participating in the World Zionist Congress that he founded.

This has been quite a legal saga. American and Israeli election officials denied ZOA's claim without even addressing the Constitutional and legal issues.

ZOA appealed to the Zionist Supreme Court. On March 12, ZOA argued the case before that Court in Jerusalem. We are awaiting a decision.

The ZOA team on this case included: Attorneys Howard Katsoff, Liz Berney and Jan Sokolowsky; ZOA Israel Director Jeff Daube; National President Morton Klein; National Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt; ZOA-Michigan Director Kobi Erez; and translator David Greenberg.

It is extremely important to vote for the Zionist Organization of America/ZOA: Defend Jews & Israeli Rights slate. You can vote online at the voting link at VoteZOA.org. For assistance, contact liz@zoa.org. 

Zionist Organization of America
Jacob and Libby Goodman ZOA House
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Your email will be used to send a receipt.

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- I have enclosed a check payable to ZOA.
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MAILING INFORMATION

Please mail this form in the enclosed envelope to:

Zionist Organization of America
4 EAST 34TH ST
NEW YORK, NY 10016

Founded 1897



Please visit our website: www.zoa.org
For information:
Call 212-481-1500 Fax 212-481-1515
info@zoa.org

Thanks for your support.

ZRS15