

## Hundreds of ZOA Activists Participate in Pro-Israel Mission on Capitol Hill Dozens of Members of Congress Address ZOA Luncheon



### INSIDE:

**ZOA DERAILS APPOINTMENT OF ANTI-ISRAEL LOBBYIST TO HEAD U.S. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL  
SENIOR ADVISOR TO BIBI TELLS ZOA BOARD, 'IF JEWS IN ISRAEL ARE IN DANGER, THERE IS NO PEACE AGREEMENT'  
ZOA IN THE MEDIA, ON CAMPUS, IN THE COURTS, IN ISRAEL**



Founded 1897  
report  
FALL 2009

Published by the  
Zionist Organization of America  
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## *The Jerusalem Post's One-On-One With Morton A. Klein*

In February 2009, *The Jerusalem Post* interviewed ZOA National President Morton A. Klein while he was in Israel attending the annual mission of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

During the interview, Klein commented, "One of the most frustrating things about the American-Jewish community and Israel is their not insisting strongly enough that the Palestinian Authority stop educating its society to hatred and violence against Jews, and start arresting terrorists, rather than constantly demanding their release."

Klein noted some shift in the way his colleagues have begun to view the situation. Pointing to a photocopy of the Palestinian emblem showing the entire State of Israel covered with a keffiyeh [Palestinian Arab scarf], with Yasser Arafat in the center and a Kalashnikov rifle on the side, Klein said that some of his colleagues "have been talking about this seal which President Mahmoud Abbas put out to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the so-called moderate Fatah. There's been a new realization that there's no partner for peace."

According to the *Post*, "this seems to have done little to assuage Klein's angst. 'For one thing,' he claims, 'the new US president is likely to apply even more pressure on Israel than his predecessor. For another, the world continues to place the onus on Israel.'"

Here are some excerpts from the interview:

**JP: Due to the current situation in the country, is there anything different about this year's Conference of Presidents?**

**MK:** The difference I've noticed is that many of my colleagues have less of a feeling that peace is imminent than in previous years. They have less of a belief that if we only give away more land and make more concessions, we can have peace. They are less inclined to believe that a Palestinian state will save Israel. They've lost confidence in

*(Continued on page 11)*

COVER PHOTO: (L TO R) 1ST ROW - REP. DAN BURTON (R-IN); REP. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-FL); MORTON KLEIN PRESIDENT, ZOA & REP. RON KLEIN (D-FL); SEN. ARLEN SPECTER (D-PA); REP. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (R-FL); 2ND ROW - REP. ANTHONY WEINER (D-NY); REP. GENE GREEN (D-TX); REP. STEVEN ROTHMAN (D-NJ); REP. MARIO DIAZ-BALART (R-FL); REP. SHELLEY BERKLEY (D-NV); 3RD ROW - SEN. DAVID VITTER (R-LA); SEN. BOB BENNETT (R-UT); REP. PATRICK MCHENRY (R-NC); REP. PAUL BROUN (R-GA); REP. LOUIE GOHMERT (R-TX); 4TH ROW - REP. ED ROYCE (R-CA); REP. BRAD SHERMAN (D-CA); REP. JOE WILSON (R-SC); REP. DANNY DAVIS (D-IL); REP. ROY BLUNT (R-MO); 5TH ROW - REP. ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY); REP. SCOTT GARRETT (R-NJ); REP. JEAN SCHMIDT (R-OH); REP. LEONARD LANCE (R-NJ); REP. ALCEE HASTINGS (D-FL)

## ZOA Activists Convene On Capitol Hill – Urge Tightened Sanctions on Iran and Nix U.S. Aid To Palestinians Unless Incitement Ends & Terrorists Jailed

### Dozens of Congressional Members Address Activists at ZOA's D.C. Luncheon

Hundreds of ZOA activists from 16 states, including dozens of students, took part in the ZOA's annual Mission to Washington, D.C. on March 26, 2009. In meetings with U.S. Senators, Representatives and members of their senior staff, ZOA activists urged Congress to support legislation that would:

- significantly tighten sanctions on Iran;
- deny 900 million dollars in U.S. aid to Gaza Arabs and the Palestinian Authority (PA) until the PA complies with its written obligations to jail terrorists and end terrorism and incitement to hatred and murder against Israelis;
- withhold all U.S. funding for the United Nations' World Conference against Racism ("Durban II") because of its anti-Israel and anti-Semitic agenda;
- improve transparency and accountability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) to ensure that it is not funding or otherwise supporting terrorists;
- protect writers and scholars from the tactic of "libel tourism," which has been employed by foreign supporters of terrorism to squelch the free flow of information about their terror-supporting conduct. Taking advantage of plaintiff-friendly foreign courts such as in England, financiers of terrorism have sued writers and scholars who have written about their terror-supporting conduct, alleging that they have been libeled. In these courts, the burden is on the defendants to prove the truth of what they have written, rather than on the plaintiff to prove that it was false, as is required in U.S. courts.

Activists also attended the ZOA's luncheon on Capitol Hill, where they listened to ZOA National President Morton A. Klein speak about the false basis of the Oslo process: "The promises of Oslo were as phony as the promises of Bernie Madoff. ZOA refused to be an investor in Oslo. Like Madoff's schemes, Oslo was a chimera with gloss and excitement which gave the illusion of a grand future. It was a

political Ponzi scheme, kept alive by infusions of new money for the Palestinians and by one-sided Israeli concessions and promises of future concessions. Just like Madoff made commitments he didn't keep, so did Arafat – commitments to end terror and incitement and jail terrorists."

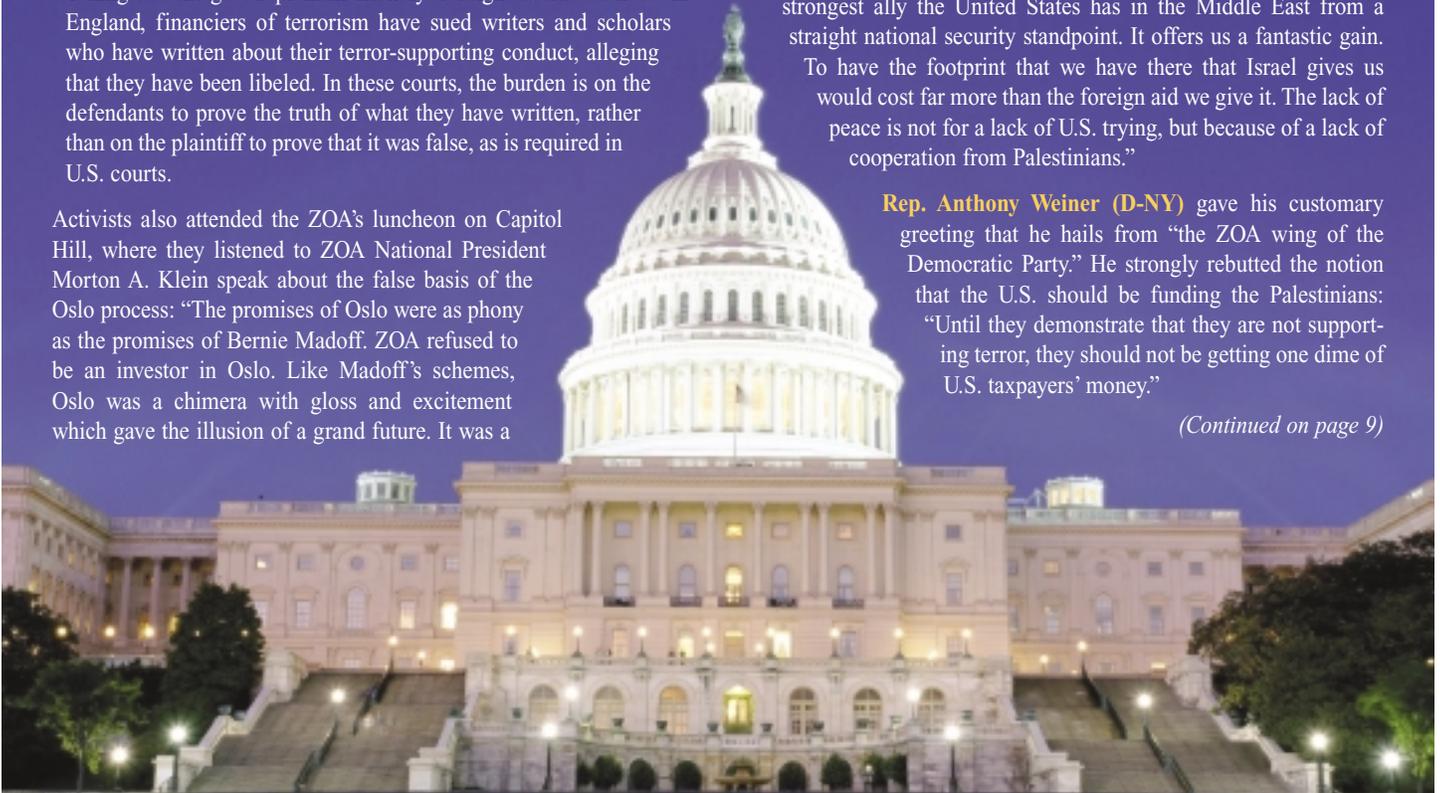
Dozens of House Members and Senators attended the ZOA's luncheon and addressed the overflowing crowd:

**Senator David Vitter (R-LA)** told ZOA activists that not all his Congressional colleagues who say that they are strong supporters of Israel are necessarily going to be there when it comes to the ultimate question – what will be our response to the Iranian nuclear threat? He assured the ZOA that "I'm there, Shelley [Berkeley] is there, but many are not there... Everything we do and say has to be focused on that, because that is the pre-eminent challenge of our lifetimes." Senator Vitter also repudiated the charges of a "disproportionate Israeli response" to the rockets launched into Israel from Gaza, saying, "how would you feel if you lived in southern California and were hit by a regular array of rockets from Mexico or if you lived in upstate New York and were hit from Canada? Of course, we wouldn't accept it for a week, much less the time Israel waited and tried to do something peacefully about it." Senator Vitter thanked the ZOA "for what you do around the county and here on Capitol Hill, because we need your voices to be heard."

**Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT)** told the ZOA that in response to critics of Israel and those who object to aid to Israel, he has said, "Israel is the strongest ally the United States has in the Middle East from a straight national security standpoint. It offers us a fantastic gain. To have the footprint that we have there that Israel gives us would cost far more than the foreign aid we give it. The lack of peace is not for a lack of U.S. trying, but because of a lack of cooperation from Palestinians."

**Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY)** gave his customary greeting that he hails from "the ZOA wing of the Democratic Party." He strongly rebutted the notion that the U.S. should be funding the Palestinians: "Until they demonstrate that they are not supporting terror, they should not be getting one dime of U.S. taxpayers' money."

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Obama Gives Biased Speech, Inimical to Israel, Supportive of False Palestinian/Arab Claims

**On June 4, 2009, President Obama delivered a speech in Cairo, Egypt. Here is ZOA's response to the speech issued the following day.**

President Obama made some positive comments about Israel, stating that the U.S.-Israel bond is “unbreakable.” He also criticized those who threaten Israel’s destruction and those who repeat vile stereotypes about Jews. Overall, however, the President’s speech was strongly biased, inimical to Israel, supportive of false Palestinian and Arab claims against Israel, and blatantly factually inaccurate – inaccuracies that have always benefited the anti-Israel Palestinian, Arab and Muslim cause.

For example, Obama falsely claimed that the Palestinian Arabs were “displaced” by Israel in 1948, and that the Palestinian Arabs have been suffering trying to establish their state for 60 years. In fact, they could have had a state in 1937, 1948, or 2000, but turned down each opportunity. Obama also bizarrely claimed that he longs for the day that Jerusalem is secure for Jews, Muslims and Christians, even though this has been precisely the case since Israel reunited the city under its control in 1967.

Just as egregious, Obama claimed that there are seven million Muslims in America when major studies show that there are between 1.3 and 2.7 million Muslims. He strongly implied that Palestinian suffering was equivalent to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust. He also seemed to equate the Palestinian situation to that of blacks in the U.S. during the time of slavery, and to that of blacks during South African apartheid. The assumption, just barely left unsaid, is that Israeli Jews are the oppressors.

The President claimed that the Muslim country of Morocco was the first to recognize the United States, when in fact, it was the Netherlands; and claimed that Muslim Cordoba and Anadulus were shining examples of Islamic tolerance, when a cursory examination of historical scholarship on the subject shows them to have been nothing of the kind: Jews and Christians lived under religiously-sanctioned discrimination. They could not worship in public or build new synagogues and churches. And they had to pay the jizya poll tax because they were not Muslims.

Despite the fact that President Obama declared that he would be totally “honest” in discussing Mideast issues, he said nothing about Palestinian Arab and Saudi Arabian persecution of Christians. (Even the Pope recently expressed dismay about the huge numbers of Christians who have left Muslim countries.) And while speaking of the slaughter in Darfur, he didn’t even hint that Egypt and other Arab states have for years been blocking international action to end it. President Obama used the Palestinian apologetic term of “resistance” to discuss Palestinian ter-

rorism, implying that there is a legitimate basis for violence. He also never asked the Arab countries or the Palestinian Authority to put Israel on their maps, something which none of them do.

President Obama recently declared that the U.S. won’t “dictate” to other countries. Yet he strongly dictated to Israel to support the dangerous so-called Arab Peace Initiative, and to stop Jewish construction in the territories, thus reinforcing the myth that Palestinian suffering is due to Israel and the settlements. He praised the Arab Peace Initiative, which requires Israel to go back to the indefensible 1967 borders and allow Arab refugees and their millions of descendants to move into Israel. He made no demand to abrogate this provision for refugees which, if implemented, would destroy Israel as a Jewish state.

Palestinian statehood remains a repeated demand by Obama for Israel to accept, even though Hamas controls Gaza. Also, Abbas doesn’t fight terrorism in any serious way, which makes it likely that a Palestinian state would become another terrorist state.

Obama also claimed that Israel’s creation was rooted in a tragic history of the Jews and the Holocaust. This is incorrect. First, for Bible-believers, it was G-d who promised this land to the Jews; and second, the Balfour Declaration in 1917, and the League of Nations in 1922, mandated the creation of a Jewish state on both sides of the Jordan River – before the Holocaust occurred.

Most frighteningly, Obama said virtually nothing about stopping Iran’s rush to develop nuclear weapons, even though he strongly promised this during his election campaign.

President Obama claimed it was illegal for Jews to build homes in Judea and Samaria or East Jerusalem, ignoring the fact that this area has not been anyone’s sovereign or legal territory since 1948. Jordan occupied this territory illegally, without UN recognition, from 1948 until 1967, when Israel captured it in a defensive war. In 1967, Israel even offered to return it for peace treaties. The Arab nations, including Jordan, refused.

Taken together, the President’s remarks in this speech may well signal the beginning of a renunciation of America’s strategic alliance with Israel. It was also a clarion call to all American supporters of Israel, both Christian and Jewish, to make clear to President Obama that strongly supporting the democratic, human rights-loving State of Israel is in America’s interest, especially when the truth of the Arab war against Israel is on Israel’s side.



## MR. PRESIDENT, THERE CANNOT BE A "2-STATE SOLUTION" WHEN THE GOAL OF THE PALESTINIANS IS A 1-STATE SOLUTION



Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority and Fatah chairman, displayed a map of all of Israel labeled as "Palestine." April 28, 2009—Notice at top of map the word "Palestine" in English.

**"I say this clearly: I do not accept the Jewish State, call it what you will."**

Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority and Fatah chairman:  
Ma'an News (Palestinian wire service) April 27, 2009

**"... this struggle will not cease unless the Zionist state is demolished"**

Article 19, Constitution of Fatah—of which Mahmoud Abbas is Chairman

### LET'S FACE FACTS - A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE A NEW TERRORIST STATE FURTHER DESTABILIZING THE MIDEAST

- The Palestinian Authority has not outlawed terror groups, not arrested anti-Israel terrorists, not ended anti-Israel incitement of violence and hatred in their schools, media, speeches—as required by the Oslo accords 16 years ago and all other written agreements with Israel
- Abbas demands that millions of Arab "refugees" be allowed to move into Israel, which would destroy the Jewish State, saying, "The issue of Palestinian refugees is not negotiable."
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- Abbas glorifies suicide bombers by posting pictures of them as heroes throughout the territories
- The terrorist group Hamas, controlled by Iran, will likely take over such a state as it has already done in Gaza—where it continues rocket attacks on Israel's civilian population
- Polls show 75% of Palestinians reject Israel's right to exist (NEC, Feb. 2007), 64% of Palestinians support continued rocket attacks against Israel, (PCPSR, March 2008) and Americans, by a 2 to 1 margin, believe a Palestinian State would be a terror state (McLaughlin & Associates, March 2007)
- Establishing a Palestinian State does not guarantee a peaceful society. It only strengthens their ability to promote their terrorist anti-Israel agenda. eg, bringing in any weapons they desire. Iran, Syria, and North Korea are sovereign states. They are not peace-loving
- Palestinian Authority (PA) media regularly promotes killing Americans. Polls show 65% of Palestinians support Al-Qaeda (Dec. 2005, IAIS). PA Parliament speaker Amad Bahar: "Kill the Americans to the last one." (PA TV, April 2007)
- Hillary Clinton summed it up best: "We cannot build a peaceful, stable, safe future on a such a hate-filled violent and radical foundation." (Feb. 2007)

**Call the White House at  
202.456.1414  
and your Congress  
member at  
202.224.3121.**

**Tell them we don't need  
another terrorist state  
destabilizing the  
Mideast.**



**Morton A. Klein**, National President  
**Dr. Michael Goldblatt**, Chairman of the Board  
**Dr. Alan Mazurek**, Chairman Executive Committee  
**Henry Schwartz**, Treasurer

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## ZOA REDRESSES ANTI-ISRAEL CONDUCT AT CA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A community activist in Davis, California contacted the ZOA about an annual event hosted by one of the elementary schools in the Davis school district, called International Heritage Day. Parent volunteers prepare displays, foods, clothing and other items for this event, to show pride in their various heritages and traditions.

In May 2008, a factually inaccurate map of the Middle East was posted at International Heritage Day. The map did not include any reference to the State of Israel; instead, "Palestine" was erroneously denoted on the map in Israel's place, even though there is not and never has been a state of "Palestine."

A Jewish parent filed a complaint with the school district in June 2008, criticizing the map omitting Israel and calling for factual accuracy at school-sponsored events. Despite the parent's repeated inquiries, the school district did not respond to her complaint until almost one year later, when plans for the next International Heritage Day were underway. Shockingly, when the district finally responded, it justified the use of a factually inaccurate map of the Middle East that made no reference to Israel.

The ZOA contacted the superintendent, urging him to reverse the district's misguided and bigoted decision, and to uphold the district's responsibility to its students, ensuring that materials presented and promoted at school-sponsored events are accurate and do not promote hatred or the demonization of any people or county. The ZOA also urged the superintendent to ensure that district-wide guidelines for school-sponsored activities comply with this mandate.

After the ZOA intervened, the superintendent finally met with the parent (and her husband) who filed the complaint challenging the map omitting Israel. In addition, International Heritage Day was cancelled so that appropriate guidelines for how school-sponsored events should be conducted could be finalized.

The activist who initially contacted the ZOA about this problem in Davis was gratified by the outcome, thanking the ZOA "for a tremendous job you did for us!!! The follow-up letters were great and the input on the guidelines as well."

The parent who filed the complaint with the school district wrote, "We have been asking for guidelines and postponement of [International Heritage Day] for months and did not get a serious meeting with the district until ZOA made contact. We wouldn't be this far without ZOA."

## GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION INTO ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISRAEL-BASHING AT UC IRVINE STILL PENDING

The federal government's second investigation into allegations of anti-Semitism at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) is still pending. The investigation was triggered when the ZOA reported several incidents of harassment and intimidation of Jewish students that occurred in May 2007. One Jewish student had a camera repeatedly pushed in her face by a Muslim student as the Jewish student tried to interview a speaker invited by a student group called the Muslim Student Union. According to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), OCR's investigation is now closed and a letter to the ZOA has been prepared and is under review by senior government officials.

OCR's first investigation into alleged anti-Semitism at UCI was also triggered by the ZOA's complaint on behalf of Jewish students. Applying a narrow reading of the federal law on which the complaint was based – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – OCR dismissed the complaint. The ZOA appealed this decision to OCR headquarters in Washington, D.C. in April 2008. More than one year later, the appeal is still pending.

## ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISRAEL-BASHING STILL A PROBLEM AT UCI

The events demonizing Jews and Israel continue to occur at UCI. In May 2009, the Muslim Student Union (MSU) sponsored two weeks of hateful speakers and programs as part of an event that the MSU called "Israel: The Politics of Genocide." The title of the event itself promotes the falsehood that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian Arabs.

Among the MSU's offensive displays at the event was a photo of Anne Frank – the best known symbol of the horror and tragedy of the Holocaust – wearing an Arab keffiyah, which the MSU described as a scarf "symboliz[ing] freedom and solidarity for Palestine." The MSU falsely and absurdly tried to compare what happened to Anne Frank and other Jewish victims of the Holocaust to the Palestinian Arabs' situation today.

Amir Abdel Malik Ali, whom the MSU frequently invites to speak at UCI, was featured twice at the MSU's May 2009 event. He continued to promote vicious falsehoods about Jews, which cross the line into anti-Semitism according to the standards used by the U.S. government. Here are some examples of his hateful speech:

- "The Zionist Jew is of the party of Shaytan – Satan. They follow Shaytan's pattern."



SUSAN B. TUCHMAN, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR LAW  
AND JUSTICE

- “One of the characteristics of the Shaytan – Satan – is that he likes to operate behind closed doors. Satan is slick, . . . he operates in the shadows, in the dark.”
- “Bring them out in the open. Bring ‘em out. Let them spew that racist ideology. It’s not a racist ideology that’s reserved only for the Palestinians, it’s a racist ideology that’s reserved for everybody.”

### **ZOA SPURS CALLS ON UCI’S CHANCELLOR TO PUBLICLY DENOUNCE ANTI-SEMITISM ON HIS CAMPUS**

The ZOA sponsored an on-line petition at the time of the MSU’s hateful event, addressed to UCI Chancellor Michael Drake. The message was clear: “Chancellor Drake, it’s time to speak out against Israel-bashing at UC Irvine.”

In a matter of days, the petition garnered over 2000 signatures. There are now close to 6000 signatures on the petition calling on the Chancellor “to publicly condemn anti-Semitism on his campus.”

The ZOA published its petition for three days in *The Daily Pilot*, a local newspaper in Orange County, CA (see page 20). The petition was also published in *The Jewish Journal*, the major Jewish paper in the Los Angeles area.

Based on our efforts, U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) wrote a powerful letter to Chancellor Drake, calling on the Chancellor to condemn the MSU’s “Israel: The Politics of Genocide.” As Congressman Sherman said in a letter to the Chancellor last year in response to another MSU event, this year’s event “appears intended to encourage violence against the State of Israel and propagate the spread of anti-Semitism.”

Congressman Sherman criticized the Chancellor in the letter, noting “my extreme disappointment that you have not yet spoken out against some of the statements made at last year’s event.” The Congressman pointed to statements previously made at UCI by Amir Abdel Malik Ali calling for “martyrdom” – which the Congressman recognized as “the euphemism for suicide bombing.” According to Congressman Sherman, the fact that these words “were uttered in a public forum at UCI is a stain on the fabric of a great university, which can be cleaned only by the personal and public denunciation of its Chancellor.”

While emphasizing his support for the First Amendment right to free speech, Congressman Sherman underscored the Chancellor’s right and responsibility to speak out against the hate and bigotry at UCI: “ I hope you share my belief that we all have a moral responsibility to denounce speech that is clearly and unambiguously hateful and threatening. As an American, you have a right to speak out. As Chancellor, it is your duty to condemn violence, hate, and anti-Semitism, especially when it occurs at the UCI campus.”

Despite these calls from Congressman Sherman and from almost 6000 members of the community, the Chancellor has remained silent, refusing to publicly condemn the anti-Semitic speakers and events on campus or the student group that regularly sponsors them. Indeed, UCI publicly promoted the MSU’s anti-Semitic event and gave it legitimacy that it did not deserve.

### **UCI BILLBOARDS PROMOTE ANTI-ISRAEL EVENT – ADS REMOVED AFTER ZOA COMPLAINS**

In May 2009, members of the Irvine community contacted the ZOA about UCI’s electronic billboards; under the heading “University of California, Irvine,” the billboards advertised the MSU’s “Israel: The Politics of Genocide.” The billboards face the street, sending the message not only to the university community, but also to the outside community, that UCI was endorsing this hateful event, which the university is not authorized to do.

The ZOA wrote to UCI’s counsel, objecting to this use of the billboards as a violation of state law and University of California policies. Aside from these violations, the ZOA criticized UCI for its “shameful” conduct: “Would the university ever consider attaching its name to and advertising a campus event that vilified gays, African Americans, Hispanics, or women? Why is it considered tolerable for the university to promote and seemingly endorse an event that . . . will target Israel and Jews and promote anti-Semitism?”

The ZOA called on the university to immediately remove the advertisements from the electronic billboards. Within 24 hours, the advertisements for the MSU event were removed.

### **ZOA’S LEGAL ACTION PROMPTS CONGRESSMAN’S INQUIRY TO U.S. EDUCATION SECRETARY ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM POLICY**

In a letter to the new U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Congressman Brad Sherman expressed his concern about campus anti-Semitism and whether the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) “is enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) to protect Jewish students from anti-Semitic discrimination.” The Congressman noted that OCR dismissed the ZOA’s Title VI complaint on behalf of Jewish students at UC Irvine; OCR concluded that it lacked jurisdiction because the law prohibits discrimination based on “race, color, or national origin,” and OCR decided that none of those categories applies to anti-Semitism.

Congressman Sherman noted that OCR’s decision in the ZOA’s case “reversed OCR policy, as clarified in 2004, of protecting Jews against anti-Semitism.” He asked the Education Secretary to clarify OCR’s current policy and urged the Secretary “to conclude that Title VI protects students against anti-Semitic harassment, intimidation, and discrimination.”

## ZOA SUBMITS BRIEF SUPPORTING U.S. TERROR VICTIM

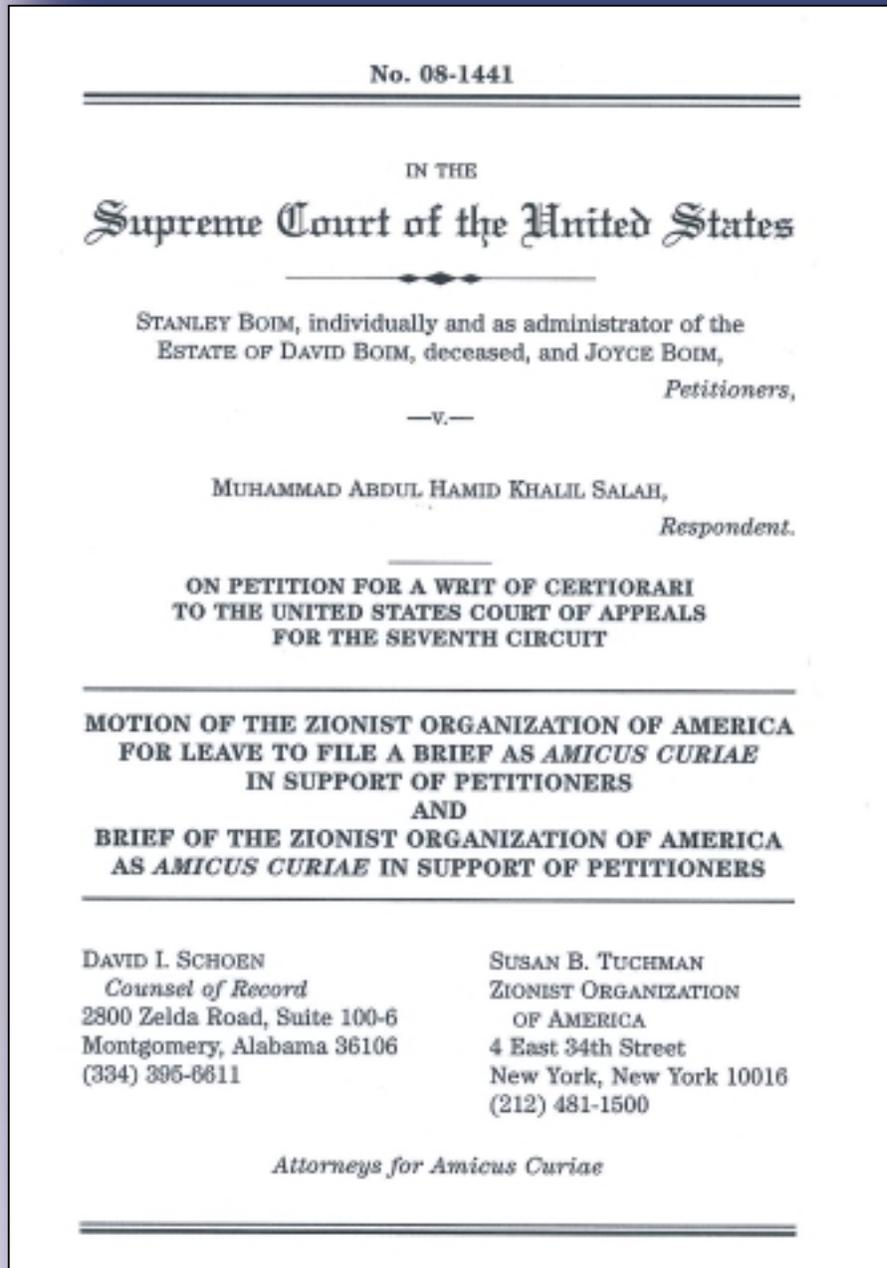
In August 2009, the ZOA submitted an *amicus curiae* [friend of the court] brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, in support of a petition for Court review filed by the parents of David Boim, a victim of Palestinian Arab terrorism.

In 1996, 17-year old American-born David Boim was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting by Hamas terrorists while waiting at a bus stop in the West Bank. His parents brought suit against several defendants under a provision of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), which permits U.S. nationals injured by international terrorism to sue and recover treble damages.

Among the defendants named in the suit was Muhammad Salah, the admitted U.S.-based leader of Hamas' military wing. Salah had recruited and trained terrorists, channeled funds to Hamas operatives, and helped reorganize and restaff Hamas military cells in Israel.

Despite his conduct that aided and abetted Hamas' terrorist activities, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that Salah could not be liable to the Boims under the ATA, because Salah was in prison at the time that David Boim was murdered. The Boims' attorneys – the esteemed Washington, D.C. legal team of Nathan Lewin, Esq. and Alyza Lewin, Esq. – petitioned the Supreme Court to review the case. They argued that the Seventh Circuit had misapplied the law. They also contended that there is a conflict among the lower federal courts that needed to be resolved by the Supreme Court, regarding whether the ATA provides for civil liability not only against those who actually commit terrorist acts, but also against those who aid and abet them. The Lewins asked the ZOA to submit a brief in support of the Boims' petition.

Submitted by David Schoen, Esq. (a member of the ZOA's National Board) and Susan Tuchman, Esq., director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, the brief focused on the important public policy issues in the case. The ZOA showed that Congress intended the ATA to be broadly interpreted to include aider-and-abettor liability, that giving the law a broad reading would help the U.S. win the war on terrorism, and that a broad reading would ensure that American terror victims can obtain the fullest and fairest measure of justice.



“ Many thanks for an excellent *amicus* brief...we hope that it will push us over the finish line.

— Nathan Lewin and his co-counsel, Stephen Landes ”

**Rep. Gene Green (D-TX)** spoke warmly of Israel as the classic underdog in the Middle East, surrounded by hostile enemies. He said that the partnership between Israel and the U.S. had grown into a real alliance of greater depth than that with Britain or any other country.

**Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)** stated that Congress has distinguished itself as being a great friend of Israel and that “it was an honor to have been a part of that friendship.... This Member of Congress will always be a great friend of Israel, working for a relationship that honors us – we have no better friend and ally, fighting under very difficult circumstances for its independence and freedom.”

**Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)** said that it was a great honor to be a friend of Israel. He reminded his audience that he grew up in Charleston, which had the largest Jewish population in the U.S. before the American Civil War, and that the Province of South Carolina’s constitution was the first provincial constitution to recognize Judaism as an established religion. The state also provided the first Jewish senator and the first Jewish patriot killed in the American Revolution. Turning to the situation in Israel, he said that “we do not see the justified outrage at the rocket attacks upon Israel from Gaza; if we had one rocket come into our country from any adjoining country, we would immediately act to stop that and there would be no second rocket... The best way to produce peace is through strength. By being strong and showing resolve, we can protect the people of Israel and the U.S.”

**Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC)** began by observing that “our history in this country pales in comparison to the history of the Chosen People... Our No. 1 global threat is not global warming, not the economy, it is Muslim extremists... Israel is the only functioning democracy in the Middle East. We have very few true friends in the world, but at the top of that list is Israel. Israel is the land of the Bible. Jerusalem can be only one capital – not the capital of the world or many groups, but of Israel and the Jewish people. Israel should not bargain away any piece of Jerusalem.”

**Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN)**, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, spoke of his strong friendship with Israel and his respect for many of its former leaders, adding that he “had a couple of disagreements with Ariel Sharon. I know there were many reasons why they gave Gaza to the Palestinians, but I felt it should not have been done... It is imperative we guarantee the superiority of Israeli arms... As for Gaza, if they run out of soldiers, give me a gun and I’ll get over there. You don’t have to ever worry about Dan Burton.”

**Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX)** spoke of his recent visit to Israel and how he urged Prime Minister Olmert to hold a day honoring the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. “If you look at the history, great days came when a national leader called the nation to honor G-d and the people were blessed every time it happened.” Gohmert urged ZOA activists to read statements made by Al-Qaeda’s Khalil Sheikh Mohammed before adding, “This war on Islamism is ongoing. The idea that we are no longer fighting a war on terror – they don’t know that, no one has told them. They will fight till we defeat them or until they defeat us. My hope is the US and Israel will always stick together.”

**Rep. Steve Rothman (D-NJ)** spoke of his 12 years of fighting for Israel on Capitol Hill and recalled that he had been the first Jewish House Member to work on the House Defense Subcommittee dealing with appropriations for military spending. He recounted with pride that the Committee had provided an additional \$6 million for joint U.S.-Israeli research on the Arrow missile and that he and his Illinois Republican colleague, Mark Kirk, had introduced legislation to hold UNRWA responsible for how it spends U.S. aid.

**Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)** made an impassioned speech in which he declared, “Never has your organization been more needed here than right now. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do... We have great reason to be concerned when we now learn that Hizballah is now in the narco-trafficking business in Colombia, using funds to help Hizballah to kill Jews in Israel. We have reason to be concerned when we send messages to Iran – and they respond, ‘Yes, we’re willing to talk – if you abandon Israel and give us money.’ And for all those reasons, at least this individual believes that there is good and evil in the world and that we must and will stand with Israel and we must never forget who our enemies are.”

**Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)** joked that she always brings Mort Klein her ZOA membership check each time our Mission is in Washington, but that today, she had inadvertently left her checkbook in her car. She said that “being Jewish is a lifelong occupation. It’s what we do as Jews, more than any place else; we are experiencing the liberties our ancestors only dreamt of for generation after generation. There is a price to pay for this and the price is being engaged in our government process and no one does this better than ZOA.” Speaking of the rockets falling on Israeli towns like Sderot, she said that she “knows every neighborhood of Sderot... Israel has exercised extraordinary restraint and did not use disproportionate force. On the contrary, it didn’t use enough, soon enough. Many of my colleagues were concerned at this – I ask them, ‘Would you have been happier if a thousand more Jews had died?’ ... UNRWA is nothing but the face and arm of Hamas. We are giving funds to rebuild Gaza for UNRWA to administer – I couldn’t think of anything more ridiculous than this. I was delighted when my colleagues Mark Kirk and Steve Rothman introduced [legislation calling for UNRWA’s accountability and transparency] – but first I called Mort to make sure it was strong enough before I signed on... There is no way on G-d’s green earth that we can allow Iran to get nuclear

*(Continued on next page)*

weapons. I remember Ariel Sharon telling a group of us at Blair House that a nuclear Iran is as much a threat to the U.S., to the West and the Arab nations [as it is to Israel], and that the world should not be expecting Israel to take care of its dirty work. And I couldn't agree more."

**Rep. Ron Klein (D-FL)** opened with a joke: "Thanks – welcome, I'm from Boca Raton, Florida – if you're not a constituent, you will be at some time." Rep. Klein spoke of his vice-chairmanship of the Middle East Subcommittee and the discussions in which he has been involved regarding Hizballah, Lebanon, Iran and UNRWA before strongly supporting the government decision not to participate in the UN-sponsored Durban II conference.

**Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA)** recounted his 2006 trip to Israel, during which he visited the Rambam Hospital and interviewed survivors of Hizballah's rocket attacks on northern Israel. He described challenging a BBC reporter to come and interview the Israeli injured, not merely the Lebanese injured, and being told, "I can't do that – my editor wants me to be balanced." Later, he took ball bearings from exploded Hizballah warheads to CNN's Wolf Blitzer, and told him that these were putting Israelis in the hospital "and only half the story is being told."

**Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA)** opened by saying, "In the Torah, it says blessed is the nation that blesses Israel, cursed is the one that curses it. I've been described as a Zionist Christian and I heartily embrace that description. What has made this nation great are the Judeo-Christian principles upon which this nation was founded ... The U.S. must never give up blessing Israel. The only vestiges of G-d's blessing on this nation today is because we continue to bless Israel and I will do everything in my power to continue to ensure that Israel is blessed by America. My position, based on G-d's word, is that Canaan was given to the Israelites. The Israelites owned that territory. It doesn't belong to anyone else. Israel should have the opportunity to ensure that everyone who lives there does so in freedom and safety."

**Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)** spoke of his four trips to Israel and how he had been in Tel Aviv when the 9/11 terror attacks occurred. "I am a strong supporter of Israel and was so long before I got an opportunity to be one in Congress ... I support Israel's right to exist, to defend itself, to do so and live without fear, so I'm simply glad to be here to share this moment. And I appreciate the continuing effort you make to ensure that Israel lives safe, unfettered and unafraid."

**Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)** opened by saying, "It's nice to be here with mishpacha [family] ... ZOA is a group that has really been clairvoyant, because long before others were thinking of these issues, ZOA was already doing so. Mort Klein speaks the truth ... I have been a ZOA supporter when I was starting my career, because ZOA was always speaking the truth." Referring to the recent Israeli elections, he said that the Administration has to be careful not to pressure governments it may not prefer. "Support for Israel in Congress is strong because it is the right thing to do." Rep. Engel criticized anti-Israel committees and activities in the UN, saying, "I want the U.S. to be squarely behind Israel. You can see by my colleagues who have spoken here today, conservative and liberal, Democrat or Republican, that we are united in our support for Israel. Am Yisrael Chai."

**Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ)** devoted his remarks to the issue of the Durban II conference, saying that the U.S. should withhold funding for it and that he had written to President Obama, making his position clear. Rep. Garrett said that he was pleased that the Administration, after attempting to participate in the conference, had come around. "I will always stand by Israel while I'm in Congress."

**Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO)** spoke of his own consistent support for Israel. He cited a recent ZOA press release regarding Fatah's Muhammad Dahlan's statements

confirming that Fatah has never accepted Israel. He recounted introducing a resolution last year demanding that Fatah's Mahmoud Abbas rescind Fatah's Constitution calling for Israel's destruction and the use of terror. He indicated that he and Rep. Berkley would begin working on this resolution again this year. He also recounted that on his most recent trip to Israel, he had confronted Abbas personally about Fatah's non-acceptance of Israel; Abbas reportedly indicated that it was his party's doing, not his own.

**Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)**, a new Member of Congress, expressed his agreement with the views expressed by many of the speakers who preceded him, especially regarding Israel's right to defend itself in Gaza and the need to pull out of the Durban II conference. He noted that while he had yet to visit Israel, his colleague Mark Kirk would be arranging a visit for him in August. He concluded by saying, "As long as I am permitted to be in Congress, I will stand with Israel."

**Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)** expressed how honored he felt to speak to ZOA activists. He said that he appreciated ZOA's work, personally thanking Mort Klein's efforts. He spoke of the difficult challenge posed by Iran's drive for nuclear weapons. Noting his long record of support for Israel and his 13 visits to the country, he said, "I have been a long time friend and will remain a friend."

**Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-OH)** spoke strongly of the importance and depth of the American alliance with Israel, saying that "Israel is as important to the U.S. as the U.S. is to Israel." She cautioned the Administration about making policy as though Iran and Syria were our friends.



## AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MORT KLEIN

- Appeared on local NY & Philadelphia TV news programs
- Interviewed on Bloomberg TV
- Appeared on Germany's largest TV station, ADR
- Appeared on MSNBC-TV
- Was a guest on radio programs in Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Virginia
- Spoke at synagogues in Pennsylvania, Florida and Michigan
- Invited to be keynote speaker at National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Quoted weekly in Jewish, American and international publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post* and distinguished German, Swedish, Israeli and Canadian newspapers.
- Published letters and articles in newspapers around the world, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Middle East Quarterly*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Jerusalem Post* and *New Republic*
- Spoke at UJC-Federation Dinners in California and Florida



## President's Message (continued from page 2)

the Palestinian-Arab leadership – obviously with regard to Hamas, but even as concerns Abbas. So, reality has struck, and even more so in the past 12 months.

In the past, when I expressed deep concerns about the seriousness of peace on the part of Arafat, the PA or Abbas, I was frequently criticized for being a warmonger and not willing to take any serious risk for peace. Now, more of the leadership understands that the problem is with the Arabs, not with the Israelis.

Here's another interesting difference: At these conferences, I ask many questions of the speakers. This year, several people told me how much more moderate my questions had become. But the truth is that my questions are the same. They only sound more moderate and less hostile to their ears, because they grasp the reality of the situation much more than they ever did before. According to the polls conducted a few weeks ago, only 31 percent of Americans support the establishment of a Palestinian state. This is the lowest number we've seen in years. And, according to polls from a few months ago, for the first time in years, less than half of American Jews support the establishment of a Palestinian state.

**JP: Should American Jews criticize the Israeli government?**

MK: I, Morton Klein, and people who think like me, recognize the right and obligation of Israel to make the final decision on every issue. But I feel I have the right – and even the obligation, as a Jew who feels deeply about Israel – to make my opinion known. The Israeli people or government can reject it. But I have the right to express my concerns.

**JP: In his June 24, 2002 speech, Bush said he would solve the problem [between the Palestinian Arabs and Israel] by demanding that the Palestinians reform their society. What's wrong with that?**

MK: Bush ignored the fundamental principle he himself laid out in that speech, which was that there would be no peace until the Palestinians ended incitement to hatred and violence in all aspects of their culture. Indeed, neither Bush nor virtually any other leader ever makes an issue out of this.

And why don't they? Because they know that the Palestinians are not going to implement reforms, and they're afraid that if they make that a primary issue, the process ends.

**JP: What is the talk on Capitol Hill about what Obama would like to see happen here?**

MK: I can go back to a statement that Obama made in Cleveland to Jewish groups. Trying to assure them of how committed he is to Israel, he said: "You don't have to be a supporter of Likud to be pro-Israel. I'm a supporter of more liberal policies."

That's very worrisome, because it indicates to me that there is going to be a clash.

**JP: Does the American-Jewish community support military action against Iran?**

MK: There is almost universal consensus among American Jews that anything – including military action – should be done to stop Iran's nuclear program.

## ZOA DERAILS APPOINTMENT OF ANTI-ISRAEL LOBBYIST TO CHAIRMANSHIP OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

When President Obama nominated Chas. W. Freeman to chair the National Intelligence Council (NIC), the ZOA exposed Freeman's vicious anti-Israel record and his connections to the tyrannical regimes in Saudi Arabia and China and urged that his nomination be rescinded. This was of vital concern because the NIC strongly influences the content of intelligence briefings presented to the President and the NIC Chairman is often called on to brief the President personally. The controversy that ensued over the appropriateness of his appointment led to Freeman's decision to withdraw his name from consideration.

The ZOA played a crucial role in Freeman's decision to withdraw his nomination. In a report in the JTA by Eric Fingerhut, he observed that, **"The Zionist Organization of America and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs were the only Jewish organizations to come out publicly against the pick."** But, the ZOA did more than just come out against his appointment.

Immediately upon his nomination, the ZOA issued a widely-distributed press release which detailed at length Freeman's strong associations with Saudi Arabia and China and his virulently anti-Israel words and deeds.

In a September 2005 speech, Freeman rationalized Palestinian terrorism, attributing it to Jews living in Judea and Samaria. In October 2006, he blamed Israel for 9/11 saying that the U.S. has "paid heavily... for our unflinching support and subsidies for Israel's approach to managing its relations with Arabs. Five years ago we began to pay with the blood of our citizens here at home." In May 2007, he blamed Israel for anti-American Terrorism and hatred in the Middle East.

We also issued an **Action Alert**, advising our members to contact their Members of Congress to urge them to sign on to the Congressional letter co-signed by ZOA honoree Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) asking for an investigation of Freeman's past. Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) wrote the Inspector General of the Office of the Director of the National Intelligence (ODNI), asking for the Inspector-General to broaden the scope of the investigation into Freeman's background.

The Co-Directors of ZOA's Government Relations Department in Washington, Josh London and Dan Pollak lobbied hard every day, educating Members of Congress about Freeman's anti-Israel and anti-American record, urging them to sign on to the Berkley-Kirk letter and to take the issue up with the Obama Administration. National President, Morton A. Klein, personally phoned Jewish communal and Congressional leaders, successfully getting members of Congress to add their names to the letter and pledges to make calls to the White House.

But the ZOA did more. President Morton Klein debated Chas. Freeman on BBC radio worldwide.

We exposed Freeman as an advocate for Arab autocracies and a sympathizer of China's repressive regime. The ZOA revealed that for 11 years, Freeman chaired the Middle East Policy Council (MEPC), a lobbying group for the Arab World, for which he was paid by Saudi Arabia. MEPC itself owes its endowment to the Saudi Monarch who, in 1994, awarded



Freeman the Order of the "King Abd AL-Aziz 1st Class (Diplomatic Service).

Freeman also served on the advisory board of the Beijing-owned China National Offshore Oil Corporation, which has business dealings with both Iran and Sudan. The ZOA uncovered an email posting by Freeman which showed that he approved of China's 1989 repression of pro-democracy demonstrators.

Many of the most influential newspapers and media in the U.S. and abroad noted ZOA's role in exposing Freeman's views. Both *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* on their front pages highlighted the ZOA's role. *The Guardian.co.uk*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The World Tribune.com*, *CBS News*, the *BBC* and *CNN* reported on ZOA's role.

In a CNN interview with Fareed Zakaria, Freeman himself singled out the ZOA as having played a crucial role in his decision to withdraw his nomination. In the interview, Freeman said, **"This morning, indeed, there were postings by the organizations that organized the campaign, the Zionist Organization of America, for example, detailing, setting out in considerable detail how they organized, researched to find material that they could use to agitate first Congressmen who were sympathetic to them and later others on various issues..."**



Zakaria provided and read out one of Freeman's ugly quotes in reference to 9/11 – "We have paid heavily and often in treasure in the past for our unflinching support and unstinting subsidies of Israel's approach to managing its relations with the Arabs. Five years ago [i.e., in 2001] we began to pay with the blood of our citizens here at home" – before asking Freeman, "But you can see why people who support Israel or perhaps American Jews would be perturbed by that statement. Do you wish you hadn't written it in retrospect or said it?" to which Freeman responded, "No, no, I stand by what I said."

The fact is, however, that there is no such ZOA posting that Freeman describes. Our alleged "selective misquotations" were amply provided by Freeman's own speeches posted on the website of Middle East Policy Council (MEPC) that he chairs. The only things that "libel" Freeman's reputation are his own vitriolic views, including such "selective misquotation" as his remark about Israel allegedly producing 9/11, which he openly reaffirmed on CNN.

No wonder *The Wall Street Journal* has written: "The ZOA ... is the most credible advocate for Israel on the American Jewish scene today."

And, *The Jerusalem Post* has proclaimed: "The ZOA is one of the most important and influential Jewish groups in the U.S. today...."

## ZOA ON CAPITOL HILL

This year is shaping up as a critical time for Israel in Washington, DC. It has become increasingly clear that President Barak Obama is promoting policies that are hostile to the US-Israel relationship. On Capitol Hill, the ZOA has been the leading voice in the American Jewish community in opposition to these policies. We continue to educate Members of Congress about the Arab war against Israel and about the mistaken policies of the "peace process."

The biggest immediate threat to Israel comes from Iran, as it seeks to complete its nuclear capability in the near future, and operates at times through its surrogates in Gaza and Lebanon. The time to stop Iran through sanctions is probably past us now. Still, the ZOA supports economic sanctions and divestment efforts against Iran, and has supported sanctions on the import of refined petroleum products to Iran as proposed most recently by Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN), and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). Given the attempts by the regime in Iran to ignore the results of its own election, every opportunity to destabilize the regime should be pursued. The ZOA's Government Relations Department is working hard to build a consensus of support for Israel within Congress should military action against Iran become necessary.

An equally important priority for the ZOA's Government Relations Department is to stop the flow of US financial and material aid to the Palestinian Authority (approximately \$1 billion now), and to halt the mistaken and mis-

guided US-Israeli effort to create a Palestinian terrorist state out of Judea and Samaria. Virtually everyone in Congress and in the Obama Administration claims to recognize that Hamas is a vicious, virulent, and violent movement that must be checked. However, very few grasp, and even fewer will publicly recognize, that Fatah is an equally vicious and violent anti-Israel terrorist movement that continues to poison the minds of the Palestinians through incitement to hatred and murder of Jews in the P.A.-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps. A related issue is the ongoing US pressure on Israel to make greater unrequited concessions for "peace." The ZOA is the leading and loudest voice opposing this pressure and is working tirelessly in Congress to thwart these policies.

President Obama's hostility towards Israel was first actualized by the appointment of Charles "Chas" Freeman, former US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council. Once again, the ZOA was one of the only Jewish organizational voices to speak out and oppose the nomination, and worked to raise awareness of Freeman's unsuitability for the position. Eventually, Freeman succumbed to the mounting criticism and pressure and withdrew from the appointment before being installed in the office.

Other events have made President Obama's hostility toward Israel even clearer: his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; his address, delivered in Cairo, to the "Muslim world;" his continued demand that Israel freeze all settlement construction



JOSH LONDON AND DAN POLLAK, CO-DIRECTORS OF THE ZOA'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

even for natural growth; and his insistence that eastern Jerusalem be considered as one of the settlements rather than as part of the undivided capital of the State of Israel. The ZOA was alone among the Jewish organizations to expose these increasingly obvious signs of hostility. We have followed up by working hard to counter and fight against these anti-Israel actions and statements through our interaction with Members of the House and Senate and their staff on Capitol Hill.

Additionally, the ZOA's Government Relations Department has continued to broaden its outreach and public education efforts. We have published articles in *The Washington Times* and *The Cutting Edge News*, and made guest appearances on such shows as the nationally-syndicated "Armstrong Williams Show" (XM Radio), the "Tom Marr Show" (WCBM-AM in Baltimore), the "Greg Gack Show" (CBS-affiliate WMOV 1360 in Ohio and West Virginia), the "Jewish Hour with Rabbi Herschel Finman" (WPON in Detroit), and "KKMS Live with Jeff & Lee" (KKMS in Minneapolis). We have also engaged in public lectures about Israel and the "peace process," and publicly debated the groups Americans for Peace Now and B'Tselem.





ZOA DELEGATES LISTENING ATTENTIVELY DURING PRE-LOBBYING ORIENTATION SESSION. FOREGROUND (LEFT TO RIGHT): HON. MARC CAROFF, PRESIDENT OF ZOA D.C. DISTRICT; BEVERLY BAKER, PRESIDENT OF DETROIT DISTRICT; RAYNA KOGAN; DR. LESTER ZEFF



JOSH LONDON AND DAN POLLAK, CO-DIRECTORS OF THE ZOA'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, ADDRESS DELEGATES AT PRE-LOBBYING ORIENTATION AND BRIEFING



SENATOR BOB BENNETT (R-UT)



DELEGATE DEE DEE FEIN WITH REP. ANTHONY WEINER (D-NY)



REP. PAUL BROUN (R-GA) SPEAKING TO THE DELEGATES AT THE LUNCHEON



HOUSE MINORITY WHIP ROY BLUNT (R-MO)



CONGRESSMAN DAN BURTON (R-IN) IN DISCUSSION WITH MORT KLEIN AND DAN POLLAK AT THE ZOA DELEGATES' LUNCHEON



REP. ALCEE HASTINGS (D-FL)



ZOA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS LEWIS DASHE (LEFT) AND GENE SHUSMAN AT THE ZOA DELEGATES LUNCHEON



ZOA DELGATES MEETING WITH REP. ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY) AT ONE OF MANY ZOA CAPITOL HILL MEETINGS



CHARLES AND JUNE FURROW



NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER DR. STANLEY BENZEL (RIGHT) IN DISCUSSION WITH MORT KLEIN AND GARY RATNER



SHARONA WHISLER, ZOA CAMPUS COORDINATOR, AND WILL GOTKIN, STUDENT DELEGATE



DELEGATE LINDA STULBERG IN DISCUSSION AT PRE-LOBBYING BRIEFING WITH JOSEPH SAVIN, CHAIRMAN OF ZOA'S DETROIT DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND DIANE SAVIN



DELEGATE BONNIE GLICK, SISTER OF JERUSALEM POST COLUMNIST CAROLINE GLICK, WITH BONNIE'S SON MATTHEW



DELEGATES DORENE WEISBERG AND ANDY FRIEDMAN



ZOA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER STANLEY BENZEL AND A ZOA DELEGATE IN A CAPITOL HILL MEETING WITH A SENIOR STAFF MEMBER REPRESENTING CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DENT (R-PA)

## SETTLEMENT ISSUE CAMOUFLAGES REAL ISSUES OF ARAB TERRORISM, ANTI-ISRAEL INCITEMENT AND REJECTION OF ISRAEL



Jewish settlement in Judea, Samaria and East Jerusalem is not the obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. Indeed, the settlement issue both distracts from and camouflages the real reason that the peace process has failed: The actions of the Palestinian Authority (PA). The PA has refused to arrest anti-Israel terrorists and outlaw terrorist groups; it has failed to end incitement to hatred and violence against Jews and Israel in the PA's schools, media and speeches; it has continued to glorify terrorists by naming schools, streets, sports teams and computer centers after them; it disseminates posters of suicide bombers throughout Arab towns, hailing the bombers as heroes; it excludes Israel from maps; and it has failed to accept the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish state. We need to focus public attention on the PA's anti-peace, pro-terror actions, instead of allowing the public to be distracted by the question of whether Jews should be permitted to move into Ariel, Maaleh Adumim, or eastern Jerusalem.

Over one million Arabs live among 6 million Jews in Israel. Why can't 300,000 Jews live among 1.5 million Palestinian Arabs in Judea and Samaria? No peace can be built on the notion that the biblical, historical and religious heartland of the Jewish people – or any territory, for that matter – must be *judenrein* (free of Jews).

Jews come from the historic area known as Judea. We Jews are Judeans. "Jew" is a contraction of the term "Judean." It is absurd to suggest that Jews cannot live in the land from which they came. Would anyone ever propose that Arabs cannot live in Arabia?

Until the late 1960's-early 1970's, the term "Palestinian" meant Jew. It was commonly understood that the area of "Palestine" was the Jewish homeland. When the Jews were banished from their homeland 2000 years ago, the Romans, who defeated them, renamed Israel "Palestine," after the Jews' arch enemy, the Philistines. Even after their banishment, the Jews always maintained a presence in the land, including a majority in Jerusalem itself.

The first Jewish newspaper in Palestine was called the Palestine Post, and the first Jewish orchestra was called the Palestine Orchestra. Many will recall that Paul Newman, who played the Jewish hero, Ari Ben-Canaan, in the movie "Exodus,"

identified himself as "Palestinian" which he explained means a native-born Sabra.

A billion or more people throughout the world adhere to the Bible (including President Obama) and believe that G-d gave the Land of Israel to the Jewish people. The Books of Genesis and Exodus contain many statements from G-d giving the Land of Israel to the Jewish people. The reason that this Land has been called the "Promised Land" throughout history is precisely because G-d promised the Land of Israel to the Jews in the Bible. Both religious and secular Jews maintain this connection to the Land based on the Bible.

It is notable that David Ben-Gurion once stated to a British Royal Commission that the "Bible is our mandate." If it weren't, perhaps a Jewish state would now exist in Uganda, or somewhere else, or not at all.

It is racist and anti-Semitic to contend that Jews cannot build within the borders of their own communities in Judea and Samaria, while Arabs can build everywhere, including within Israel itself. Apart from the Jewish people's historical and religious claims to the territory, they have a legal claim, too. This land was earmarked by the League of Nations in 1922 for the re-establishment of the Jewish homeland. From 1948 to 1967, Jordan illegally occupied the land; its claim to the land was recognized by only two countries and was never internationally recognized. In 1988, Jordan renounced its claim to the territory. In short, this is unallocated territory under international law, and Jewish settlements on the land are legal.

A majority of the Israeli public (by a 56 percent to 37 percent margin) has supported Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's repudiation of President Barack Obama's demand that Israel freeze all Jewish construction and growth in Judea, Samaria and eastern Jerusalem. A majority of the Israeli public (by a 51 percent to 34 percent margin) has also opposed Netanyahu acceding to Obama's reported demand that Israel abandon the settlement blocs as part of an agreement with the Palestinians.

The majority of Israeli Jews understand that the settlement issue does not stand in the way of peace. Arab terrorism, anti-Israel incitement, and refusal to accept Israel as a Jewish State are the obstacles. We must ensure that American leaders and the American public understand this reality, too.



## ABBAS' FATAH CONFERENCE MAKES A MOCKERY OF PEACE

In August 2009, Fatah, President Mahmoud Abbas' ruling party in the Palestinian Authority (PA), held its first Conference in 20 years. The conference, which took place in Bethlehem, made a complete mockery of any possibility of Israel making peace with the Palestinian Arabs.

The participants reaffirmed Fatah's refusal to accept Israel's existence as a Jewish state, glorified terrorists and the "armed struggle," and insisted on the so-called "right of return." PA President Mahmoud Abbas made clear that Fatah continued to believe in the righteousness of terrorism, declaring, "We maintain the right to launch an armed resistance, which is legitimate as far as international law is concerned." Former PA Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia acknowledged by name Arab terrorists who have murdered innocent Israelis, and praised them, to loud applause from the audience.

At the conference, Fatah demanded the return of both east and west Jerusalem, declaring that this was a "red line" that was non-negotiable and would need to be fulfilled before any peace talks with Israel could resume. Fatah also urged that increased international pressure be placed on Israel, and opposed any normalization of relations between Israel and Arab states. In addition, Fatah called for a "strategic channel with Iran to be opened" – at a time when Iran is defying the world by seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. And, in one of the few unanimous decisions emerging from the Conference was the resolution that Israel murdered Yasser Arafat.



Statements made at or about the Conference by senior Fatah figures make the nature of this unrepentant organization very clear. Marwan Al-Barghouti, the jailed Fatah terrorist chief who received the largest vote of support from the delegates said, "Resistance to the Israeli occupation is a national obligation, and it is a legitimate right. Fatah will not abandon, thwart, or rule out any form of struggle. Political activity and negotiations complement resistance, and harvest its fruits." Fatah spokesman Fahmi Al-Za'arir said, "It is not possible to rule out or to marginalize the military option. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (Fatah's armed force and a recognized terrorist group) are the jewel in Fatah's crown." Fatah senior official Jibril Rajoub said, "Resistance was and is a tactical and strategic option of the struggle and are part of Fatah's policy." Fatah's senior official Husam Khader summed it up when he said, "Fatah has not changed its national identity, and it retains the option of resistance and armed struggle."

The ZOA agrees with Israeli cabinet minister Yuli Edelstein when he says that the latest Fatah platform is "a declaration of war. We must not act as if we haven't heard. We must emerge from the circle of illusions that these are moderates who want peace."

The outcome of the Fatah Conference debunks any notion that the so-called "moderate" Palestinian leadership seeks peace with Israel. Not only has the Palestinian leadership never fulfilled its 16-year-old commitments to accept Israel and end terrorism and the incitement to hatred and murder that feeds it; the Palestinian leadership also has no intention of ever fulfilling these commitments. There should be no negotiations, rewards or concessions to Abbas' Fatah-controlled PA until the PA revokes its platform and fulfills its signed commitments. Hamas would have been proud of the policies coming out of Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Conference.

## REACHING STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### ZOA Defends Israel during Operation Cast Lead

ZOA was instrumental in organizing pro-Israel rallies at many campuses across the U.S., including Columbia, Emory, Penn and UMass-Amherst. ZOA campus coordinators also trained student activists who were participating in debates about Israel's defensive operation in Gaza, and provided materials such as photos and statistics for students to use in campus displays.

### ZOA President Morton Klein Speaks at University of North Texas

ZOA President Morton Klein was a guest speaker at the University of North Texas. Mort gave a lecture open to the public entitled "Israel and the Palestinians: Is Peace Possible?" That evening, Mort was the honored guest at the "Eagles for Israel" Dinner where he spoke to students, professors, and community leaders.

### Colonel Benzi Gruber Tells the True Story of the IDF

ZOA organized a speaking tour for Colonel Benzi Gruber, a tank commander who served in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead. His presentation, entitled "Ethics of the IDF," combined videos, statistics and facts to illustrate how the IDF fights terror in Gaza, Judea and Samaria, while maintaining its dedication to protecting human life. Colonel Gruber spoke at NYU, Brandeis, Hofstra, Rutgers and Brown, and staged a community-wide event for the ZOA in Los Angeles.

### Zion Uness Tells the Story of Ethiopian-Israelis

Zion Uness is a dynamic speaker who tells about his personal experience as an Ethiopian Jewish immigrant to Israel, and what it means to be a Zionist. The ZOA sponsored Zion's speaking engagements at SUNY Oswego, Hofstra University, Miami University (Ohio), and the University of Maryland. Many of Zion's events were co-sponsored by cultural groups on campus such as the Ethiopian Club and the Black Student Union.

### Students Lobby Congress for Israel

Over 40 students and young professionals traveled with other ZOA supporters to participate in the ZOA's Annual Activist Mission to Washington, D.C. These students and young professionals helped infuse



enthusiasm and passion for Israel into the ZOA's meetings with congressional leaders and their senior staff, and strengthened the ZOA's impact on Capitol Hill.

### **Almost 100 People March with ZOA in New York's Salute to Israel Parade**

The ZOA had a delegation of almost 100 people marching in the 2009 Salute to Israel Parade in New York City. Over 60 of them were students and young professionals. The parade's theme this year was "Tel Aviv at 100." ZOA activists proudly marched under the banner: "Tel Aviv at 100, Jerusalem at 3000. Our Ties to the Land are Long and Strong." While marching, students circulated the ZOA-sponsored petition calling on Michael Drake, the Chancellor of the University of California at Irvine, to speak out against Israel-bashing on his campus.

### **Campus Leaders Intern at ZOA's National Office**

ZOA had a bright and motivated group of interns working in the ZOA's national office in New York this summer: Miriam Campeas from Rutgers University, Matt Lipsky from the University of Maryland, Eli Macanian from the University of Arizona, Eitan Nidam from Yeshiva University, Deborah Sason from Binghamton University, and Samantha Vinokor from the University of Pittsburgh. These six interns are all pro-Israel leaders on their campuses. At ZOA, they helped develop new campus materials, wrote Israel-related articles geared to college students, and worked on ZOA-sponsored events.

### **Jump for Israel Raises Money to Help IDF Soldiers**

The ZOA's popular fundraiser, Jump for Israel, had another successful year. Students from both DC and NY went skydiving to raise money for IDF soldiers. This year's event raised over \$1000 to help our brothers and sisters in the IDF. There are plans to expand Jump for Israel to more cities in the upcoming year.

### **ZOA's Young Professionals Group Continues to Grow**

The ZOA Young Professionals in New York held their first event of the year in February 2009, at a popular nightclub called Room Service NY. The event attracted over 500 people and raised money for several charities in Israel.

In June, the ZOA Young Professionals organized and co-sponsored a Shabbat Dinner on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The dinner drew over 100 people (an over-capacity crowd). Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-NY) was the keynote speaker, focusing on current US-Israel relations and his assessment of the Iranian threat.

The ZOA Young Professionals is looking forward to building on the group's success in the coming months. Plans are underway for a number of social, philanthropic, and educational programs to increase young professionals' commitment and connection to Zionism and Israel.

**FALL 2009**

# THE COLLEGE ZIONIST

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZOA CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

## JERUSALEM'S FUTURE WHAT'S NEXT FOR ISRAEL'S CAPITAL?

**MA'ALEH ADUMIM**  
How Important is it for Israel?

**BENEATH GAZA:**  
Tunnels and the Threat to Israel

**AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN**  
The New Player in Israeli Politics



## HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

### Government Action and Legislation Program

The establishment of a new government under Prime Minister Netanyahu in the spring of 2009 presented ZOA-Israel with a sterling opportunity to step up its political advocacy program. Our goals are to bring the ZOA message directly to members of the ruling coalition and opposition; convey their thoughts back to the ZOA leadership and Government Relations Department in the US; and initiate and facilitate communications between lawmakers in Israel and their counterparts in the U.S. Congress.

We continue to establish new government relationships and cultivate older ones, engaging with cabinet ministers, senior and junior Knesset members, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs department directors. Most recently, we have worked with Moshe Ya'alon, Yuli Edelstein, Uzi Landau, Daniel Herszkowitz, Zev Elkin, Arie Eldad, Danny Danon, Tzipi Hotovely, Gila Gamliel, David Rotem, Uri Orbach, Michael Ben Ari and Aviva Raz-Schechter.

We have gained valuable insight into the complex policymaking process in Israel, which functions under considerable pressure from a variety of sources. Interestingly, the positions taken by the ZOA are in sync with a majority of the Israeli electorate, as evidenced by the results of the last election and opinion polls favoring Palestinian autonomy over sovereignty.

Many Israeli voters expected the pronouncements of the elected Israeli government to continue to match pre-election declarations; they are now disappointed by the apparent u-turn the government has taken in its acceptance of a Palestinian state. Several MKs and ministers also acknowledge the disconnect between the elected government's earlier positions and its current statements. Efforts are underway to try to refocus the coalition around its original platform; MK Hotovely is circulating a letter with this objective.

At government meetings, ZOA-Israel continues to make the point that Israel's friends in Congress and most of the American public will support a resolute Israeli foreign policy in the face of pressures from the U.S. Administration. A number of leaders here are beginning to integrate this message, but there is still much work to be done.

As we make further inroads into the Israeli political system, we find our input and guidance valued and frequently deployed. Recent examples:

- ZOA-Israel drafted a letter for the Knesset in response to two U.S. Congressional letters, criticizing the Congressional letters' reference to a Palestinian state and objecting to U.S. arm-twisting regarding Israel's acceptance of a Palestinian state. MK Danny Danon sent our letter to the U.S. Senators and Representatives who had signed the Congressional letters.
- ZOA-Israel prepared a letter that Danon sent to AIPAC Executive



JEFF DAUBE  
DIRECTOR, ZOA-ISRAEL

Director Howard Kohr, questioning AIPAC's promotion of the Congressional letters, which amounted to AIPAC effectively endorsing a policy not shared by the Israeli government at the time.

- MK Tzipi Hotovely invited ZOA-Israel to join her and Adi Mintz, former head of the Yesha Council, in jumpstarting the Jewish National Home Initiative and organizing a conference in Washington, D.C. Concerns are mounting about the need to counter noxious efforts – spearheaded by agencies of the American Jewish community, no less – to promote US pressure on Israel. Plans are underway for a fall event that will provide a forum for Israeli ministers, US government officials, and policy and military experts, to present analyses of joint strategic concerns, and to refute utopian positions that are divorced from present-day realities.
- Approaching the fourth anniversary of the expulsion of the Gush Katif residents, many of whom are not settled and have not been properly compensated, we participated in a meeting with several Members of the Knesset, including Uri Ariel, Zev Elkin, Arie Eldad and Tzipi Livni; Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Natan Sharansky; and the office of State Comptroller Micha Lindenstrauss. The justifiable complaints of former residents, and the expressions of concern by many MKs about the negative consequences of Israel's 2005 unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, reinforce the soundness of the ZOA's unwavering opposition to the Gaza Disengagement Plan.

### Community and Media Outreach

- In order to lend cachet and popular backing to ZOA-Israel's government program, we have become increasingly involved in a parallel program, *Americans Vote Israel*, which seeks to tap into the enormous political leverage that even a fraction of the 250,000 expatriate

*(Continued on next page)*

Americans living here could provide. We also hope to impact the political advocacy culture that is lacking in Israel. ZOA-Israel has already conducted successful presentations in Jerusalem, Barkan, Hashmonaim, Efrat and Modiin, and has speaking engagements coming up in Beit Shemesh, Maaleh Adumim, Raanana, Rehovot and even the northern Galil. Many more will be scheduled.

- ZOA-Israel is acting as a go-between for the twinning initiative that our office set up between ZOA chapters in the US and communities in the Shomron (Samaria). This is fast becoming a critical program for Shomron residents, as they feel increasingly isolated and marginalized by the US Administration and its relentless pressure to “freeze” even normal lifecycle expansion.
- ZOA-Israel continues to organize fact-finding trips to the Shomron in order to combat stereotypical and inaccurate portrayals by the Israeli and international media, and to showcase the magnificent Zionist enterprise exemplified in the Ariel University Center. Ethan Bronner, Jerusalem bureau chief for *The New York Times*, accompanied us on one mission and commented that the trip was very instructive.
- ZOA-Israel continues to offer education, information and networking services to individuals and groups in connection with Israel’s security and national interests. For example, we delivered the featured lecture at an Emunah International-sponsored seminar on the problems of the UN and UNRWA. We have also provided guidance to the Shomron International Liaison Office, the Legal Forum for the Land of Israel, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, World Likud, Sderot Media Center, Jerusalem City Council, and Christian Friends of Israeli Communities. We interact regularly with grassroots activists and advocacy professionals at work in Israel and the U.S.

- ZOA-Israel continues to collaborate on projects with ZOA leaders; when they visit Israel, we offer them introductions to and briefings with government officials. In recent months, we have welcomed ZOA National President Morton Klein, Chairman of the Board Dr. Michael Goldblatt, NEC Chairman Dr. Alan Mazurek, Steven Goldberg, Sam and Simcha Appelbaum, Lewis Dashe, Jan Fenster, Len Getz, Aggie Hoffman, David Jacobs, Marc Pevar, Rubin Margules, and Stanley and Judy Rosenberg.
- Since the last ZOA Report, ZOA-Israel has been interviewed four times by *Israel National News* radio and TV, twice by Zev Brenner’s *Talkline* radio and TV, and by *The Jerusalem Post*’s Jonathan Rosenblum and *CNS News*’ Julie Stahl. The Samaria Regional Council also interviewed us for a traveling video presentation, most recently shown in Los Angeles. Several of our Letters to the Editor and talkbacks were published in *The Jerusalem Post* and *Ynet News*.
- ZOA-Israel is planning a symposium in Jerusalem highlighting the dangers of Palestinian statehood and proposing viable alternatives. Scheduled for early fall, this public education program will build on two Knesset forums held in the spring for a select audience of media, government and policy professionals. ZOA-Israel participated in the two Knesset forums; our contribution to the speaker lineup for the first forum was acknowledged by the MK chair. Our own community event will feature Minister Ya’alon, several MKs and prominent academics.
- ZOA-Israel continues to play a key role in the planning and implementation of ZOA missions. Currently, we are facilitating a Christian Ministers Mission sponsored by ZOA’s Pittsburgh chapter, a Security Mission by ZOA’s LA/West Coast chapter, a Collegiate Mission by ZOA’s Campus Activism Network, and a Leadership Mission in coordination with ZOA’s national office.



## MICHIGAN

The Michigan region has been working diligently on getting Gale Publishing, a division of MacMillan located in Michigan, to remove a chapter on Zionism from its *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. We have gathered hundreds of names on ZOA-sponsored petitions that will be presented to Gale's president.

In another effort, we have collected over 500 signatures urging Michigan Congressmen to sign on to House Con. Res. 29, which calls for stricter measures concerning funds going to UNRWA.

Our recent activities include an Education Series with speakers Zion Uness, Amb. (Ret.) Yoram Ettinger, and ZOA's own Dan Pollak; and a Lunch and Learn session with ZOA National President Morton Klein. Members of the Michigan region joined other ZOA activists at ZOA's Mission to Washington, DC.

We are proud to have doubled our e-mail list in the last six months. Our supporters receive important articles and are notified weekly about upcoming activities.

## LA / WEST COAST

The West Coast region of the ZOA has been revitalized with the appointment of a new Executive Director, Mark Paredes, in February. He is our first Mormon Executive Director with long experience working in the Jewish community as an American Diplomat in Israel and as the outreach director for the Los Angeles Israel Consulate. In addition, the chapter has a new President, Dr. Reed Wilson, and 10 new board members who have been active in the community for many years.

The chapter made a major impact by hosting IDF Colonel Benzi Gruber, who spoke about the Gaza war; *Jerusalem Post* analyst Gil Hoffman who gave an analysis of the new Netanyahu government; and Yesha spokesperson Raphaella Segal from Kedumim who also spoke to our chapter in San Diego.

President Wilson and Executive Director Paredes have been featured in articles in the *Jewish Journal*, the major Jewish paper in Los Angeles. The board has been reorganized into key committees that will monitor the local media and outreach to the ethnic mosaic of Los Angeles. There will also be membership, programming and fundraising committees. Both the LA and San Diego chapters participated in their local Israel Festivals and Yom Ha'Atzmaut events.

Executive Director Paredes recently spoke in Sweden and Norway to a large Jewish and Christian audience about Israel and anti-Semitism in Europe. Mark will be making another tour of European countries in September to speak to Christian groups about Israel in Holland, Germany, Poland and the Baltic countries.

In the next few months, the region will be hosting the famous cartoonist Dry Bones and Nidra Poller, an expert on anti-Semitism in France.

## PHILADELPHIA

The Greater Philadelphia District conducted four presentations of "Jihad Unveiled: A Film and Lecture Series," featuring talks by Daniel Mandel, ZOA's Director of the Center for Middle East Policy, and other scholars.

We spearheaded a letter-writing and telephone response to the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia's one-sided panel discussion on Islam and were joined by ADL, Brith Sholom, JCRC and the Interfaith Taskforce for America and Israel.

Co-President Leonard Getz and Executive Director Steve Feldman co-authored an article based on a two-day seminar at West Chester University featuring a slew of anti-Israel speakers. It was published in the *Philadelphia Bulletin* and referenced in numerous educational web-sites and blogs, including the Middle East Forum's Campus Watch.

Co-President Marc Pevar posted the video "Sderot Ordeal" on YouTube, which has been viewed by more than 45,000 people worldwide.

The new executive editor of the *Jewish Exponent*, Lisa Hostein, met with members of our executive committee to discuss our concerns about the paper's coverage of Israel and the Middle East.

We met with Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia and a close associate of the Pope; ZOA was the only organization that questioned the Pope's position on Jerusalem. We also presented Rigali with documentation about the persecution of Christians (including Catholics) at the hands of radical Muslims.

We staffed a booth at the city's official Israel Independence Day celebration. We have offered for sale educational videos about the dangers of Jihad, and produced a DVD about Islamic terrorism.

## PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh chapter has a new Executive Director, Stuart Pavilack, who came to the ZOA from Israel Bonds with an array of experience in membership building, fundraising, programming and administration. Under Stuart's leadership, the Pittsburgh region is doing extensive outreach to Christian ministers and pastors, including organizing a mission of 15 Christian leaders on a fully subsidized trip to Israel.

In October, the Pittsburgh region will be hosting the famous Israeli cartoonist Yaakov Kirschen, better known as Dry Bones, for a series of lectures. Dry Bones recently did a cartoon featuring the ZOA which can be found on his Web site, [drybonesblog.com](http://drybonesblog.com). In November, Nidra Poller, an American writer who lives in France, will be speaking to us about anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism in Europe, focusing on the al-Dura and Halimi cases that have made international news.

On a personal note about our lay leadership, the President of the region, Zalman Shapiro, recently received his 15th patent from the US Patent office at the young age of 89.

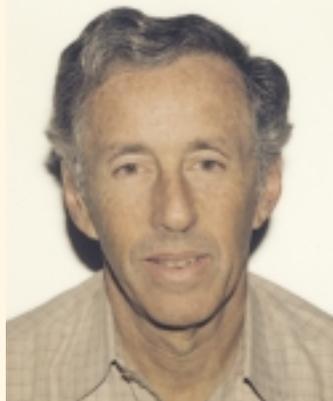
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## LARRY HOCHBERG

ZOA National Board Member



Larry J. Hochberg, one of ZOA's newer board members, speaks as if his success in business over the decades was simply a prelude to what he actually does and wants to do more of – help the Jewish people. He is an unabashed American whose first concern is the best interests of the United States. Based on historical fact, he believes that the values of the U.S. and Israel are usually in sync.

Over half a century ago, when Hochberg was only 20 years old, he co-founded and was president of Children's Bargain Town, which evolved into Toys "R" Us. He is also the founder and CEO of Sportmart, and a director in a host of other enterprises. In addition to his many business ventures, Hochberg has a long record of Jewish activism dating back 42 years.

Hochberg's first marriage of 37 years was cut short by the death of his first wife, Barbara. He has been remarried ten years and has two children, whom he proudly describes as "pillars of the Chicago Jewish community." He also has 13 grandchildren from his own children and those of his wife, Sue.

Chicago born and bred, Hochberg's first communal involvement came with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. He was the founder of the Aliyah Council and later acted in various leadership capacities in the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles (where he resides six months of the year), AIPAC, Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, the American Jewish Committee, Hillel (which, in October, will dedicate the new Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Student Life at the University of Wisconsin) and many other groups, including several that are currently active in Europe.

What started Hochberg in the direction of Jewish communal activism? "My recognition of Jewish vulnerability began with the Six Day War," he replies. "I saw that Israel's position was precarious and we had less Jews than we had 30 years before. My basic motivation comes from that, as well as the fact that Israel is always in danger."

Hochberg describes himself as "pretty mainline," citing as examples his six years as a director of AIPAC and five years as National Chairman of Friends of the IDF. His interest in the ZOA increased as the situation facing Israel and its supporters changed. The 1975 UN Resolution that endorsed the "Zionism is racism" canard served, as Hochberg puts it, as his "entry into Jewish advocacy." "At that time," he explains, "the wealthy Jewish leadership was thinking, 'Let's not ruffle feathers.' I disagreed and actively discouraged Jews from holidaying in Mexico which voted for that heinous resolution, and finally this Mexican flirtation with the anti-Zionist campaign stopped. The same happened with regard to Soviet Jewry. Again, many establishment Jews thought that art was art and one shouldn't interfere with, say, a tour of the Bolshoi Ballet. Others

disagreed and used every avenue of protest to highlight the predicament of Soviet Jewry."

Above all, it is Israel's dangerous strategic and diplomatic predicament today that arouses Hochberg's worry. He sees other Jewish organizations as failing to adequately speak out at this crucial juncture, whereas the ZOA, he says, has been generally correct all along on the issues that count.

He cites the ZOA's efforts to stimulate debate on President Barack Obama's recent statements on the Middle East. "I'm distressed by Mr. Obama's moral equivalence as to the reasons why there is a conflict and why the Palestinian Arabs do not have a state. He seems to have found the simplest agenda item to split Jewish opinion – settlements – and is exploiting it as effectively as he can. I think he knows exactly what he's doing. ZOA has been on to this from the beginning and the task now is to convince enough Senators, especially Democrats, to confront him on his poor choice of initiative. He began by reaching out to Iran, while making a central issue of Jewish settlements. His appreciation of Israel's predicament is more equivocal than even many European leaders. It's as if he doesn't see that Israel, if forced back to the pre-1967 lines, which former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban characterized as 'Auschwitz' borders, will have a 9-mile waist. Obama is a brilliant communicator and organizer and I wouldn't give up on him yet. But our worst fears have been authenticated and the situation, left unchanged, is dangerous."

In highlighting the ZOA's accuracy on the issues, Hochberg cited the ZOA's frequent reminders that the Palestinian covenant advocates the destruction of Israel and has never been amended. He also noted that the ZOA was correct in predicting the disastrous consequences of Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.

Hochberg stresses that he does not see himself as a lone wolf or maverick, merely a clear-sighted figure who wants the mainstream Jewish community to do its job of defending Jewish interests – even when this means taking on a popular president. "I just don't want Jewish leadership and organizations to become like their counterparts during World War II, when they were reluctant to forcefully raise urgent and sensitive issues with a popular president like Franklin Roosevelt."

"Most of our Family Foundation money goes into supporting the efforts of others doing important work. That's why I look around to find people and organizations who are passionate and effective but lack wide-range support. We can only get things done with capable people doing them, and we support over 50 Jewish organizations where we have little active personal involvement. The reason I began supporting ZOA was because I ignored the press and looked at ZOA's track record on issues which is good, despite ZOA repeatedly being marginalized and maligned. I have great confidence in Mort Klein and Gary Ratner."

Regarding his vision for ZOA in the years ahead, Hochberg says that he foresees ZOA working more with Christian groups. He notes the big impact that such groups can and should have – groups like Pastor John Hagee's Christians United for Israel and other, under-recognized organizations like Proclaiming Justice to the Nations.

Before concluding, Hochberg returns to his central concern: "I think organizations like AIPAC did an important job holding out Israel as a democratic friend and ally. Today, however, we need even more than that. Today, support for Israel cannot be only quiet and legislative. It has to be open and focused on vital issues, like the Palestinian Authority's lack of bona fides as a true peace partner for Israel."

## ZOA CRITICIZES OBAMA FOR LINKING PALESTINIAN/IRAN ISSUE



The ZOA has expressed deep concern about President Obama's open-ended approach to negotiating with Iran over its continuing drive to obtain nuclear weapons. We are also immensely troubled by the President's linkage of the Iranian issue to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The President and other officials in his administration have rightly observed that a nuclear-armed Iran poses a serious threat to the security of the United States and other western nations, not only to Israel. Yet they have indicated that they will condition, to some extent, what the United States does in countering the Iranian threat, based on Israel's willingness to make major concessions to the existing Palestinian Authority (PA) terror regime.

The President's position is unreasonable and illogical. Weakening or pressuring Israel will not deter Iran from its determination to acquire nuclear weapons. Moreover, Arab states that are concerned about the looming Iranian nuclear threat will not need to be induced to cooperate with the U.S. in our efforts to prevent Iran from manufacturing nuclear weapons.

Either Iran poses a major security threat to the United States and other nations, or it doesn't. If it does, then President Obama must do everything possible to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, without conditioning U.S. efforts on Israel's willingness to make concessions to the PA.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**ZOA ANNUAL JUSTICE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS DINNER & 96th NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009**  
**CONVENTION CONTINUES MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**



GEN. MOSHE YA'ALON



ROBERT GUZZARDI



JEFF JACOBY

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*Vice Prime Minister of the State of Israel*  
*Former Chief of Staff, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)*

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*Vice Chairman of the ZOA's National Executive Committee*

BEN HECHT AWARD FOR JOURNALISM  
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## PRIVATE BRIEFINGS WITH U.S. AND ISRAELI LEADERS

*The ZOA's National Board of Directors was privileged to receive several briefings by conference call apprising them of the latest issues concerning the Middle East and U.S.-Israel relations. After each briefing, ZOA participants had the opportunity to ask questions of our distinguished guests.*

July, 2009

**Special Guest: U.S. Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA)**

**Congressman Berman is Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is a strong supporter of Israel, telling one newspaper, "Even before I was a Democrat, I was a Zionist."**



Congressman Berman stressed that Iran is the single most important issue not only for Israel, but for America's security as well. Together with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and 60 co-sponsors, he introduced comprehensive legislation that would increase the sanctions on Iran should Iran be unwilling to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. He said that if other nations don't step up to confront this issue, "we will push harder and not let Iran become a nuclear arms state."

The Congressman expressed concern about certain aspects of President Obama's June 2009 speech in Cairo, and stated that he has had disagreements with the Administration. He feels strongly that the Administration cannot waive the conditions that Hamas must meet in order to reach a peace agreement. He is skeptical that an agreement will come quickly as long as Hamas is in control of Gaza. Congressman Berman does believe that there are at least some Palestinians who are prepared to accept Israel as a homeland for the Jews.

As to rumors that the U.S. might cut its aid to Israel, Congressman Berman emphatically rejected them: "There will be no cut in aid to Israel while I am in Congress. Don't believe any reports of cuts."

July, 2009

**Special Guest: Ron Dermer, Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Netanyahu**

**Ron Dermer is Director of Policy Planning and Communications for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Many describe him as the Prime Minister's most trusted and influential advisor on policy, strategy and media matters.**



Mr. Dermer provided comments and insights on Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech in June 2009. In his view, there is no scenario in which the Palestinians will recognize Israel.

Mr. Dermer emphasized that the Israeli government will ensure that the

problem of Palestinian Arab incitement to hatred and violence against Jews and Israel is on the Prime Minister's agenda and that it will have the attention of the world. What the Palestinian children are reading and seeing will tell us where the peace process is. He indicated that Israel's Education Minister will be focusing on bringing Zionism back into the schools.

Mr. Dermer said that the Prime Minister will not create an enemy state. He will not compromise on his core beliefs. If Jews are in danger, there will be no peace agreement.

July, 2009

**Special Guest: Dr. Martin Sherman of Tel Aviv University**

**Dr. Sherman is academic director of the Jerusalem Summit and lectures in security studies at Tel Aviv University. For seven years, he served in Israeli intelligence. He was a ministerial advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and has testified before Congress on Mideast security matters.**



Dr. Sherman evaluated the prospects for success of peace negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel in the aftermath of Prime Minister Netanyahu's June 2009 speech. He strongly believes that the parameters set out in the speech will be unacceptable to the Palestinians – particularly the Prime Minister's condition that a Palestinian state would have to be demilitarized.

Dr. Sherman cautioned that the problem is not agreeing to a demilitarized Palestinian state, but enforcing that agreement. There is a whole range of weapons that could "slip under the radar" if a purportedly demilitarized Palestinian state were established. There are many agreements the Arabs have made that they have violated.

Dr. Sherman rejected the concept of land for peace. The Palestinians may say that they will abide by the concept, but they will reverse this position under new leadership that will not feel bound by such agreements. In Dr. Sherman's view, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza was a huge expense and trauma that was not completely foreseen.

Dr. Sherman believes that Israel is losing the diplomatic war because it doesn't want to win it. Israel is choosing to surrender to, rather than resist, the pressure to agree to a Palestinian state. In his view, this places Israel and its people in danger.



### ZOA PRAISES NETANYAHU FOR POSITIONS ON JEWISH STATE, JERUSALEM, INCITEMENT, NATURAL GROWTH & CONFLICT'S ROOTS

The Zionist Organization of America has welcomed several aspects of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy speech delivered at Bar Ilan University on June 14, 2009. Netanyahu stated that the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Arabs' non-acceptance of Jewish statehood; that the Palestinians need to accept Israel and end terror and incitement; that Jerusalem should remain undivided; that the Land of Israel is the Jewish homeland, and that Jews are not European interlopers; that Israeli territorial concessions have led to more terror attacks and bloodshed; that Jewish communities in the territories need to enjoy normal growth and development, like families elsewhere; that Palestinian refugees and their descendants must be settled outside Israel; and that radical Islam and nuclear weapons are the greatest dangers facing the world.

## ZOA CO-SPONSORS MASSIVE PURIM CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF SDEROT CHILDREN AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS

The Zionist Organization of America and the Orthodox Union, with the support of other organizations, mounted a multifaceted Purim initiative to demonstrate support for residents of Sderot and the Western Negev, and the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces.

Several projects comprised the ambitious Purim campaign, which included the following:

- The **IDF Mishloach Manot Project** was the centerpiece project – 4,000 *mishloach manot* were distributed to soldiers at various army bases throughout Israel, as well as to needy Sderot and Western Negev residents. It was made possible by generous donations collected by ZOA's Brooklyn Region President, Rubin Margules, who led his ninth annual Purim mission. Over 300 volunteers came to the OU's Israel Center in Jerusalem to prepare packages for distribution.
- The **Prepare for Purim Shopping Trip** to the economically depressed communities of Sderot and Netivot was organized in order to provide concerned individuals with the opportunity to provide monetary and moral support. A highlight of the trip was an in-depth briefing by the Sderot Media Center's Director, Noam Bedein, about the troubling realities of life under rocket fire.
- **Sderot Vendors Fair** was organized at the OU Israel Center so that businesses in Sderot and the Western Negev, whose rocket-plagued communities had been rarely visited by outsiders, could provide safer access to customers. The highly successful pre-Purim bazaar was attended by hundreds of supportive Jerusalemites.



## ZOA-ISRAEL ORGANIZED PASSOVER TOUR OF SAMARIA TO CELEBRATE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF PIONEERING COMMUNITY

On April 12, 2009, the Zionist Organization of America, in cooperation with the Samaria Liaison Office, organized a Passover tour of Samaritan Biblical and strategic sites on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the premier pioneering community, Elon Moreh. The visit was designed to honor the brave Zionist pioneers whose vision and dedication 30 years ago resulted in the many vibrant and diverse communities seen today.

ZOA-Israel intends to conduct similar tours on a regular basis in order to educate Israelis, visitors, leadership and media about the strategic importance of these sites, as well as their historical and Jewish cultural significance. Our position is that until you have an opportunity to see with your own eyes how close these communities are to Ben Gurion Airport, the skyscrapers of Tel Aviv and 70% of Israel's population and industrial base, you cannot appreciate how much of an existential threat withdrawal from these areas would constitute to Israel's vital center.

In addition to various events at Elon Moreh, the tour included, among other destinations:

- A visit to Sebastia, the ancient capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the site where Gush Emunim started the settlement movement after the Six Day War.
- A trip to Havat Gilad and/or Givot Olam to meet local leaders and learn about the young pioneers of new hilltop communities.
- An overview of Biblical Shechem and Joseph's Tomb from Mitzpeh Yosef on Mount Grizim.

**ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA**

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