



# ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

## 800 ATTEND STAR-STUDDED ZOA DINNER



**Cong. Michele Bachmann (MIN)**  
Presidential Candidate



**Glenn Beck**  
Media Superstar, TV/Radio Host  
Author, 6 NY Times Bestsellers  
Adelson Defender of Israel Award



**Cong. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL)**  
Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Dr. Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Award



**Dr. Miriam Adelson**  
Distinguished Physician  
Adelson Defender of Israel Presenter



**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**  
Video Address to ZOA



**Sheldon Adelson**  
Renowned Entrepreneur & Philanthropist  
Adelson Defender of Israel Presenter



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ZOA People: Dr. Ben Chouake  
**ZOA Student Leadership Israel Trip**  
PA & Iran Clerics Call for Murdering Jews  
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**SPRING  
2012**



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# The ZOA

has a proud and deserved reputation for telling the simple truth, whether popular or not. Remember, truth is not a political position. We take positions that are unpopular or contrary to received wisdom if we believe the situation warrants it. The Obama Administration's policy of engaging, strengthening and legitimizing the extreme, jihadist Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is an example of this: contrary to what the Obama Administration has said about the Muslim Brotherhood being responsible, democratic, or non-threatening, the ZOA firmly believes that the U.S. should not engage it.

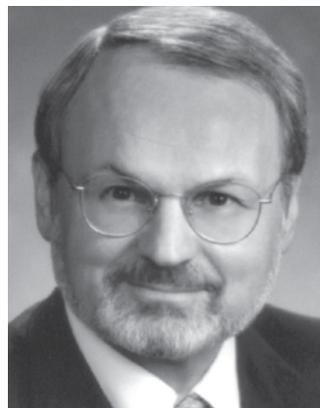
It didn't require the gift of prophecy to foresee that the Muslim Brotherhood would make great strides in the wake of the Hosni Mubarak regime. Contrary to its international image, Egyptian society is not moderate. A 2010 Pew poll found that Egyptians would like to see shariah law instituted: 82% of Egyptians want adulterers stoned, 77% want thieves to be whipped and their hands amputated and 84% favor the death penalty for Muslims who change religion. A 2007 University of Maryland survey showed that 67% of Egyptians favor the re-establishment of a single, Islamic state, or Caliphate, while 74% favored strict application of

Sharia law in every Islamic country.

For these reasons, we opposed U.S. efforts last year to push the regime off the stage and replace it with whatever emerged in new elections. Not because we're opposed to democracy; quite the contrary: in a society like Egypt that has known only autocracy and Islamism, we fully expected that early elections would see anti-democratic forces like the Muslim Brotherhood grow and in time gain power.

Unfortunately, the Obama Administration embarked on policies that have helped bring about this result. Already in June 2009, Obama invited the parliamentary bloc of the Brotherhood, then a banned party, to attend his Cairo speech.

The Brotherhood's nature and history are not secrets. It was founded in 1928 by Hassan Al-Banna. Before and during World War Two, it collaborated



**Morton A. Klein**  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

with Nazi Germany. Its leading intellectual figure, Sayyid Qutb, is the inspiration for Al Qaeda and other Islamist terrorist movements. The Palestinian branch of the Brotherhood, Hamas, is a blood-soaked terrorist organization which calls in its charter for the destruction of Israel and the worldwide murder of Jews.

The Muslim Brotherhood platform, leaked in August 2007, calls for jihad, states that "Islam is the official state religion and Islamic sharia is the main source for

Brotherhood."

In the first round of Egyptian elections in December, the Brotherhood, operating as the Freedom & Justice Party (FJP) captured 37% of the vote, while other radical Islamists attracted a further 25% - an Islamist majority. Upcoming rounds of votes look likely to confirm or augment this strong Islamist showing.

All of which increases the likelihood of the new eventual Egyptian government abrogating the 1979 Egyptian/Israeli

Why, then, is the U.S., which has given Egypt over \$40 billion over 30 years in support of the peace treaty, legitimizing and engaging a jihadist, misogynist movement intent on consigning the peace treaty to the ash heap?

Ahead of the December elections, the Brotherhood struck from its English website bylaws calling for "establishing the Islamic state," or caliphate. And after Osama bin Laden was killed, it issued praise in English. But it also contains

obligations that the Government of Egypt has undertaken."

It is inexcusable to claim extremists are moderates while assisting them into taking power. Yet President Obama is doing just that.

The ZOA has publicly urged the Obama Administration to warn Egypt that abrogating the Egyptian/Israeli peace treaty, under which Egypt receives U.S. aid, will lead to the termination of U.S. aid. Egypt is a recipient of massive U.S. aid for one reason only - because it concluded a peace agreement with Israel. Had it not done so, it would never have received over \$40 billion of aid from the U.S. taxpayer.

We have also urged Israel to make it clear to Cairo that, in the event that Egypt abrogates the treaty, Israel will no longer be bound by its terms and will consider retaking the Sinai and its Israeli-developed oil-wells. The peace treaty is a legal, contractual undertaking. It is both absurd and unthinkable that Egypt can abrogate the peace treaty, yet retain all of what it gained by signing it, while Israel is deprived of all it gained under the treaty..

With Zionist greetings,



Morton A. Klein  
National President

**A 2010 Pew poll found that Egyptians would like to see shariah law instituted: 82% of Egyptians want adulterers stoned, 77% want thieves to be whipped and their hands amputated and 84% favor the death penalty for Muslims who change religion.**

legislation." It stipulates that the president and legislative branch will be advised by clerics who must approve decisions and that non-Muslims will be barred from the presidency, which is also held to be unsuitable for women.

Yet, absurdly, President Obama's National Intelligence director, James Clapper, said that the group is "largely secular" and not particularly extreme while another Obama adviser, Bruce Riedel, argued that America "should not be afraid of the Muslim

treaty. In recent weeks, the deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Rashad al-Bayoumi, said regarding the peace treaty that, "To me, it isn't binding at all... On no condition will we recognize Israel. It is an enemy entity."

Last year, the Brotherhood leader, Muhammad Badi', spoke enthusiastically of jihad and called for a state based on Islamic law. He also spoke optimistically about the U.S. heading for a collapse. Also last year, too, Bayoumi emphasized the objective of abrogating the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

statements in Arabic decrying his "martyrdom" and condemning his "assassination."

Yet, the Obama Administration pretends that gentle words in English confirm its moderate, democratic credentials. It hears what it wants to hear and ignores what it doesn't, contenting itself, in the words of the State Department, with "assurances from the party with regard to their commitment not only to universal human rights, but to the international

# SAVE THE DATE

## ZOA MISSION TO WASHINGTON

**Wednesday  
April 25, 2012**

**GIVE ONE DAY OF  
YOUR LIFE FOR ISRAEL**

Join the Zionist Organization  
of America Mission on  
Capitol Hill in Washington,  
D.C. Your voice matters –  
make sure it is heard

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## AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MORTON KLEIN

**Mort gave three lectures** at the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon Adelson Day School in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**He was a scholar-in-residence** at two synagogues in Nashville, Tennessee and also spoke at synagogues in Palm Beach and Naples, Florida as well as several churches in Florida to over 200 pastors and ministers.

**Mort debated Seymour Reich**, past Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and past President of the Israel Policy Forum at a synagogue in Westchester County, New York.

**During his trip to Israel** in February, he met with top political and military leaders; he gave two lectures there as well. Mort also appeared on several TV and radio shows including the Rita Cosby Show.

**Newspapers and magazines** quoted Mort numerous times on Israel issues, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Associated Press*, *Newsweek* and many Jewish papers.

**He had op-eds appear** in the Jewish media as well, including the *Jerusalem Report* and *Israel Hayom*, Israel's leading newspaper.

**Mort had travelled** around the country meeting with donors and potential donors from San Francisco to LA and San Diego to Las Vegas to Florida and back to New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia.

**Sadly, Mort traveled to LA** to attend the funeral of one of ZOA's greatest benefactors and friends – Newt Becker, founder of the largest string of CPA training programs in the world.



## Almost 800 Attend ZOA Dinner

**MEDIA SUPERSTAR GLENN BECK,  
HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS CHAIR ROS-LEHTINEN,  
CONG. MICHELE BACHMANN &  
PM NETANYAHU SPOKE**

# Almost

800 people attended the Zionist Organization of America's (ZOA) 114th Louis B. Brandeis Award National Dinner on Sunday, November 20 at New York City's elegant Grand Hyatt Hotel. Media superstar and seven-time NY Times best-selling author Glenn Beck, U.S. Congresswoman and House Foreign Relations Committee Chair, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) were keynote speakers at the dinner, at which they were also honored. Mr. Beck was awarded the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award. U.S. Cong. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu also spoke. Prominent philanthropists Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson spoke and personally presented the Adelson Award to Beck.

U.S. Cong. Ann Marie Buerkle and Robert Turner from NY, Cong. Dan Burton from Indiana and Cong. Joe Walsh from Illinois also attended the dinner. Other prominent guests included Richard Stone, Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Steve Emerson, terrorism expert. Rep. Ros-Lehtinen was awarded the Dr. Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Award. William K. Langfan and Mark Langfan, prominent lawyers and real estate entrepreneurs were honored with the Louis B. Brandeis Award. Jerome and Judy Taylor, distinguished philanthropists, received the Maccabee Award.

In his video address to the dinner guests, Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke of the "remarkable and important ZOA." ZOA's "courage and integrity" which, he observed, under Mort Klein's leadership, had been "absolutely fearless" in fighting for the truth and working to advance the cause of Israel with the government, media and the American public. Mr. Netanyahu said, in these times of "seismic changes across the Middle East," the ZOA had been "unflinching" in its advocacy for which "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart." "I also want to congratulate Glenn Beck for winning the Adelson Defender of Israel Award. If Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson put their name on something, it must stand for a lot," Netanyahu said. "Glenn...you stand for a lot. You too have been fearless in defending Israel against the slanders that are hurled against [it]. You've done that with considerable personal cost, but you've never backed off, you've never flinched, you've never walked away. And I want to tell you how deeply we appreciate this stand of courage and integrity." Prime Minister Netanyahu also strongly praised Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Miriam and Sheldon Adelson, long-time and powerful supporters of Israel.

ZOA Board Member Harvey Friedman introduced Rep.



**Morton Klein, ZOA National President responds to Cong. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) speaking at the dais**

# ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Adelson Defender of Israel Awardee and Media Superstar Glenn Beck addresses the 800-person ZOA Annual Dinner

Ros-Lehtinen, describing her as a “national treasure to every Jew in the U.S.” and describing her legislative efforts opposing U.S. funding of both Mahmoud Abbas’ Palestinian Authority (PA) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Rep. Ros-Lehtinen came to the podium and was greeted with a standing ovation. In her address, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen commenced by saying that she was “proud to be associated for so many years with ZOA.” She spoke of two dinner attendees, residents of the Jewish community of Kedumim in Samaria, stating sarcastically that “they’re an impediment to peace, because they live in the Judean & Samaritan community of Kedumim.” Turning to the Iranian threat, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen said that the Obama Administration’s policy for stopping Iran had been completely ineffective: “all we’ve got is a further three years closer to Iran getting a nuclear bomb.” She called for further U.S. action, including genuinely “crippling sanctions to help bring this regime down ... We passed the sanctions bill [H.R. 1905] targeting Iran’s Central Bank.” Speaking of the U.N. Reform, Transparency and Accountability Act [H.R. 2829], an earlier law which the Congress had passed that cuts funds to UN agencies that raise the states of the Palestinians, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen recounted how the Obama Administration had sought “flexibility” in its application, to which she had

retorted with emphasis that “no flexibility” on the law would be allowed. She also referred to the views of the Obama Administration and Palestinian apologists before pausing and adding, “Did I repeat myself?”

**I**sraeli scholar and director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Professor Efraim Inbar, presented the Louis B. Brandeis Award to William K. Langfan and Mark Langfan. Inbar said, “Bar-Ilan University is the only Zionist university left in Israel,” saying that Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, for example, were “not Zionist” in his opinion. “There are many Bolshevik post-Zionists at these universities, who pack their faculties with similar-minded lecturers. The Israeli universities are overflowing with post-Modernists who undermine not only Zionism but academic truth itself.”

Inbar said that although he knows that there are also Zionist lecturers at the various Social Studies faculties, they are outnumbered. “An evil wind is emanating from these places,” he said.

ZOA National Chairman of the Board, Dr. Michael Goldblatt delivered the presentation to Maccabee Award recipients Judy and Jerome Taylor, noting that they had been “long-time pro-Israel activists” who had worked side by side for years on behalf of Israel. He also noted that Judy Taylor’s father had been involved in prosecuting Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg war crime trials, so that working “to protect Jews was in her genes.”

ZOA National President Morton Klein introduced U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, observing that, while



Center: Cong. Robert Turner (R-NY) and Board Member Jim Pollack

# ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

many speak of the importance of Israeli security, all too few speak of “the sacredness of the land of Israel.” If security was the entire issue for Israelis, they should move to Minnesota, it’s safer there. That’s why we’re there. While noting that the ZOA does not endorse any political candidates, Klein described Rep. Bachman as “dynamic, principled and committed to her beliefs.” Rep. Bachman opened by describing herself as a lover of Israel. “Although I’m not a Jew, I’m a Christian, we have something in common, the book of Genesis, which states that ‘Those who bless Israel will be blessed and those that curse Israel will be cursed.’ I stand with Israel.”

**S**he said her first foreign policy directive on Day 1 of her presidency would be moving the U.S. embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Palestinians “must recognize Israel’s right to exist and renounce violence” if they expect to become a serious partner for peace and that, under current conditions, Israel should cede to the Palestinians “not one acre, not one square foot, not one inch.” She chastised President Obama for failing to support Israel, saying, “President Obama stands with Occupy Wall Street, but he doesn’t stand with Israel. When Israel looks at President Obama, they don’t see a friend.”

The United States “must sell Israel the additional fighter jets, bunker buster bombs, refueling tankers, and other materials they need to defend themselves,” she said. She also said the United States should continue its “comprehensive missile system” in the Middle East. Rep. Bachman also spoke of the existential threat posed by Iran to both Israel and the U.S., declaring that the “Pentagon should prepare a war plan as a last resort, should all else fail in preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons.” She said that, while “only a fool wishes for war,” other steps, like a naval blockade of Iranian ports, increased intelligence operations against Iran and “crushing economic sanctions” were adequate for the gravity of the threat. She called on President Barack Obama “to accelerate covert operations and cyber operations in Iran and order the CIA Director to take all means necessary to stop Iran from getting the Bomb before it is too late.” Asserting that Iranian President Ahmadinejad was “striving for a second Holocaust,” Bachman said that “once again millions of Jews are at the precipice of losing their lives today.” Ahmadinejad, she said, “will seek to use nuclear weapons against the US as well – and the US will learn what it is to be Israel if it does not act quickly.” She said that the US Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State and CIA director must all support this “freedom policy” and that those in the bureaucracy who fail to do so – “especially in the State Department” – should be

replaced.

ZOA Vice-Chairman of the National Board Steve Goldberg introduced Morton Klein pointing out that, “Without Mort, there would be no ZOA. Mort rescued it when it was moribund...your shoes are too big and cannot be filled...all the ZOA’s past leaders, including Louis Brandeis and Abba Hillel Silver pale in comparison to Mort Klein.”

Mort Klein commenced his address by praising Christian Zionists for their heartfelt support of Israel, especially at a time when Israel has few reliable friends. “We applaud Christian Zionists, thank G-d for you ... People forget that Israel is called the Promised Land for a reason - because it was promised to the Jewish people by G-d.” He emphasized that, unlike several other Jewish organizations, the ZOA was active in bringing Jewish students not just to Israel, but specifically also to Jewish communities in Judea-Samaria like Efrat, Gush Etzion, Maale Adumim, Hebron, Ariel, and so on.

Klein spoke of the ZOA Law and Justice Center, headed by Susan Tuchman, and its important breakthrough in having



Dinner Emcee, Dr. Alan Mazurek, Morton Klein, ZOA Board Member, Harvey Friedman give the Dr. Irving and Cherna Moskowitz Award to the Chairperson of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Cong. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which has applied to blacks and Hispanics, now applied to protecting Jewish students from discrimination, intimidation and harassment. He noted that the Office of Civil Rights would be investigating incidents involving Jewish students at Rutgers University.

In his remarks, Klein criticized Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League and David Harris of the American Jewish Committee for their strong opposition to an Israeli bill on sovereign foreign countries providing millions of dollars to

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anti-Israel non-governmental organizations that operate in Israel under the guise of being human rights organizations.

**T**urning to the Arab war on Israel, Klein observed that “the Arab war against Israel has nothing to do with borders, land, settlements or a Palestinian state. It is simply old-fashioned Jew-hatred and anti-Semitism. The Arabs don’t want a Jewish state within any borders. Please understand, Arabs don’t want peace with the Jewish state, they never wanted peace with the Jewish state. And as much as we want peace, Israel will live and thrive without it as it has since 1948.” Klein also noted that the world was silent on the fact that Hamas, with which Mahmoud Abbas’ PA had signed earlier this year a unity government agreement and with whose leader, Khaled Meshal, Abbas had met earlier in the week, calls in Article 7 of its Charter for the global murder of Jews - “This is a Nazi document, these are Nazi terrorists” and, to show that Fatah is similar, Klein held aloft the Fatah emblem, encompassing all of Israel under a Palestinian keffiyeh, with a picture of arch-terrorist Yasser Arafat and a Kalashnikov rifle.

Klein continued, “The PA has violated the three legs of the Oslo accords. The PA has not stopped terrorism, has not accepted Israel’s right to exist, and refuses to stop anti-Israel incitement. Why are U.S. officials and Israeli officials not speaking out against this in a serious manner. We should be telling the PA: ‘no more money, no more support, no more concessions.’ People speak as though a Palestinian state was the solution. It isn’t. Iran, Syria, North Korea - they’re all states, but that hasn’t made them lovely and peaceful. In fact, it gives them more power to advance their terrible agenda. American Jews are now understanding this; for the first time since Oslo, a majority of American Jews oppose establishing a Palestinian state.” In a blistering attack on the Palestinians and on U.S. policy, Klein listed unjust accusations hurled against Jews since the time of the Crucifixion, drawing parallels to the current situation of Israel and the Jews and summing up with a sentence that seemed to encapsulate the attitude of most of the evening’s participants: “The whole world is wrong, and the Jews are right.” Klein received a standing ovation.

Sheldon Adelson and Dr. Miriam Adelson, stalwart supporters of ZOA and recipients of its rarely bestowed Theodor Herzl Gold Medallion and Brandeis Award respectively, introduced keynote speaker Glenn Beck. Mr. Adelson said first of Mort Klein that, “I used to think that my wife was the strongest Zionist until I met Mort. He’s my Zionist mentor. He’s the greatest and most passionate Zionist, not only in this country but in the world.” In introducing Mr. Beck, Mr. Adelson described him as a “very special man ...



Left: Maccabee Awardees, Judy & Jerry Taylor and extended family at the ZOA Gala Dinner

We knew he was a giant even before we met him. I’d never known a Christian Zionist like Glenn Beck. Glenn Beck tells the truth about the Arab war against Israel.” Adelson, also the publisher of Israel Hayom (now Israel’s largest daily newspaper), added there is “no greater supporter of Israel in the media today” than Beck. When Palestinians murdered five members of the Fogel family in last March’s Itamar massacre, Beck dedicated an entire show on Fox News to the tragedy and “displayed the pictures that almost every other television network ignored” – Palestinians celebrating the event by handing out candles in the streets – Adelson said.

**G**lenn Beck came to the podium amid a standing ovation and commenced his address with the words, “Well, this isn’t going to help my popularity with the media .. I am a proud Christian Zionist. I know what that means in today’s world. But I put all my chips on the table. Is there a G-d? And if so, how shall I serve Him? The whole world is in the middle of a profound and dramatic change, but the change need not be bad. History is calling us now.” Beck talked about the danger facing Jews because today the world is “aiding and abetting” the ranting of many madmen who are out to destroy Israel and the Jewish people. He pledged to announce on December 8 where he is headed – “there is a vacuum and I intend to stand in its place,” he said – but gave no details as to what he was referring to. Beck said, “Many times you cannot tell the difference any more between peace activists and the terrorists and fascists they claim to stand against.” Mr. Beck reflected on the eight years since he had

# ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER

first gone to Israel and the evolution of his understanding of the country, and how few genuine friends it has, joking, “this is what bad shape things are in, you’ve got me.”

Speaking of the numerous individuals and groups working actively against Israel and the Jewish people, Mr. Beck said that “it’s a badge of honor to be called an enemy of George Soros. Soros is not a friend of Israel and, let me say, neither is the administration. But let me tell you, we the people of the United States are not the government, we are a country built on the individual, not on the government.”

Mr. Beck cast his mind back to several predictions and warnings he has given over the past decade and how he had been looking for what he called the “Archduke Ferdinand moment,” referring to the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand which had triggered World War One. “I spoke of a coming caliphate. I was ridiculed. I even once put it up on a chat on my program, saying ‘This is what is coming’...It will get worse if we don’t stand together now. We must stand with Israel... Jerusalem must remain Israel’s united and undivided capital...I don’t come here as a Christian. I come here as a brother. Evil hates you. It has since the beginning of time. Evil thinks it can somehow force G-d to break his covenant and that it can destroy the Jewish people. Israel wasn’t established because of the Holocaust. That’s just the last time such an attempt was made. Israel was promised by G-d to the Jews.” Mr. Beck pledged to continue his work to speak the truth and to arouse the conscience of his listeners

and was given a tumultuous standing ovation.

This year, a record number of college students—well over 100—attended the dinner. James A. Tisch, former Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and NY Jewish Federation, and CEO of Loews Corp.; and Martin Gross, President of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Member of the Board of Trustees of Brandeis University, were Dinner Co-Chairmen. Rabbi Mark Wildes, director of the Manhattan

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Jewish Experience, delivered the invocation. ZOA Executive Director David Drimer and the entire ZOA staff worked hard on all aspects of the dinner and Dr. Alan Mazurek, Chairman of the ZOA’s National Advisory Council, was Master of Ceremonies, presiding over proceedings with his usual aplomb and elegant wit.



Left: Justice Louis D. Brandeis Awardee Mark Langfan, Dr. Alan Mazurek, Award Presenter and Director of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, Professor Efraim Inbar, Morton Klein, and Justice Louis D. Brandeis Awardee William Langfan



## ZOA's Complaint Triggers Federal Investigation into Anti-Semitism at Rutgers

**On July** 20, 2011, the ZOA filed a complaint against Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), alleging a hostile anti-Semitic campus environment for Jewish students, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination based on "race, color, or national origin" at federally funded schools, including discrimination against Jews based on their actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics. A school that violates Title VI can lose its federal funding.

The complaint was filed after both the ZOA and Jewish students made repeated unsuccessful efforts to resolve the campus problems informally with the Rutgers administration. By letter dated October 26, 2011, OCR notified the ZOA that it would be investigating the following claims in the complaint:

- A Jewish student named John Doe (a pseudonym) was subjected to murderous threats made against him on Facebook by other students— to "shut him up" by "beating him with a crowbar," and to "skin him alive."
- Jewish student John Doe was subjected to anti-Semitic name-calling, threats and intimidation by a university official — the Outreach Coordinator for Rutgers' Center for Middle East Studies. On Facebook, the Outreach Coordinator referred to John Doe as "that racist Zionist pig!!!!!!!!!" and incited other Facebook users against John Doe by encouraging them to go to a Facebook hate page about him. The Outreach Coordinator



Susan Tuchman Director,  
Center for Law and  
Justice

also physically threatened and tried to provoke a physical fight with John Doe, rushing toward him after a student government meeting, pounding on her chest, and yelling, "I'm Palestinian. Do you want to take me on? Do you want to fight? I have thick blood. Try me."

- An anti-Israel student group called BAKA (an acronym for "Belief Awareness Knowledge Action") hosted an anti-Israel event at Rutgers that discriminated against Jewish and pro-Israel students. The event was advertised as free and open to the public. But at the event, the organizers suddenly imposed and selectively enforced an admissions policy, charging a fee to those perceived to be Jewish and pro-Israel, while permitting those perceived to support the anti-Israel event to enter for free. Reportedly, the fee was imposed when the organizers saw how many "Zionists [code for Jews] showed up."



OCR's decision to investigate the ZOA's claims of anti-Semitism at Rutgers is grounded in its October 2010 policy letter, clarifying that Jewish students are entitled to the protections of Title VI. The ZOA played a key role in obtaining that policy clarification.

## ZOA Challenges National Jewish Group's Efforts to Limit Title VI Protections for Jewish Students

**Last** October, the board of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) considered adopting a resolution critical of the Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) new policy affording Title VI protections to Jewish students.

The JCPA's draft resolution tried to limit when Jewish students should use Title VI when they face anti-Semitic harassment or intimidation.

The JCPA describes itself as "the representative voice of the organized American Jewish community in addressing the principal mandate of the Jewish community relations field." Its member agencies include the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, among others.

Although not a member agency of the JCPA, the ZOA submitted a detailed letter to the JCPA board detailing why the draft resolution was unwarranted and unfair and should be rejected. In addition, Susan Tuchman, the Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, attended the JCPA board meeting where the draft resolution was discussed, and was permitted to briefly address the board.

The draft resolution imposed unreasonably harsh standards on when Jewish students should use Title VI to rectify a hostile anti-Semitic school environment – stricter than the standards that OCR applies when it enforces the law. In addition, the JCPA's draft resolution falsely stated that "Title VI is being abused." In fact, at the time that the resolution was under consideration, there were only four known Title VI complaints filed with OCR on behalf of Jewish students. Not one had been dismissed on the ground of being frivolous or an abuse of the law. In fact, OCR agreed that all four cases warranted investigation.

Ultimately, the JCPA board did not endorse the resolution as originally drafted. A revised resolution was prepared and approved, to be considered by the Plenum of JCPA's 14 national and 125 community member agencies (CRCs). The Plenum will take place in Detroit in May 2012. In the meantime, the ZOA is working with community member agencies to amend the JCPA's revised resolution, which is an improvement over the original but still problematic. The revised resolution

The JCPA's draft resolution tried to limit when Jewish students should use Title VI when they face anti-Semitic harassment or intimidation.

wrongly continues to try to set the standards for when Jewish students should seek to enforce their civil rights.

## ZOA Urges UC Berkeley to Cancel Award to Israel-Basher Mary Robinson

**In several** letters to officials at the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, the ZOA urged the School to rescind its decision to honor Israel-basher Mary Robinson in March 2012 as a "2012 Public Health Hero." Robinson is a past president of Ireland and the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The ZOA detailed Robinson's long record of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel animus, rendering her the wrong choice for the award, including the following:

- When Robinson was the president of Ireland (from 1990 to 1997), she played a key role in pushing the European Union (EU) to provide massive support to the terrorist Yasser Arafat, then the leader of the Palestinian Arabs. During the last four years of Robinson's presidency, at a time when Robinson was president of the EU, Arafat siphoned off large sums of aid from the EU to pay for terrorism.
- During the so-called Nakba riots in May 1998, when Jews were assaulted at prayer by rioting Palestinians, Mary Robinson – then the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – spoke only of the Arab rioters who were killed and injured by Israeli police – who were acting in their own defense and in defense of the worshippers – as victims, and called on Israel to "respect the right of peaceful assembly, to avoid the excessive use of force." UN Watch, an independent Geneva-based group whose mandate is to monitor the UN's performance by the yardstick of the UN's own charter, wrote in May 1998 that "Mary Robinson fans the flames of Middle East conflict when she describes Palestinian demonstrators hurling bricks, rocks and Molotov cocktails as a 'peaceful assembly.'" (<http://>

[blog.unwatch.org/index.php/2009/08/04/something-about-mary/](http://blog.unwatch.org/index.php/2009/08/04/something-about-mary/)

- Robinson was the driving force behind the 2001 “World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance” (Durban I), which has been described as “little more than an intellectual pogrom against Jews and Israel. She failed to speak out when, on the grounds of the U.N. conference itself, the Arab Lawyers Union distributed pamphlets depicting hook-nosed Jews as Nazis spearing Palestinian children.
- The late U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Durban I conference. (The delegation eventually withdrew when the U.S. boycotted the conference because of its hateful bias.) Congressman Lantos later wrote: “To many of us present at the events at Durban, it is clear that much of the responsibility for the debacle rests on the shoulders of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, who, in her role as secretary-general of the conference, failed to provide the leadership needed to keep the conference on track. . . . [S]he refused to reject the twisted notion that the wrong done to the Jews in the Holocaust was equivalent to the pain suffered by the Palestinians in the Middle East.” ([http://www.eyeontheun.org/assets/attachments/articles/568\\_durban\\_debacle.pdf](http://www.eyeontheun.org/assets/attachments/articles/568_durban_debacle.pdf))



Israel-basher Mary Robinson

In calling on Berkeley’s School of Public Health to rescind the decision to honor Mary Robinson, the ZOA also noted that many other national and international groups had voiced their objections groups had objected out when President Obama decided to honor her in 2009. AIPAC expressed its “deep disappointment,” noting “Robinson’s dishonorable role in the Durban debacle, her tenure on the UNHRC was deeply flawed, and her conduct marred by extreme, one-sided anti-Israel sentiment.” (<http://www.aipac.org/~media/Publications/Policy%20and%20Politics/Press/AIPAC%20Statements/2009/08/AIPACDeeplyDisappointedOverRobinson04Aug09.pdf>).

The Anti-Defamation League said that honoring Robinson was “ill-advised,” noting “an animus towards Israel as evidenced by her tenure” at the UN where “she became a lead cheerleader for the Palestinian narrative.” [http://www.adl.org/PresRele/UnitedNations\\_94/5575\\_94.htm](http://www.adl.org/PresRele/UnitedNations_94/5575_94.htm))

Triggered by the concerns raised by the ZOA, U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) wrote to UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau, urging that Berkeley reconsider its decision to honor Mary Robinson. After detailing his own many concerns about Robinson’s record when she was the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Congressman Sherman wrote, “As a Representative from California, I believe that the University of California, Berkeley, a public institution with a global reputation of excellence and quality, should be upholding that reputation by honoring someone untainted by such a record of bias and animus against Israel.”

To date, UC Berkeley has remained steadfast in its decision to honor Mary Robinson. It has not disputed her record of animus toward Jews and Israel, nor has it documented how Robinson meets the criteria of a “public health hero.”

## ZOA Calls on Cal State Northridge to Remove Professor’s Anti-Semitic Web Pages from University’s Server

**In a** December 2011 letter to California State University, Northridge (CSUN) President Jolene Koester, the ZOA criticized a Professor of Mathematics using the university’s computer resources to disseminate anti-semitic falsehoods. The ZOA called on CSUN to remove the anti-semitic postings from CSUN’s server.

Math Professor Klein has been promoting and disseminating hateful lies about Israel on CSUN’s web pages including that “Israel is the most racist state in the world,” and that Israel has engaged in “mass murder” and “a 60 year program of ethnic cleansing.” Klein has also posted inflammatory photos of mutilated dead babies, unfairly implying that they were

brutally murdered by Israeli soldiers.

Klein is behind an “open letter” sent in December 2011 to California State University (CSU) Chancellor Charles Reed, opposing the reinstatement of the CSU study abroad program in Israel. The letter demonizes Israel, falsely and outrageously contending, for example, that “participating CSU students could face discriminatory treatment, based on race and ethnicity,” in Israel – the only functioning democracy in the Middle East, where there is academic freedom and where Jews and Arabs alike study and teach at Israel’s universities.

Quoting from CSUN’s own policies, the ZOA informed CSUN President Koester that CSUN had the right and the moral duty to remove Klein’s hateful content from CSUN’s web pages. These policies make it clear that (1) all of the computers, networks and computing facilities made available to faculty are the property of CSUN and the State of California; (2) using these resources is a “privilege” not a right; (3) use is restricted to completing academic requirements, scholarship and university business – which was plainly not how Klein was using the university’s computer resources in defaming and demonizing Israel.

The policies also specifically permit CSUN to remove materials from its web site that are “defamatory” or “offensive.” Klein’s anti-Semitic postings, inciting hatred of Jews and Israel, fall within these categories, the ZOA argued.

At a minimum, the ZOA called on CSUN President Koester to exercise her own First Amendment rights and publicly condemn the anti-Semitic and vicious Israel-bashing content on Klein’s web pages. President Koester had issued a statement acknowledging that “it is appropriate for all of us to speak out and even condemn ideas and views we find offensive.” Yet she herself failed to do so.

Responding to the ZOA, President Koester wrote that “two administrative reviews” of Klein’s web site, “found no violation of University website use policies and that Professor Klein was acting within his rights to express his

personal views.”

The ZOA has urged CSU Chancellor Reed to intervene and remove Klein’s anti-Semitic web pages from the CSUN server.

## ZOA Calls on Justice Department to Prosecute Arab Terrorists Who Murdered Americans Freed In Shalit Exchange

**Last February,** the ZOA wrote to Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., urging him to indict, extradite and prosecute the many convicted Palestinian Arab criminals who have killed or harmed American citizens in terrorist attacks in Israel, and who were recently freed by the Israeli government in order to gain the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

More than 1000 convicted criminals were recently released in exchange for the release of Shalit, who was kidnapped inside Israel in 2006 by the terrorist group Hamas and held captive for more than five years. Many of these criminals participated in bombings and other terrorist attacks in Israel whose innocent victims were American citizens. They are now living in freedom in Jordan and elsewhere.

In its letter, the ZOA noted that several U.S. laws have been enacted to fight international terrorism and hold terrorists and their co-conspirators accountable for their heinous actions. “Why aren’t these laws being enforced to vindicate the rights of the victims and their families when Palestinian Arab terrorists commit these crimes?” the ZOA asked the Attorney General in the letter.

The ZOA described the deeds of one such terrorist – Ahlam Tamimi, who drove a suicide bomber to a Sbarro’s restaurant in Jerusalem in 2001, where the bomber murdered 15 people and wounded 130, among them several Americans. Tamimi was convicted in Israel and sentenced to 16 terms of life in prison. In a prison interview, she said that she also planned the terrorist attack, deliberately searching for a place with “religious Jews.” Tamimi has never expressed remorse for her crimes and has said that she would do it all again. After her release from prison,



**Math Professor Klein has been promoting and disseminating hateful lies about Israel**

Tamimi went to live in Jordan where she was celebrated as a hero.

The United States has an extradition treaty with Jordan. Our government should be requesting that Jordan extradite the terrorist Ahlam Tamimi so that she can stand trial in this country and answer for the crimes she committed against Americans, the ZOA wrote to Holder.

For years, the ZOA has been fighting to make sure that the rights of American victims of Palestinian Arab terrorism are vindicated. When the U.S. State Department failed to pursue Palestinian Arab terrorists responsible for injuring and murdering Americans, in the same way that the Department was pursuing non-Palestinian Arab terrorists, the ZOA initiated the bill that eventually became law in 2004, known as the Koby Mandell Act. The Act created an office in the U.S. Department of Justice to capture all foreign nationals who have killed or harmed Americans overseas, including Palestinian Arabs.

The ZOA warned Holder that if the Justice Department does not go after the recently released Palestinian Arab terrorists now living in freedom, then it would send a dangerous and appalling message to victims and their families – that these terrorists and terrorist groups like Hamas can maim and murder innocent Americans with impunity, and that the United States does not value the victims and their families enough to ensure that these criminals are punished and justice is served. The U.S. doing nothing can only encourage more murders.

The ZOA's letter to the Attorney General was signed by Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Chairman of the ZOA's Board of Directors; Morton A. Klein, National President; Steven M. Goldberg, Esq., Vice Chairman of the Board; David I. Schoen, Esq., Board Member and Member of the Advisory Board of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice; Mark S.

Levenson, Esq., Board Member; and Susan B. Tuchman, Esq., Director of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice.

## Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Jerusalem Passport Case

**On November** 7, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court heard argument in *Zivotofsky v. Clinton*, the case concerning the enforceability of a 2002 federal law permitting American citizens born in Jerusalem to have "Israel" listed as their birthplace on their passports. Prior to the law, the passports of Jerusalem-born Americans listed "Jerusalem" only, with no country of birth.

American citizen Menachem Zivotofsky was born in Jerusalem shortly after the law was enacted. When his parents requested that his passport list "Israel" as his birthplace, the State Department denied the request, claiming that enforcing the law would infringe on the President's foreign policy powers, including the power to recognize foreign sovereigns. Menachem's parents sued the State Department; the ZOA brought its own suit on behalf of another American citizen whose right to have "Israel" listed on his passport was denied. The ZOA was the only Jewish organization to take formal legal action to implement the law. The two cases were consolidated and eventually, the Zivotofsky case proceeded to the U.S. Supreme Court. Eminent lawyers Nathan Lewin

## ZOA PEOPLE

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to our people. It's amazing that Israel, the best observer of human rights in the Middle East, is the most demonized."

"Hurting Jews, killing Jews, stealing from Jews is time-honored. We have to be on our guard to ensure we are vigilant. The Jewish people have been at the forefront of equal rights and human rights. I think it is the nature of America to promote these goals and it's also the reason why America has a special place in history and has been a major force for

good in the history of man. It's proper and natural for the U.S. and Israel to be in partnership bettering the world and working together and ZOA is a vital part of that."

"Ben is one of the most modest, yet most committed advocates for Israel I've ever met," said Mort Klein. "He also brings a powerful pragmatism and rationality to his efforts – looking always for the best ways to be effective. I have great admiration for Ben and feel privileged and honored to have access to his advice and wisdom as an esteemed member of our Board."

and Alyza Lewin represented the Zivotofsky family. (Nathan Lewin is on the advisory board of the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice.)

The ZOA submitted an *amicus* ("friend of the court") brief to the Court in support of the Zivotofskys. ZOA Board Member David I. Schoen, Esq., was counsel of record.

Giving many examples, the ZOA's brief demonstrated that the Executive Branch – including the State Department and the White House – routinely refer to Jerusalem as part of the State of Israel, without any discernible impact on any foreign policy powers of the President. The ZOA argued that it was thus difficult to conceive of how listing "Israel" on a citizen's passport would have any such impact.

For instance, "official White House photos" from Vice President Joe Biden's 2010 trip to the Middle East were posted on the White House's Web site. The photo captions specifically identified Vice President Biden as being in "Jerusalem, Israel." After the ZOA's brief was filed, the government recognized the strength of the brief's argument and the photo captions were changed: The Vice President was identified as being in "Jerusalem" only; the references to "Israel" were deleted.

Virtually all American Jewish organizations were united in their support of the Zivotofsky family and the right of Americans born in Jerusalem to have "Israel" listed as their birthplace on their passports. Americans for Peace Now was the only group to file an *amicus* brief in support of the government.

Nathan Lewin argued that the case was not about foreign policy; it concerned the administration of passport matters, which Congress has the authority to regulate. As to foreign policy, he explained that Congress and the President share the power. The Solicitor General, on behalf of the State Department, argued that the case raised sensitive foreign policy concerns that belong exclusively to the President to decide.

All of the Justices, with the exception of Justice Clarence Thomas, made comments and asked questions. The Justices seemed to reject the government's argument that the case raises a "political question" outside the Court's competence to decide. In fact, Justice Kennedy commented to the Solicitor General that his case would appear to be much stronger if he argued that the Court did have jurisdiction to decide the case, and that it should be decided in favor of the government.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked Nathan Lewin what would happen if Israel suddenly gave up its claim to sovereignty over Jerusalem; would the President have to wait for Congress to act and change the passport

law in that situation? Mr. Lewin answered that yes, Congress would have to act. Justice Sotomayor raised the concern that that would then be "hobbling" the President in changing situations that arise very quickly, such as in Egypt. Justice Scalia questioned Mr. Lewin about whether he was arguing that Congress has foreign policy powers that are "superior" to the President, noting, "You are saying, whatever Congress says, the president has to comply with." Mr. Lewin emphasized that his position "does not hobble the president."

There were some light and humorous moments during the argument. Nathan Lewin emphasized that the case is not about deciding U.S. foreign policy with respect to Jerusalem, and that listing "Israel" on a U.S. passport would not harm foreign policy. He made it clear that the law would simply honor an American citizen's personal choice. A citizen born in Jerusalem would not be required under the law to have "Israel" listed on his/her passport. If the citizen did not want to identify with Israel, he/she could simply have "Jerusalem" listed as the birthplace. And if the citizen was born before 1948, he/she could have "Palestine" listed. Justice Elena Kagan – the youngest member of the Court – made the comment that "you have to be very old to say 'Palestine'." Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, born in 1933, quickly retorted, "Not all that old."

After the oral argument, the Lewins hosted a luncheon to thank the Zivotofsky family supporters. Members of the family were present, including nine year old Menachem, a baby when the lawsuit started. The ZOA was also the first organization that Alyza Lewin thanked when she addressed the group noting that the ZOA had been working on ensuring that the law was enforced since the law was enacted.

In addition to ZOA board member David Schoen, several other ZOA board members provided valuable input on the ZOA's *amicus* brief: Vice Chairman Steven Goldberg, Esq., Cardozo Law School Professor Malvina Halberstam, Esq., and Edward Siegel, Esq.



A 2002 federal law permits American citizens born in Jerusalem to have "Israel" listed as their birthplace on their passports.



# Government Relations Department Presents ZOA Priorities to the Administration and Congress

**As our nation** prepares for another election year, the Government Relations Department has been focused on bringing the priorities of the ZOA to Washington DC. There has been some significant progress, but much remains to be done. On the last day of 2011, the President finally signed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012, which includes very strong sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). This legislation contains the most painful economic sanctions to date in the effort to force the Islamic Republic to stop its drive for a military nuclear capability. Balancing this fact are some real questions about the resolve of the administration to implement these sanctions effectively. Also on the negative side of the ledger, efforts by ZOA and some in Congress to make the PLO pay a price for their efforts to unilaterally establish a Palestinian Arab State through UN action have stalled, and even our close friends in Congress have been unable to stop aid from continuing to

the Palestinian Authority (PA).

In the hallways of Congress, sometimes recent events reverberate to the exclusion of historical memory, and often the priorities of the immediate past get swept aside too quickly. This past fall, every foreign policy pundit was engaged in predicting the long term impact of efforts by the PLO to sidestep negotiations with Israel, and to be admitted as a member state to the UN and other international bodies. They actually succeeded in gaining admittance to UNESCO, the Scientific and Cultural arm of the UN. At the same time, the PLO and the Islamic terrorist group Hamas have been working on unifying the Palestinian 'Resistance.' Despite the consensus view on editorial pages that this strategy would prove to be a disaster for the Palestinian Arab leadership, in fact they have paid no real price for these efforts to date, as both the US and Israel have chosen to withhold penalties from the PA that they had earlier threatened. In the case of the US Congress, there were several legislative efforts along these lines, including:

- Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) H.Res. 268 & Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) S.Res. 185, US opposes Unilateral Palestinian Declaration of Independence (both non-binding Resolutions passed)
- Rep. Shelly Berkley (D-NV) H.R. 1592 prohibits U.S. assistance to PA
- Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) H.Res. 297 to withhold UN dues
- Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM) H.Res. 314 reaffirming goal of negotiated solution
- Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) introduced H.R. 2261 to withhold UN monies
- Rep. Joe Walsh (R-IL) H.R. 2457, the Palestinian Accountability Act would withhold UN contributions



Josh London,  
Co-Director, Government  
Relations Department



Dan Pollak,  
Co-Director, Government  
Relations Department

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- Rep Louie Gohmert (R-TX) H. R. 921 prohibits assistance to countries voting against the US in the United Nations
- Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) H. R. 2893 prohibits military aid to countries voting in favor of a unilateral declaration of independence by the Palestinian Arabs at the UN
- Sen. Hatch (R-UT) S. 1595 Cuts funding to UN if status of PA is changed
- Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) H. R. 2829; Sen. Rubio (R-FL) S. 1848; UN Transparency, Accountability and Reform Act of 2011 has numerous provisions (discussed below). Some would prevent UN funding and aid to the PA if they persist in their efforts to unilaterally declare a state independent of negotiations with Israel.

Only Resolutions, which are advisory in nature, have actually passed, and the administration has actively opposed any diminution of aid to the PA. Congressional informational “holds”— a short-term technical action that prevents disbursement of funds pending further official response and compliance to satisfy the terms of the “hold” on disbursement — were placed on some of the approximately \$600 Million of aid given each year to the



PA. These “holds” were eventually lifted, however, as the administration satisfied the terms of the hold and made abundantly clear its policy and its belief that aid should continue to flow to the PA, despite their agreements with HAMAS, and despite their attempts to sabotage US diplomacy in the region by seeking a unilateral declaration of statehood without regard to their obligations under multiple “peace process” agreements with Israel. Part of the problem is the Israeli government’s belief that

“security” aid to the PA must not be stopped for fear that such disruption in support could jeopardize the relative quiet that Judea and Samaria have been experiencing in the recent past. The ZOA continues to believe that ignoring PA violations of signed agreements and allowing provocations at the UN and elsewhere without punishing the PA will only lead to more intransigence and terror.

**I**ran’s continued pursuit of a military nuclear capability is the other highest profile reality that ZOA has had to focus on in Washington. The latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iran flatly contradicts earlier, optimistic conclusions about Iranian intentions. Iran’s statements about their own progress continue to alarm policy makers, even with the series of unexplained explosions, deaths of rocket scientists, and computer viruses that have bedeviled the Islamic Republic’s efforts. The fact is that Western attempts to slow down the program are simply buying time, not preventing the ultimate achievement of a nuclear capability.

On December 31, 2011, the President finally signed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012, which includes very strong sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) were the leaders of this effort in the Senate, and the ZOA worked very closely with them to facilitate these new sanctions. They have the potential to be extremely effective, if properly utilized and if accompanied by the potential threat of military action against the Islamic regime. Existing sanctions have resulted in serious economic consequences for Iran, although the high price of oil has in practical terms mitigated their severity. This new law, when implemented in six months, will prohibit any energy-related transactions with the CBI, essentially forcing international companies to choose between doing business with the western banking system, or with Iran. Combined with recent steps in Europe to toughen sanctions on Iran, this has resulted in a 30% loss in value of Iran’s currency in December 2011. The saber-rattling Iranian response of threatening to close the Straits of Hormuz signals their desperation with these economic measures. In the past, they have threatened this essentially suicidal step only in response to an actual attack on Iran. The attempted closure of the straits is not a viable strategy for Iran, according to most regional experts, due to the presence in force of the US 5th Fleet, which could counter any Iranian naval force, and due to the self defeating economic costs to the one-dimensional Iranian economy, which essentially has only oil to sell.

The Administration sought to weaken the sanctions

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by having a delay before the CBI would be impacted, and by insisting on a Presidential waiver on 'national security' grounds anytime the President chooses. Even with these changes, the State Department actively lobbied against the bill, which passed anyway 100-0 in the Senate. When he signed the bill, on the last day of the year, President Obama attached a signing statement that included the words:

"Sections [of the bill] would interfere with my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations by directing the Executive to take certain positions in negotiations or discussions with foreign governments. [...] Should any application of these provisions conflict with my constitutional authorities, I will treat the provisions as non-binding."

**F**ranksly, the problem with sanctions in both Republican and Democratic administrations to date has been the unwillingness of any President to utilize them as fully as the law allows, and this seems to be the case again now. In addition, the signals from Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta that no use of force is currently being contemplated against Iran means that the ZOA must keep the pressure on for the foreseeable future.

As important as aid to the PA and the Iran issues are, ZOA has other priorities as well. The UN Transparency, Accountability and Reform Act of 2011 (H.R. 2829 and S. 1848), already mentioned above, would also cut all US funding from UNRWA, the "UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", and would require the UN to use normal channels to settle true refugees in the region though the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Other UN reforms in the bill would penalize any activities by the organization which discriminates against Israel. This bill has already passed the House Foreign Relations Committee, and is awaiting action by the full House and the Senate. Unfortunately, as the ZOA Report goes to press, there are not yet any Democratic co-sponsors to either bill.

ZOA continues to actively support the Jerusalem Embassy bills sponsored by Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN) H. R. 1006, and Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) S. 1622. When enacted, these bills will remove the presidential national security waiver that the 1995 law included, which has been utilized by both Republican and Democratic presidents to prevent the establishment of our embassy in the actual capital of Israel.

The changes in the Arab world, especially Egypt, provide a tremendous strategic challenge to Israeli and US interests in the region. ZOA has assisted members of Congress in making it clear that US aid to the Egyptian regime depends

on Egyptian behavior. The ZOA has for years been critical of the way that Egypt's military has used American aid, and the disappointing results of Egypt's elections, in which Islamists have won large parliamentary majorities, makes the ZOA predictions of dread from the so-called Arab Spring disturbingly prescient.

**E**ven though there has been concomitant change in US policy, Turkey has seemingly completed its transition from a friend and ally of both Israel and the US to an Islamist state that threatens the vital interests of both countries. Even though the disturbances in Syria have enabled US-Turkish relations to be fully restored, overt hostility to Israel continues to be a cornerstone of Turkish policy. Turkey has overtly threatened to send naval ships to threaten Israel's coasts, and has stated that both Israel and Cyprus had better not develop natural gas fields that have been discovered in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Rep. Shelly Berkley (D-NV) and Rep. Elliot Engel (D-NY) have introduced H.J. Res 83 to stop arms sales to Turkey.

Domestically, the Government Relations Department has worked closely with both the Center for Law and Justice, and the Campus Programs Department of the ZOA to fight anti-Semitism on University Campuses and to bolster ZOA activities on the ground. The current interpretation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is a great accomplishment, but ZOA is looking to enshrine protection of Jewish students overtly in new legislation.

Joshua London and Daniel Pollak, Co-Directors of Government Relations, have been proactive in speaking engagements to further the ZOA agenda. Both have appeared as guests in various communities, spoken to both Jewish and general audiences, and have shared ZOA's perspective with media outlets. When Israeli MK Arie' Eldad spent a week in DC to discuss Israel's strategic situation with US Government officials, he was very complementary to ZOA for the assistance we provided in introducing him to leaders in the US Congress, guiding him through the corridors of power, and facilitating broader policy conversations with Members of Congress and their staff.

At the heart of ZOA's Government Relations efforts are the dedication, passionate advocacy and depth of knowledge of ZOA members across the country. Please continue to stay involved in the grass roots advocacy that is so critical to our being effective in Washington, DC. In addition, consider joining us in Washington during the April 25, 2012 mission to personally lobby your legislators.



# ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Dr. Miriam Adelson and Sheldon Adelson speak prior to presenting the Adelson Defender of Israel Award to Glenn Beck



Back: William Langfan, Mark Langfan, Cong. Michele Bachmann, Gene Shusman, Tania Beck, Glenn Beck, Michael Goldblatt, Lewis Dashe. Front: Martin Gross, Ahuva Gross, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Morton A. Klein



Chairman of the ZOA Board, Dr. Michael Goldblatt addresses ZOA dinner guests



Director of the ZOA Western Region, Orit Arfa, Cong. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Board Member Steve Goldberg



Dr. Stanley Benzel, Helena Benzel, extended family and friends



Right: Board Member Irwin Hochberg, Joan Hochberg, Board Members Dr. Arthur Kook, Jay Knopf and extended friends and family



# ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



Cong. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Morton A. Klein, Board Member Harvey Friedman share a humorous moment



Board Member Howard Schaerf, Morton A. Klein, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and National Executive Director David Drimer



Jim Tisch, Morton A. Klein, Cong. Michele Bachmann and Glenn Beck



Left: Dr. Alan Mazurek, Glenn Beck, Morton A. Klein, Dr. Miriam Adelson, Steven Goldberg and Sheldon Adelson during the presentation of the Adelson Defender of Israel Award to Glenn Beck



William Langfan, Mark Langfan & extended family and friends



Front: Dr. Alan Mazurek, Sylvia Freyer, Cong. Michele Bachmann. Back: Dr. Joseph Frager, Susan Rosenbluth, Morton A. Klein, Rita Klein, Glenn Beck, Ms. Beck, Marty Gross, Marilyn Hertz, Eli Hertz



Right: Bonnie and Board Member Michael Orbach and family



# ZOA'S BRANDEIS AWARD DINNER



From Left: Morton A. Klein, Jerome Taylor, Dr. Alan Mazurek, Judy Taylor, and Dr. Michael Goldblatt



Cong. Michele Bachmann waving to the applauding crowd at the ZOA Gala Dinner



College students involved with ZOA



College students enjoy ZOA's Gala Dinner



Left: Josh Katzen, Ms. Katzen. Standing on right: Michael Moskowitz & friends, Ms. Abramowitz, Ken Abramowitz



Video crews from TV stations record the ZOA Gala event



Left: Jim Pollack, Rita Klein, Dr. Samia Tawil, Cong. Dan Burton and Steve Emerson



Left: Steve Goldberg, NORPAC President Dr. Ben Chouake, Cong. Anne Marie Buerkle and Dr. Jerry Platt



## Changes in the Campus Department

ZOA's Campus Department welcomed many changes at the start of the fall semester. Previous Midwest Campus Coordinator, Jason Holtzman moved to New York to cover the northeastern region, while David Kadosh moved to California to start up ZOA campus activism on the West Coast. ZOA hired Leo Nayfeld, past ZOA activist and participant on ZOA's Student Leadership Mission to Israel to cover campus activities in the Midwest. Sharona Whisler was appointed the position of Managing Director of the Campus Department this past fall as Josh Nason, the previous director has gone on to pursue a graduate degree in International Relations & International Economics at the Johns Hopkins-School

of Advanced International Studies. David Kadosh was appointed as Associate Director of the Campus Department. To fill Josh's role as Mid-Atlantic Campus Coordinator, ZOA Israel trip alum and past ZOA Summer Inter, Avi Davidov was hired. The ZOA Campus Department is excited to announce these changes and continues working hard to ensure ZOA's voice is heard on college campuses across the country.

## ZOA Campus Campaigns

The ZOA premiered two campaigns on campuses this semester. One which was focused on keeping Jerusalem united under Israeli sovereignty and the other centered on the true obstacle to peace in the Arab War against Israel – Palestinian racism and incitement. In the Northeast, the campaigns



Center: Sharona Whisler, Managing Director of ZOA's Campus Department tabling on a college campus

were unveiled at Cornell University, Binghamton University, and Hunter College where ZOA Campus Coordinator Jason Holtzman brought the materials and gave presentations. Next semester, the campaigns are set to appear at Brooklyn College, New York University, and more.

## Noam Bedein Campus Visits

In the Northeast, the ZOA sponsored campus

visits for Noam Bedein, photojournalist and Director of the Sderot Media Center. Bedein visited both New York University and Brooklyn College to counter the mainstream Gaza narrative and to also present the human side of the story coming from Israel. Bedein used a multimedia presentation illustrated the effects that 10,000+ rockets have had on the civilian population in Southern Israel. He also highlighted the type of warfare used by Hamas



**Sharona Whisler**  
Managing Director  
of Campus  
Department

**David Kadosh**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator,  
West Coast Region

**Jason Holtzman**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator,  
East Coast Region

**Leo Nayfeld**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator,  
Midwest Region

**Avi Davidov**  
ZOA Campus  
Coordinator for the  
Mid-Atlantic region.

BANNER PHOTO CREDIT OF BOOKS: TOM MURPHY VII

and illustrated how Iran is involved in sponsoring these rocket attacks onto Israel. For that reason, Be-dein's presentation is titled *Iran in Israel's Backyard*."

## ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel 2011-2012

This past winter's student trip to Israel was a highlight of 2011. It was one of the most successful ZOA trips so far, bringing students from New York University, Brandeis, Rutgers, The George Washington University, Georgetown University, University of California Berkley, University of Southern California, Florida Atlantic University, and several others to experience "the faces behind the headlines". Students were brought to communities in Judea and Samaria like Ariel, Elon Moreh, Maskiot, Psagot, and Shilo to learn about the deep roots connecting Jews to these parts of the historical and biblical homeland. Students were also shown the broad and relatable diversity of each community. Andres Martinez-Fernandez, a student at Florida International University said of the experience, "It increased my legitimacy as an advocate for a strong US-Israel re-

lationship." The students also visited Sderot and got to see first hand the toll that a constant barrage of rockets has on a place and people. They had the opportunity to hear from journalists like Khaled Abu Toameh and Caroline Glick. They visited the Knesset and met with members of various parties like Tzipi Hotovely, Aryeh Eldad, Danny Danon, Uzi Landau, and Minister of Strategic Affairs, Moshe Ya'alon.

Several of the speakers who meet with the ZOA students every year noted that this year's group was very engaged and asked great questions. Reflecting back on the trip, Brooke Weinbaum, a senior at Florida Atlantic University said, "The trip showed me that that all of my advocacy strategies were lacking. I now have a lot more knowledge to back up the basic information that I already knew. Now when I get asked a question that requires more background and details, I'm confident that I'll give a thorough answer based on what I learned and saw on this trip." She added, "While we were in Judea and Samaria I learned a lot about the region and the history and I feel comfortable talking about it and I feel that it's a vital part of the land and should never be given up. I hope others will have the opportunity to learn what I've learned."

## Campus Activities

South Florida's Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton, along with the founding of a new pro-Israel group, *Owls for Israel*, saw the beginning of a Students for Justice in Palestine group on campus over the summer. The SJP started the semester with an anti-Israel rally, supporting the creation of a Palestinian state in the first few weeks of school. ZOA's southeastern region's campus coordinator, Sharona Whisler, met with the board of *Owls for Israel* to help them prepare a response to the anti-Israel rally and to SJP's false accusations against Israel. Similarly, the pro-Israel students at Florida Inter-

national University, who have dealt with vicious anti-Israel rhetoric strewn by the SJP group there, brought Sharona to campus to give a presentation about Palestinian Arab incitement.

During his visit to Florida, Josh London gave a presentation about the US-Israel relationship and current events in the Middle East and how it relates to his government relations work for ZOA. Josh covered much of the legislation that ZOA has helped draft. The presentation also discussed the return of kidnapped Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit and how the exchange has made conditions more dangerous for soldiers serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

While we were in Judea and Samaria I learned a lot about the region and the history and I feel comfortable talking about it and I feel that it's a vital part of the land and should never be given up. I hope others will have the opportunity to learn what I've learned."



## ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel 2011-2012

This past winter's student trip to Israel was the highlight of 2011. Lead by ZOA Campus Coordinators, Sharna Whisler and Leo Nayfeld, Keshet tour guide, Danny Ehrlich, and accompanied by ZOA Israel Director, Jeff Daube, it was one of the most successful ZOA trips so far, bringing students from New York University, Brandeis, Rutgers, The George Washington University, Georgetown University, Binghamton University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Southern California, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Texas, the University of Oklahoma, Florida International University, Queens College, and Drexel University.

The theme of the trip is "seeing the faces behind the headlines" and what sets ZOA's Mission to Israel apart from other student Israel trips, is the focus on the communities of Judea and Samaria as a part of Greater Israel, just as Tel Aviv and Haifa are. Students are also exposed to the important message that ZOA continues to disperse regarding the vicious Arab War against Israel.

Students began the trip with a briefing by award winning journalist and activist, Caroline Glick. Glick's deep analysis of the threats facing Israel, both internal and external, acted as a great introductory session that prepared trip participants for the places and problems they would see first-hand in the coming days.

The first full day in Israel was spent seeing Jerusalem from various angles. While most students had been to Israel before, they had not been shown the areas of political conflict and disagreement. What was at first a foreign topic became very real as the group overlooked Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade, closely examining the 1967 Green Line and its relation to the communities established nearly 3000 years ago by King David. This became a common theme throughout the program, as time and time again, students were shown the historical legitimacy of Jewish sovereignty over the land. Jewish and early-Zionist history was a recurring theme, especially as students visited Shiloh, the Begin Museum, the Lehi Museum, and other historic and religious sites.

Another major goal of the program was to demonstrate



ZOA Israel trip students visit Hesder Yeshiva in Sderot and pose in front of Menorah designed with Kassam rockets

Palestinian Arabs' unwillingness to not only live in peace with Israel, but to recognize her as a Jewish State. Itamar Marcus, founder and director of Palestinian Media Watch, provided several examples of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas inciting Palestinian children to commit violence against Jews and to reclaim the land they say is theirs, "from the river to the sea," calling for the destruction of Israel. Students saw the direct effects of such incitement during a visit to Sderot, a city on the periphery of the Gaza Strip, that has been the target of over 8000 rockets in the last 7 years. Tensions were high as 11 rockets had been fired from Gaza only a week earlier. What was extremely inspiring, however, was seeing citizens of all ages and backgrounds refusing to cower to Hamas and other terrorist groups and standing steadfast in the face of terror simply by continuing to go about their lives. ZOA students were given an opportunity to support the town of Sderot by spending a free hour for lunch, going to the local restaurants, grocery stores, and shops.

The ZOA prides itself on taking students to important areas in Israel that other trips do not expose their students to and this year was no difference as participants explored old and new Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria. Students

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL



ZOA students in Israel from University of Texas, Pittsburgh University, University of Southern California, UC Berkeley, Queens College, and Drexel University



Director of Sderot Media Center, Noam Bedein speaks to ZOA students in Sderot, Israel about the rockets that have been fired into the western Negev by Hamas terrorists in Gaza

visited communities like Ariel, Elon Moreh, Maskiot, Psagot, and Shilo and were deeply impacted by the knowledge they gained from such exposure. Jordan Cohen, a freshman at New York University said, “The strategic importance of Judea and Samaria manifests through comprehensive knowledge of both the topography of the region and its historical relation to the Jewish people and the land of Israel. In regards to security, the innocent Israeli citizens will be at the mercy of the terrorizing Palestinians, since terrorists will be able to use the high ground as a launching pad for Qassam rockets against Israel’s citizens.

“As well, the numerous archeological Jewish sites – it is unfortunate that an unofficial building freeze continues in Jewish communities throughout Judea and Samaria. The Jewish connection and inhabitation of the land is indisputable, yet current international pressure is making life for Jews there

unbearable,” he added.

A ZOA trip to Israel would not be complete without meeting with top government officials. With the help of ZOA’s Israel Director, Jeff Daube, students were able to hear a variety of opinions from top Knesset members from various parties. A variety of MK’s, including Tzipi Hotovely (Likud), Danny Danon (Likud), Aryeh Eldad (National Union), and Uzi Landau (Israel Beiteinu) – spoke at length regarding a variety of issues including women’s and minority rights within Israel. They also discussed delegitimization of Israel in the West, solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iranian nuclear program. Students were able to challenge the Knesset members with tough questions, which led to a great dialogue and learning experience. Each member made a note of the pride they felt when speaking to a group of students from ZOA. On the last day, MK



ZOA students posing with Israeli soldiers on the border with Lebanon after delivering chocolate and other snacks



ZOA students pose in front of a backdrop of Jerusalem at the Haas Promenade

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL



ZOA Students pose in front of the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs (Ma'aret Hamachpela) in Hebron with local resident and tour guide, David Wilder



ZOA Students enjoy wine tasting at the Psagot Winery and Binyamin Welcome Center, in the Shomron

Moshe “Boogie” Ya’alon spoke with students about security threats facing Israel. Hearing from such prominent leaders first hand helped solidify students’ own positions on issues that were gradually coming to light during their experience with ZOA.

Throughout the duration of the program, several campus advocacy sessions were led by ZOA staff. Sharona and Leo lectured about debate skills, setting strategic goals for campus organizations, and planning and marketing pro-Israel events. Students were given mock scenarios of common challenges that unfortunately emerge on campus, such as the initiation of a campaign to boycott Israel, the visit of anti-Israel speakers like Norman Finkelstein, and an Israel club that identifies more with J Street than with true Zionist values. With Sharona and Leo’s guidance, students worked together in group exercises with their peers to create stra-

tegic plans to successfully overcome the issues.

Several of the speakers who meet with the ZOA students every year noted this year’s group was very engaged and asked insightful questions. Reflecting back on the trip, Brooke Weinbaum, a senior at Florida Atlantic University said, “The trip showed me that all of my advocacy strategies were lacking. I now have a lot more knowledge to back up the basic information I already knew. Now, when I get asked a question that requires more background and details, I’m confident I’ll give a thorough answer based on what I learned and saw on this trip.” She added, “While we were in Judea and Samaria, for instance, I learned a lot about the region and the history and I feel comfortable talking about it. I feel it’s a vital part of the land and should never be given up. I hope others will have the opportunity to learn what I’ve learned.”



Left: ZOA students Fred Messner of Georgetown University and Kevin Montag of Queens College



ZOA students hear from local resident of Maskiot while visiting the growing community built by Jewish Gazan refugees



## Ben Chouake, National Board Member

**Dr. Ben Chouake** is modest about his work and his passionate involvement in Jewish and Israel-related causes and has to be pressed to elaborate. In addition to serving on ZOA's Board for the past decade, "I'm involved in many organizations," he says, and he is: a trustee of Touro College, a board member of Yeshiva College at New York's Yeshiva University, the Orthodox Union's Institute of Public Affairs, the Frisch High School, the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and since 2000, President of NORPAC, America's largest pro-Israel political action committee, to name a few. A successful physician who is a member of both the Bergen County Medical Society as well as the American Medical Association and who serves on the staff of the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center and Holy Name Hospital, Chouake shares an office with his wife, a dermatologist. They have four grown children: one in medical school, two in college, and one living and working in Israel. As the false hopes inspired by the Oslo process evaporated, he drew himself increasingly into Jewish advocacy and organizational involvement. Chouake's mother was a Holocaust survivor, and he grew up deeply conscious of the absence of an extended family of cousins who had been murdered by the Nazis. "That was a compelling reason to step up to the plate and get ahead of the curve when it came to the present security of Israel and the Jewish people."

"I became more involved in political and Jewish advocacy around 1997," he continues. "Before then, I was involved on a more personal rather than organizational level. I became involved in NORPAC at that time as well as ZOA. At that time, NORPAC had a relatively small mission to Washington and only a few political fundraisers. With good intentions and good potential, I started working with it and some of the other people involved helped to make it more substantial. Our members held 37 NORPAC sponsored fund-raisers for Congressmen and senators in their homes and offices. But the credit is not just mine, it goes to many other people."

"With ZOA, I also became involved because it has a better understanding of both the paradigm on the ground and the true intentions of the Palestinian Authority during the Oslo process and the dangers it represents. While other groups were very optimistic - and I agree that optimism is a good thing generally - I felt ZOA is more realistic and frankly, ZOA was right. Bringing Arafat and his army of terrorists next door to Israel proper and making him the de facto ruler of the Palestinian populated areas caused huge suffering to Israel. Arafat created a terrorist regime and Israel and the world has been suffering for it ever since. You have the situation at the moment where the Palestinian Authority has received more money per capita than Europeans did under the Marshall plan. Where are the roads, hospitals, museums, industries that should have appeared? Instead, you have a situation in which Palestinians are being indoctrinated to kill Jews."

"Mort Klein is a tireless worker for Israel, and I was able to introduce him to many of our national leaders in order to spread ZOA's message about the truth of the Arab war against Israel," says Chouake, before expressing his concern for contemporary developments adversely affecting Israel and Jews around the world. "This is an important time to be engaged, as anti-Semitism is at a height unseen since any time before World War Two. We need, as a people, to be aware of what's going on and exercise our rights as U.S. citizens to make the world not only a better place, but to bring security



Left: Dr. Ben Chouake during a NORPAC mission with Senator Harry Reid

*continued on page 14*



## ZOA: Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Reiterates Tearing Up Peace Treaty With Israel - Israel Should Announce It Will Reoccupy Sinai if That Occurs

After the fall of the Mubarak government in Egypt, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) warned about the rise of the Islamist Muslim brotherhood in Egypt and the increasing possibility of it controlling

the Egyptian government and abrogating the 1979 Egyptian/Israeli treaty. It has also repeated calls it made last year for Israel to announce that it will reoccupy the Sinai peninsula and retake the oil wells there that Israel developed if Egypt abrogates the treaty it signed with Israel, under which terms it received the Sinai and the oil wells from Israel.

In recent days, the deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Rashad al-Bayoumi, said that the Muslim Brotherhood “did not sign the peace accords ... We will take the proper legal steps in dealing with the peace deal...To me, it isn’t binding at all. The people will express their opinion on the matter... On no condition will we recognize Israel. It is an enemy entity, an exploit-

ing, criminal occupier ... I won’t allow myself to sit down with a criminal ... We won’t cooperate with Israel in any situation.” (Roi Kais, ‘Muslim Brotherhood: Israel peace deal isn’t binding,’ Yediot Ahronot, January 1, 2012). Last year, too, Bayoumi emphasized the objective of abrogating the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

On no condition will we recognize Israel. It is an enemy entity, an exploiting, criminal occupier...I won't allow myself to sit down with a criminal... We won't cooperate with Israel in any situation”

## ZOA Condemns NY Times' Thomas Friedman for Anti-Semitic Statement that Jewish Money Buys Congress

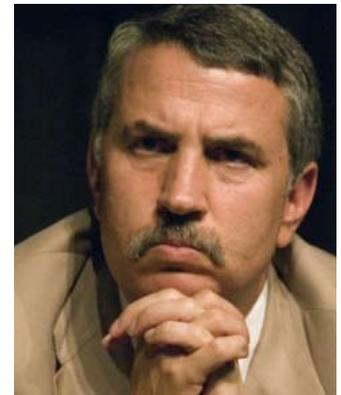
The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has condemned as anti-Semitic New York Times' columnist Thomas L. Friedman, for stating in a recent column that “I sure hope

that Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, understands that the standing ovation he got in Congress this year was not for his politics. That ovation was bought and paid for by the Israel lobby.” (Thomas L. Friedman, ‘Newt, Mitt, Bibi and Vladimir,’ New York Times, December 13, 2011). The ZOA has condemned Friedman's statement as a crude restatement of the main argument in the widely

condemned anti-Semitic tract of John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*.

Rep. Steven R. Rothman (D-NJ) has said of Friedman's ugly assertion that “Thomas Friedman's defamation against the vast majority of Americans who support the Jewish State of Israel, in his New York Times opinion piece today, is scurrilous, destructive and harmful to Israel and her advocates in the U.S. Mr. Friedman is not only wrong, but he's aiding and abetting a dangerous narrative about the U.S.-Israel relationship and its American supporters. I gave Prime Minister Netanyahu a standing ovation, not because of any nefarious lobby, but because it is in America's vital national security interests to support the Jewish State of Israel, and it is right for Congress to give a warm welcome to the leader of such a dear and essential ally. Mr. Friedman owes us all an apology.”

Thomas Friedman's vicious statement about the Israel lobby is merely the latest in many years of false and hostile anti-Israel statements. In February 2004, for example, Friedman claimed that Israel's leaders were “conspiring” to manipulate President Bush and Vice President Cheney, saying that Israel's then-Prime Minister, “has had George Bush under house arrest in the Oval Office. Mr. Sharon has Mr.



NY Times columnist  
Thomas Friedman

Arafat surrounded by tanks, and Mr. Bush surrounded by Jewish and Christian pro-Israel lobbyists, by a vice president, Dick Cheney, who's ready to do whatever Mr. Sharon dictates, and by political handlers telling the president not to put any pressure on Israel in an election year, all conspiring to make sure the president does nothing." Also, in his 1989 book, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, Friedman claimed Israel was obsessed with the Holocaust and the country was "Yad Vashem with an air force." He has repeatedly blamed Israel for the lack of peace. Rarely has he blamed the Palestinian Arabs. In the 1990s, the late David Bar-Ilan, former editor in chief of the *Jerusalem Post* and then director of communications to Prime Minister Netanyahu, said that Friedman's troubling record rendered him an anti-Zionist who should not be invited to speak to Zionist groups.

## Panetta, Obama's Sec'y of Defense, Attacks Israel With Vicious/Ugly Lies and Demands

Leon Panetta, President Obama's Secretary of Defense, attacked Israel with vicious and ugly lies and absurd demands on Friday, December 2, 2011. In response to a question from Mr. Ken Pollack, who asked, "What steps should Israel take now?" Panetta answered, "Just get (Israel) to the damn table, just get to the table."

ZOA President Morton A. Klein said, "But, this promotes the damnable lie that Israel refuses to negotiate – when, in fact, Israel has been pleading and begging Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority to negotiate for the last two plus years, to no avail. In fact, only yesterday the Palestinian Authority repeated its opposition to holding direct peace talks with Israel. It's the Palestinians who not only refuse to come to the 'damn table,' they openly circumvent negotiations by going to the UN to unilaterally have a Palestinian state declared, violating their signed Oslo agreements with Israel, which state that no unilateral steps of that nature are permitted without Israel's approval.



Secretary of Defense  
Leon Panetta

"Again, Panetta only asks

Israel to take more risks while the PA has done nothing to show any interest in peace, which Panetta ignores. He ignores the fact that the Palestinian Authority's Abbas, in his recent UN speech, referred to Israel's 63-year old occupation, meaning all of Israel belongs to the Palestinians; he ignores the fact that a May 16, 2011 *New York Times* op-ed by Abbas states that even after the Palestinian Authority achieves a state, the Palestinian Authority attacks against Israel will continue in the UN, human rights bodies, and the International Court of Justice; he ignores the fact that every Palestinian Authority map in its government, schools, and media shows all of Israel as Palestine. He then asks Israel to build regional support – ignoring the fact that Egypt and Turkey themselves have moved away from Israel and the U.S., by becoming Jew-hating extremist Islamist governments."

## ZOA Condemns Jordan Meeting With Nazi-Like Hamas, Permitting Hamas Officials To Move To Jordan

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has condemned Jordan for meeting with a delegation of officials from Hamas, a U.S. and E.U. recognized terrorist organization that calls in its Charter for the destruction of Israel (Article 15) and the worldwide murder of Jews (Article 7). In recent weeks, Jordan has also permitted officials from the Nazi-like Hamas to quietly re-establish themselves in Amman. The Hamas delegation was led by Khaled Meshaal, head of the Hamas political bureau, that has been based in Damascus, and including his deputy, Mousa Abu Marzook, who arrived in Amman with the Crown Prince of Qatar, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and met with Jordanian King Abdullah ('Stephen Farrell, 'Hamas Leader Takes Rare Trip to Jordan,' *New York Times*, January 29, 2012).

This was the first official visit to Jordan by Hamas leaders since the group's former headquarters in Amman were shut down by the Jordanian government in 1999. The 1999 shut-down occurred only after a campaign launched by the ZOA against the presence of the Hamas office in Jordan.

Jordan has also permitted officials from the Nazi-like Hamas to quietly re-establish themselves in Amman.

## PA-Appointed Arab Religious Leader Muhammad Hussein Says It's a Religious Duty to Murder Jews

Recently, the principal Palestinian Authority (PA) religious leader, the Mufti of Jerusalem, Muhammad Hussein, spoke at an event celebrating the 47th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah terrorist organization, presenting the killing of Jews by Muslims as a religious Islamic goal. The moderator at this Fatah event stated that "Our war with the descendants of the apes and pigs [i.e., Jews] is a war of religion and faith," before the Mufti proceeded to cite the Hadith (Islamic tradition attributed to Muhammad), saying that the Hour of Resurrection will not come until Muslims fight the Jews and kill them:

"47 years ago the [Fatah] revolution started. Which revolution? The modern revolution of the Palestinian people's history. In fact, Palestine in its entirety is a revolution, since [Caliph] Umar came [to conquer Jerusalem, 637 CE], and continuing today, and until the End of Days. The reliable Hadith (tradition attributed to Muhammad), [found] in the two reliable collections, Bukhari and Muslim, says: 'The Hour [of Resurrection] will not come until you fight the Jews. The Jew will hide behind stones or trees. Then the stones or trees will call, 'Oh Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him'' (PA's highest religious authority, the Mufti, at Fatah event: "Muslims' destiny is to kill Jews," Palestinian Media Watch bulletin, January 15, 2012).

## ZOA Praises Israeli Minister Saar for Stating Palestinian State Would Be Dangerous to Israel, Supporting Jews in Judea and Samaria, and Promoting On Site Biblical-Historical Education

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) strongly praised Gidon Saar, the Israeli minister of education and second to the prime minister in the Likud Party, for opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state as a grave danger; supporting the rights of Jews to live in Judea and Samaria;

and promoting the importance of on site biblical-historical education in Israel. While visiting Ariel, unofficial capital of Samaria, and the archaeological dig of Tel Shiloh, which was the site of the Tabernacle for 369 years, and again during a meeting in the community of Shiloh itself, Minister Saar publicly affirmed the eternal Jewish connection to these places and throughout Judea and Samaria. "Jews will always be in Shiloh," Minister Saar said emphatically. "We should not delude the Arabs that one day there will be no Jews here. Jews will always be here, and any other illusion will bring obstacles on the road to peace." Minister Saar stressed the importance of bringing students from all parts of Israel to locations such as Shiloh and Hebron. The ZOA strongly supports his expanding program of field trips, which he hopes will enhance appreciation for the Israeli nation's history and the strong connection of the Jewish people to the land. The ZOA praised Minister Saar for using the occasion of his solidarity visit to appropriately criticize the drive to create a Palestinian state, stating such a state would be a "dangerous move" and would "never bring peace," especially in light of the Palestinian Authority's anti-Israel activities on the world stage and at home. In fact, according to a very recent American Jewish Committee poll, most American Jews agree with Saar by a 55% - 38% margin [ <http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=ijlT12PHKoG&b=846741&ct=11229303> ] The ZOA agrees with Minister Saar's contention that the threat to Israel has been worsened today by the regional ascendancy of militant Islamists, who could inflict even greater harm on Israel if an inevitably hostile Palestinian entity were to join their radical cause.



Minister Gideon Saar

## ZOA Opposes Foxman's ADL/Harris' AJC Statement Demanding Suppression of Strong Criticism of Politicians Hostile To Israel

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has strongly criticized a statement jointly issued by Abe Fox-

man's Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and David Harris' American Jewish Committee (AJC), calling to suppress vigorous and serious discussion about some public official's hostile policies towards Israel. The ZOA vehemently disagrees with any attempt to stifle or limit the free speech rights of the public or of candidates for office who wish to challenge their opponent's hostile or harmful policies on Israel. The ZOA believes that politicians, whether Republican or Democrat, should be held accountable for their positions on Israel – praised when they take pro-Israel positions and criticized when they do not. It is the ZOA's position that there should be wall-to-wall support for Israel among both Democrats and Republicans.

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Unfortunately, however, that is not always the case. Although most politicians of both parties have been friends of Israel, there have been notable exceptions over the years. The ZOA has not been hesitant to applaud those

public servants, both Democrats and Republicans, who steadfastly speak and act in support of Israel or to comment negatively on those politicians who have taken positions hostile to Israel.

Free and open discussion about a politician's record on Israel has the salutary and beneficial effect of causing those politicians to compete to prove themselves to be more supportive of Israel than their opponents, which can only increase the support for the Jewish state.

"It is inappropriate for Abe Foxman's ADL and David Harris' AJC to become de-facto "thought police," whose self-appointed task is to suppress criticism of politicians hostile to Israel. Jewish history has shown the tragic and dangerous consequences of silence by Jewish leaders about issues affecting our people.

"We urge the ADL and AJC to rescind this misguided statement, which is detrimental to promoting stronger US/Israel relations and which compromises the freedom of speech rights of public officials and all Americans."

## ZOA Supports Israeli Bill Banning Foreign Gov't Funding of Israeli Political Organizations

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has expressed support for two bills before the Knesset in Jerusalem, which would ban political organizations in Israel from receiving donations of more than 20,000 shekels (about \$5,000) from foreign governments; and another which would tax such organizations at a rate of 45% on all revenue provided by foreign governments.

The head of NGO Monitor, Gerald Steinberg, said, "Instead of presenting and defending their disagreements with Israeli policy in public, according to accepted diplomatic procedures, the EU and individual European governments seek to exert pressure [upon Israel] via massive funding for highly politicized Israeli NGOs." (Marcy Oster, 'Critics of Knesset NGO bills say Israel's democracy being undermined,' Jewish Telegraphic Agency, November 14, 2011).

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein said, "The ZOA has been deeply concerned for some time by the stealthy political manipulation by foreign governments of the internal Israeli political debate via non-government organizations. Obviously there are Israeli-based NGOs that are anti-Israel or bitterly critical of Israeli policies. However, it is illegitimate that organizations that would be, in the main, very small and unrepresentative of Israeli opinion, are massively enlarged and funded by foreign governments. This type of interference in Israeli affairs is remarkable. Imagine the outcry if the Israeli government lavishly funded NGOs operating in, say France or Britain, or the U.S., which were deeply critical of those country's policies.

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"If foreign governments object to Israeli policies, they are free to express their concerns at the diplomatic level. They do this already. But they have no business imposing their foreign policy upon Israel by funding and aiding Israeli NGOs that are supposed to be representative of Israelis, not foreign governments."



# Facing A Challenging 2012

## Growing ties that bind U.S and Israeli legislators



Senator Lee, MK Hotovely and Jeff Daube

The greater Middle East is witnessing an ascendant Islamist Jihadist leadership from Morocco to Pakistan. With Israel's neighborhood roiling, and governments falling or being threatened at a dizzying pace, ZOA Israel notes increasing opposition in Israel to taking "risks for

peace." Nothing good can come from giving up strategic tangible assets for worthless paper agreements with regimes that could be gone or radicalized before year's end.

The Israel Office continues to work to strengthen the voices that understand these dangers, spread the arguments among those who do not, and combat those who argue, in the guise of peace activism, that the dangers are exaggerated or caused by Israeli intransigence.

## From the Knesset to Washington and Back

Preparations for the Israel Office's Fall mission to Capitol Hill and the State Department began with our canvassing of Israeli government ministers, Members of Knesset, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. Among the messages they asked us to deliver was that of Yisrael Beitenu MK Matalon, who had composed a letter warning Abbas could be misappropriating U.S. aid, with his having awarded \$5,000 and beautiful new homes to recently released terrorists.

Likud MK Danny Danon, who began a campaign in close coordination with the Israel Office last summer, requesting moral support from Members of Congress for his Annexation for Declaration Initiative, asked us to follow up during our D.C. meetings. Vice Prime Minister Yaalon, Ministers Katz, Kachlon, Erdan and Edelstein, and MKs Elkin, Regev, Pinion, Hotovely, Levin and Akunis uniformly agreed with Danon's premise that PA unilateralism effectively has nullified previous Oslo agreements.

Ichud Leumi MK Arie'el Eldad asked us to reference his alternative plan as well, which envisions Jordan as part of the solution to the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

We also heard many complaints about the dictates of the Obama administration, including recent attempts to undermine Jerusalem's status with fiat to halt building in its eastern areas. Several MKs suggested we question why restarting negotiations depended on Israeli concessions, yet the PA was not held accountable now or at any juncture.

In a jam-packed schedule, we met in Washington with more than 30 law and policy makers to discuss these and

other current issues. After consulting with attorney Nat Lewin, we also put out feelers on a new issue: using existing U.S. laws to press for the extradition, prosecution and re-imprisonment of recently released terrorist attackers of American citizens.

The Members of Congress were grateful for the insider sense we provided of Israeli popular and political opinion — more often than not presented inadequately or inaccurately by other sources. Reminding them of the thousands of



Jeff Daube  
Director, ZOA Israel

BANNER PHOTO CREDIT: OF STAMPS: TAKKX

# ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE



Left: Dr. Michael Goldblatt, Jeff Daube, Vice Prime Minister Shalom and Mayor Nachman

absentee ballots that are sent in by American Israelis for each U.S. election may have helped us make our case, but across the board, the Members seemed genuinely in favor of taking more aggressive positions on Israel's behalf.

At the State Department, as on the Hill, we revisited the matter of violence being inflicted on American mourners at the Mt. of Olives Cemetery. This time, we added our complaint about the distortions and false equivalency in State's annual report on International Religious Freedom. For example, to their credit they had responded to our June request to include the cemetery desecrations, but the same paragraph also stated the Jerusalem municipality had similarly desecrated an Arab "cemetery" in Mamilla. We presented documentation proving that Sheik Raid Saleh, known to be an extremist, had in fact placed faux headstones over non-existent graves, his intentions clearly being to extend Muslim claims in Jerusalem.

We also re-raised questions about the funding practices of State's Middle East Progress Initiative (MEPI), which discriminates against the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria. Having sent them details per their request after our last visit, we asked them to clarify if political or legal exigencies might have prevailed. Instead, they offered us the disingenuous excuse that Shomron Council grant proposals and the like had been declined because of recent cuts — to which we retorted that the favored treatment of Arab residents had been a longstanding, offensive policy. Foggy Bottom will be hearing more from us and our congressional friends on this subject.

We returned to the Knesset with the essential message that there is profound American sympathy for Israel's right to express its sovereignty, however and wherever. Matalon and Danon's letters had been very well received. There was significant bipartisan support for all of the issues we raised, including upgrading efforts to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and withholding funding for the PA due to its escalating incitement, unity talks with Hamas, and unilateral moves toward statehood. The Members of Congress had

been so enthusiastic about calling on Secretary of State Clinton to condemn the Mt. of Olives desecrations and violence, they actually were vying to take the lead among their colleagues to organize this effort.

The MKs, having come to value the peer-to-peer exchanges the Israel Office has arranged for them with U.S. officials over the years, agreed they must encourage the Israeli government to convey Israel's needs forthrightly as they had done, and stop the mixed messaging that has been enormously frustrating for Israel's allies on Capitol Hill.

## Distinguished U.S. visitors show on-the-ground support for Israel

**Media personality Glenn Beck brought cheers and tears.** Glenn Beck, keynote speaker at the ZOA's 2011 Brandeis Dinner and recipient of the first Sheldon and Miriam Adelson Award, visited Israel twice during the summer. ZOA Israel played a key role on each occasion: advising Beck's staff throughout, helping with programming and logistics, and providing access for Beck to members of the Knesset and Congress and vice versa.

For Beck's first trip, the Israel Office was responsible for the involvement of Israeli and American Israeli leadership in a major Knesset event, hosted by MK Danny Danon and his Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs Committee. We also brought Beck to ancient Tel Shiloh, and accompanied him to the Fogel home, in the community of Itamar, where two Palestinians had murdered five innocents in a horrific terror spree.

ZOA Israel's part in the weeklong "Restoring Courage" program, the theme of Beck's second visit, included reaching out to Members of Congress for participation or endorsements, recruiting Israeli leadership for an exclusive Bible Lands Museum dinner, and bringing a VIP contingent to the grand finale in Jerusalem's Old City.

**Delegation of congressmen guided away from the beaten track.** ZOA Israel spent considerable quality time with five Republican congressmen during an extensive fact-finding mission, sponsored by the American Israel Education Association, which we helped plan and coordinate. Congressmen Randy Forbes (VA), Doug Lamborn (CO), Jim Jordan (OH), Louie Gohmert (TX) and John Fleming (LA) made clear they recognize Israel's rights and dangers and would do what they could on Capitol Hill to demonstrate their support. Congressmen Peter Roskam (R-IL) and John Carter (R-TX) could not travel this time but assured

# ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE



Jeff Daube at Jerusalem Conference

the Israel Office they would be on the next trip.

Unlike the typical congressional mission, the itinerary emphasized Judea and Samaria and meetings with “settler” leadership, including the one and only Mayor Ron Nachman of Ariel. We also invited a small group of key Knesset members to a

roundtable discussion with the congressmen and encouraged them to speak frankly on the issues. The rapport established and information shared between the congressmen and Minister Daniel Herskowitz (Habayit Hayehudi), MKs Arieh Eldad (Ichud Leumi), Tzipi Hotovely (Likud), Nissim Zeev (Shas) and Robert Tivayev (Kadima), shows ZOA’s program of reinforcing the ties that bind U.S. and Israeli legislators is on the right track — evident as well during our follow-up meetings with each of the congressmen when we saw them again in Washington.

**Others also came to experience and learn.** During his latest Israel visit, former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee asked us to brief him and his Fox News Channel producer on recent events, and to suggest questions for his interview with PM Netanyahu. We also informed Huckabee about a credible report we had received from MK Aryeh Eldad, which Huckabee then exposed on his TV program: while congressional leaders were getting ready to put a stop to PA funding, the Obama administration was pressuring Netanyahu to discourage them, purportedly demanding Israeli compliance in exchange for a U.S. veto at the U.N.

The Israel Office lobbied visiting Republican and Democratic leadership during their respective missions, conversing mostly with Representatives Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Michael Grimm (R-NY), and the long time foreign policy aide of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA); and on the next mission, with House Minority leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL) and Caroline Maloney (D-NY). After the Democratic delegation returned from Ramallah, having met with Abbas, Fayyad and U.S. General Moeller, we shared our concerns about corrupt Palestinian leadership and also the U.S. funded “Dayton troops.” We pointed to the stone throwing and other disturbances in the news at the time, plainly attributable to a spate of PA sanctioned hate sermons on the Friday just before the Members’ arrival.

At a breakfast meeting with newly elected Rep. Janice Hahn (D-CA) arranged by her former constituents, we introduced her to an array of themes, including how the U.S.

should relate to threats to Israel, whether they are from Hamas rockets or Iranian ballistic missiles, and Palestinian misappropriation of U.S. funds, for example for its malignant educational agenda. Hahn, a former teacher, found that interesting.

During Glenn Beck’s visit, the Israel Office introduced Deputy Minister Ayoub Kara and Likud MK Tzipi Hotovely to mission participants Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Rep. Joe Walsh (R-IL) and actor Jon Voight. We informed Lee and Walsh about the pro-Jerusalem amicus brief that ZOA was circulating in the Congress and persuaded them to sign on. Rep. Walsh told us, as he has many times before, that he would sign onto anything for Israel, and indeed his introduction upon his return of H. Res. 394 (Supporting Israel’s right to annex Judea and Samaria, in the event that the Palestinian Authority continues to press for unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations) seems to have been directly inspired by MK Danon’s Annexation for Declaration Initiative.

ZOA Israel organized a day of briefings for National Board Chairman Dr. Michael Goldblatt, which included an introduction to Tel Shiloh, a meeting with Ariel mayor Ron Nachman and a tour of his city and university, and an encounter with Vice Prime Minister Silvan Shalom. We joined National Vice President Steve Goldberg for private meetings with VPM Yaalon and MKs Hotovely and Danon, focusing on Palestinian state alternatives, and arranged consultations with the two MKs for National Board member Dr. Alan Mazurek as well. For an earlier visit of Dr. Mazurek, the Israel Office brought him on a “Keep Jerusalem” briefing tour of the capital’s strategic periphery, an excursion we also arranged for ZOA West Coast Region board member Victoria Davis with Christian broadcaster Tani Zarelli, wife of the Washington State Senate Republican leader.

Among its many preparations for the ZOA Student Leadership Mission, the Israel office arranged private meetings with Ministers “Boogie” Yaalon and Uzi Landau, and MKs Arieh Eldad, Danny Danon and Tzipi Hotovely. During their Knesset visit the collegiates enjoyed special addresses by ZOA’s own Dr. Alan Mazurek and Likud Anglo Director Daniel Tauber.

## More Updates

**Abandoning the Mt. of Olives is tantamount to abandoning Jerusalem.** ZOA Israel, in close coordination with the International Committee for the Preservation of Har Hazeitim, has made significant progress concerning the Mt. of Olives Cemetery and its environs. We approached the office of the Prime Minister, Mayor Nir Barkat, the Je-

Jerusalem Development Authority, the Ministry of Housing and other agencies, all to good effect: Ninety of 139 security cameras finally are operating. A very sophisticated security center has been established, and the police shortly will set up a permanent presence with round the clock patrols. Restoration of desecrated graves are proceeding apace. We also are looking at ways to give prominence to the cemetery, as a catalyst to celebrate Israel's great leaders and luminaries who are buried there.

The recent riots at Ras al Amud, the desecration of fourteen graves on Nakba Day, sneaky construction activities at an abutting illegal mosque extension during Shabbat and Jewish holidays — the Whac-a-Mole incidents keep reminding us there is much yet to be done. Hence ZOA Israel's involvement with several Knesset efforts to address brazen Arab violations and land grabs, such as mandatory sentencing for cemetery abusers, felony-like penalties for underage perpetrators, and incorporation of Jerusalem's suburbs into metropolitan Jerusalem.

That a threatened holy site must be protected is obvious. But it is also vitally important to recognize that abandoning the historic and strategic Mt. of Olives would be tantamount to abandoning Jerusalem. As illegal Arab building proliferates throughout Israel's capital—including in the surrounding areas from Ramallah in the north down to Bethlehem in the south, referred to by many as Jerusalem's Gaza Strip — it seems we already could be yielding our rightful claim of sovereignty in Jerusalem.

**The Jerusalem Birthplace Act once again on ZOA's radar** Israel Office Director Jeff Daube was asked to join a panel on the 'Jerusalem-Washington Axis' at the Fall 2011 Jerusalem Conference, to share his experiences lobbying for the Jerusalem Birthplace Act more than a decade ago. To this day, the law has not been executed, due to the interference of one U.S. president after another; but its disposition is about to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The problem that was supposed to have been corrected is the omission of "Israel" on official U.S. documents when an American citizen is born in Jerusalem. The implications of the Jerusalem Birthplace bill, a powerful metaphor for the controversy over Jerusalem control, certainly has not been lost on Yasser Arafat, who deemed its passage into law a "catastrophe," nor by the ZOA, which conducted its own lobbying activities at the time. The ZOA became involved again last summer, filing an amicus brief to support Supreme Court petitioner, Jerusalem-born Binyamin Menachem Zivotofsky.

ZOA Israel's conference segment concluded with a call for increased political activism by private citizens, both in Israel and in the U.S., modeled on the successful Jerusalem

Birthplace campaign. Jeff explained how participating, even minimally, in the Americans Vote Israel program — which he had introduced to promote grassroots advocacy in combination with interparliamentary diplomacy — would help Israel's friends in Washington help Israel.

**The other captive - Ouda Tarabin.** As the Jewish world watched the release of hostages Gilad Shalit and Ilan Grapel, another Israeli citizen's plight continued to be ignored, with only a few exceptions. Ouda Tarabin was thrown into an Egyptian cell eleven years ago on trumped up charges and without due process, and still languishes there today. This may have more to do with his father who, as reported by major Egyptian daily and government mouthpiece Al Ahram, also was accused of spying, though in absentia, after he allegedly provided the IDF with Egyptian military positions in the Sinai during the 1967 hostilities.

The Israel Office became intimately involved after Beer-sheva attorney Izhak Melzer, who has been tirelessly working on the case pro bono, asked us for help. For two years we have been discussing Ouda's inhumane treatment with U.S. officials, while raising larger themes such as the billions of American taxpayer dollars allocated to Egypt, despite its corrosive detention system, surging Islamism, its persecuting of minority Jewish and Christian communities, and allowing the Sinai to turn into a base for al-Qaeda.

Most recently, we have been urgently advocating for Ouda with Robert Silverman, political counselor representing Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro, having been advised that Israel's unsuccessful, back channel interlocutors would welcome American pressure now. The window for intervention is closing fast. [It should be noted the Israel Office also has been advising activists seeking congressional action for Jonathan Pollard.]

**Heroes to Heroes.** Judy Shaeffer, founder of the Fort Lee, NJ based "Heroes to Heroes" project, brought ten disabled American GIs to Israel, to build bonds with their Israeli counterparts and see firsthand how lovingly they are treated here. Harley Lippmann, ZOA Brandeis Dinner Award honoree and president of the sponsoring American-Israeli Friendship League, accompanied the group. This outstanding initiative is an example of how even small efforts could be pursued to counter anti-Israel propaganda.

The Israel Office's role included helping arrange a major Knesset gathering and reaching out to Ichud Leumi MK Yaakov Katz, himself a wounded war veteran, to take the lead. ZOA Israel was awarded a plaque for its contributions at the moving ceremony. Minister Yuli Edelstein said he would like to see more events of this type in the future. Judy reports that plans are underway for just that.



## ZOA Pittsburgh District

The Pittsburgh District of ZOA continues to be very active in the community. The Fall speakers' series was made up of three fascinating guests. The first was presented by our own Michael Vanyukov, PhD. Dr. Vanyukov presented an overview with documentation, of the Jewish people's 3000 year-old plus connection with the land of Israel. It was most enlightening for younger members and refreshed the memory of others. The next speaker was a descendant of the



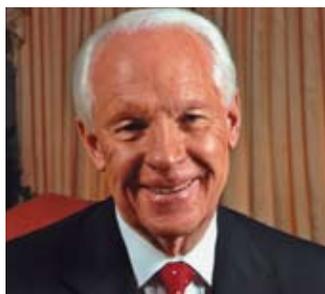
Hon. Sophie Masloff

Prophet Muhammad. The individual, who must remain anonymous for security reasons, told a story of growing up in a non-Muslim family with a Muslim parent and a non-Muslim parent. It was a riveting presentation. The last speaker was Abby Wisse Schachter, who writes for the New York

Post and is a frequent contributor to the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle. She was in Israel last June, when thousands of Israelis expressed their anger with the high cost of consumer goods, especially food and dairy products. Her talk was entitled, "The Land of Milk, Honey and Cottage Cheese; Why Israel Needs Economic Reform."

Each year, Pittsburgh District holds a gala tribute dinner event and last year was no different. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to the Hon. Sophie Masloff and the Hon. James C. Roddey.

Sophie Masloff was a long-time public servant and served as a clerk in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. In 1976, she won a seat on the Pittsburgh City Council. In 1988, she became President of City Council. Later that year,



Hon. James C. Roddey

after the untimely death of the Mayor at age 70, she was sworn in as Pittsburgh's first female and first Jewish Mayor. She was later elected to a full term. Sophie, at 93, continues to be active in local and national politics.

James Roddey, who is not Jewish, is nevertheless a true friend of the Jewish people. He is active with ZOA, State of Israel Bonds and just served as Master of Ceremonies of the Pittsburgh Jewish National Fund, Guardian of Israel Dinner, for the 22nd

consecutive year. Roddey is a successful businessman and is very dedicated to public service. He ran for election, won and served from 2000-2004 as the first County Executive of Allegheny County, under a reorganized form of county government previously approved by voters.

Lawrence N. Paper was presented with ZOA's Israel Service Award. He is a long-time ZOA member, an ardent Zionist, has served on Pittsburgh District's board of directors and is currently a ZOA vice-president. Besides his law practice, Paper taught for 40 years at Robert Morris University as an Associate Professor of Legal Studies. Paper retired from the U.S. Air Force with the rank of Lt. Colonel after 30 years of active and reserve duty.



Lawrence N. Paper, Esq.

Janice Greenwald was honored with the Natalie E. Novick Community Leadership Award. She has worked so tirelessly as a volunteer in Western Pennsylvania that her name has become synonymous with Hadassah. She served in various positions of leadership in the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter, the Midwest Cooperative and National. Janice is a past-president of Hadassah's Western Pennsylvania region and is a past National vice-president. Presently, at National, she serves on the Ethics Committee.

The Awards Dinner and Tribute was successful in every way imaginable. Funds raised will assist Pittsburgh District with programming, including its Tolerance Education Program.

The Tolerance Education Program is the brainchild of Zalman Shapiro, a National ZOA Board Member and Chairman Emeritus of Pittsburgh District.



Janice Greenwald

The program teaches intercity children the horrors of the Holocaust and the need to be understanding of others. The program includes several classroom presentations and discussions. It culminates with a trip to the U.S. National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., provided at no cost to the students or schools by ZOA-Pittsburgh District. From 1999 through 2005, Pittsburgh District took 3,000 tenth graders to the museum. The chapter is working with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and reintroducing the

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program this March. Those interested in supporting this worthwhile project are encouraged to contact the chapter, [pittsburgh@zoa.org](mailto:pittsburgh@zoa.org).

Pittsburgh District is pleased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of providing scholarships for Israel study trips to children of permanent residents of Pittsburgh and some surrounding areas. The late Hy Kimel, who was executive director of the ZOA-Pittsburgh District for more than 30 years, established the Israel Scholarship Program in 1962 as an investment in the children of our region. ZOA has found these trips very important in reinforcing the commitment of these students to Judaism and in giving them an appreciation of the centrality of Israel to Jewish life. Moreover, they gain a better understanding and affection for the history, heritage, culture and religion into which they were born. Today, ZOA continues its devotion to supporting the education of our youth as the leaders of tomorrow. The chapter is now accepting applications for the summer of 2012.

## ZOA Philadelphia District

The Greater Philadelphia District had its first Gala in many years in September, presenting a local version of the Ben Hecht Award to pro-Israel talk-radio host Dom Giordano and the Defender of Israel Award to Rabbi Fred Kazan. More than 250 people—Jews and gentiles, young and old, members and non-members—attended this event. In addition to the honorees, guests heard remarks from National ZOA President Mort Klein and keynote speaker Jonathan Tobin of Commentary magazine.

The Greater Philadelphia District elected and installed new officers. They are: co-presidents Lee Bender and Howard Katzoff; vice presidents Roberta Dzubow, Morton Gleit, Marc Pevar, Jerome Verlin, Eleanor Weinglass and Roberta Weiss; treasurer Len Getz; and secretary Heather Ber-

man. We had our first Young Leadership event, which featured remarks by Philadelphia Jewish communal leader and entrepreneur Gary Erlbaum, followed by a lively discussion about Israel and Zionism.

We have written a strongly worded letter to the principal of a Philadelphia middle school, where some students have denied the existence



Rabbi Fred Kazan

of Israel on a test, crossing out the name "Israel" and substituting "Palestine" in one question, and answering another question with "Palestine," where the correct and intended answer clearly was "Israel." We have asked for a meeting with the principal and plan to strongly pursue this matter.

We have embarked on a project to reach out to other faith-group and ethnic-group communities to forge relationships, develop alliances and to bring these communities the facts about Israel, the Middle East and the peace process.

## ZOA Michigan Region

The 2011-2012 Michigan Region's Education Series included programs featuring well-known author, Robert Spencer; Dr. Charles Jacobs, cofounder of C.A.M.E.R.A.; Frank Loewenberg, Bar-Ilan University Professor Emeritus; Kamal Saleem, reformed terrorist; David Bedein, Director of the Center for Near East Policy Research, who screened the documentary, "For the Sake of Nakba," and Gil Hoffman, reporter for the *Jerusalem Post*, who spoke about the Arab Spring; and David Aisner who spoke about the Jewish people's legal rights to the land of Israel, ZOA President Mort Klein, discussed the United Nations and the Palestinian state. Dr. Mordechai Kedar spoke about the topic "Jerusalem-What Is The Struggle About?" and Ishmail Khaldi; first Bedouin Deputy Consul of Israel spoke at the University of Michigan.



Forgotten Refugees: Middle East and North African Jews

MI-ZOA also helped sponsor an exclusive screening of the film, "Iranium." Additionally, ZOA-MI showed the documentary, "Forgotten Refugees," which explores the history, culture and forced exodus of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish communities after World War II. Most recently, we held a special presentation of "Unmasked: Judeophobia," with a special lecture given by producer Gloria Greenfield. In March, MI-ZOA will be screening "Against the Tide," a compelling film that documents how the rescue of Europe's Jews was not championed by Jewish community leadership.

This year, Executive Director Kobi Erez has been speaking in local schools, synagogues, Jewish agencies and college campuses about ZOA's mission and Israeli history and politics, with a particular focus on Iran.

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We hope to continue working closely with ZOA Campus Coordinator Leo Nayfeld, who has been active on Michigan campuses fighting the anti Israel trend that has swept campuses around the country.

ZOA's Michigan Region also publicized the efforts of students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, in their fight to study abroad in Israel.

Through the Sidney Silverman Scholarship Fund, ZOA's Michigan Region will again award grants for organized programs in Israel to deserving high school students.

This year, ZOA's Michigan Region will be holding its first Israel Education Workshop.

High school students from all over the Detroit community will be invited to spend a day learning how to advocate for Israel through lectures and discussions on Israeli politics, Jewish history and heritage, and issues faced on college campuses today, as part of its Scholarship program.

In November, the Michigan Region held our 78th Annual Balfour Celebration, honoring Susan and Rabbi Joseph Krakoff of Congregation Shaarey Zedek and U.S. First Lt. Nick Israel. All three honorees are long time supporters of Israel and the Zionist Organization of America. We were pleased to welcome them into a long list of Michigan honorees.

We continue to speak out in both local and national press through articles, op-eds and letters to the editor. Our e-newsletter continues to reach over 800 people each week. We encourage everyone to visit our website, [www.mizoa.org/programs](http://www.mizoa.org/programs).

## ZOA Western Region

The ZOA Western Region welcomed its new Executive Director, Orit Arfa, in October.

Prior to her appointment, Orit served as Executive Director of the Century City Bar Association, a not-for-profit organization that provides legal programming for lawyers working in and around Century City.

Orit is also an accomplished journalist who has covered Israel and the Jewish world for a variety of publications, most notably The Jewish Journal of Los Angeles and The Jerusalem Post. Her op-ed columns on Israeli foreign policy and society have been syndicated in a variety of publications.

"I am privileged to lead the West Coast contingent of an organization dedicated to safeguarding Israel, by standing tall against threats to Israel's security. There is so much potential for broadening the ZOA's base and mission in the West Coast."

"I look forward to working with the ZOA team to create dynamic programs, optimize local operations, and foster a sense of community among those who care deeply about Israel's safety and success," she added.

Under the guidance of National Vice Chairman and LA Chapter chair, Steve Goldberg, Orit has already done considerable work revitalizing ZOA's

West Coast presence. For starters, ZOA West opened an office at the Jewish Federation building in Los Angeles, to centralize and optimize its operations.

In December, the ZOA hosted LA's new Consul General of Israel, Hon. David Siegel, who addressed over 60 people on the topic "Israel: Challenges and Opportunities." The event generated new interest in ZOA West and served to better develop the ZOA's relationship with the local Consulate.

In September, the ZOA hosted MK Ariel Eldad of National Union, who addressed attendees on his proposal for declaring Jordan as the natural Palestinian state. He also revealed to ZOA supporters the back-room deal the U.S. Administration made with the Israeli government to condition the U.S. veto of Palestinian statehood on the transferring of PA funds held by the U.S. The story subsequently appeared in the Los Angeles Jewish Journal.

Also in the press was Steve Goldberg's chilling op-ed on the release of Gilad Shalit, appearing in both *FrontPage Magazine* and the *LA Jewish Journal*. Two of Orit's op-eds were published in the *Jerusalem Post*, one dealing with the undesirability of a two-state "solution," and the other describing the idea of modern prophecy.

On the Campus front, Morton A. Klein and Susan Tuchman wrote a letter to CSUN President Jolene Koester (now retired) expressing concern over the anti-Israel rants posted by math professor, David Klein, on the CSUN server. The story and ZOA's involvement was covered in the *LA Jewish Journal*.

ZOA West is currently reforming its Board of Directors, building its electronic database, and planning several eye-opening events for the course of 2012. ZOA West has also launched the "zLetter," an e-newsletter for ZOA news and announcements geared to the West Coast. To read



Orit Arfa

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them and to find out more, go to ZOA West's temporary working site: [www.zoawest.org](http://www.zoawest.org).

## ZOA Florida Region

ZOA's Florida Region had a productive and successful 2011 and has a strong foundation to build on, as we head into 2012. Thankfully, we see our efforts producing material results. The exposure of the local community to ZOA's mission continued to increase, as ZOA was cited in dozens of local articles advocating strong pro-Israel policies. ZOA conducted education and outreach programs on nearly every college campus in Florida, and successfully exposed and neutralized the efforts of hateful anti-Israel groups. In 2011, ZOA presented more than 75 lectures and events all around the State. Here are a few highlights we are pleased to share.

**Meetings with University Administrations.** ZOA National President Mort Klein, Florida Director Joseph Sabag and Campus Affairs National Director Sharona Whisler met with university administrations to discuss important protections for Jewish students under Title VI. These meetings were initiated through the support of Congressmen Ted Deutch, Alan West, Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. ZOA presented evidence documenting the increasing effort of anti-Israel groups to target campuses with false information and hateful propaganda. The conversations particularly emphasized the evolving respon-

sibilities of universities under Title VI. Mort also emphasized that, although universities must tolerate legally protected hate speech, they nevertheless have an obligation to identify it as bigotry and condemn it publicly. The conversation was concluded with a request that the Administration learn more about Title VI and apply strict scrutiny to the activities of anti-Israel students groups both on and off campus. A follow up letter and materials were sent by ZOA's Law Center.

## Zionist Leadership Institute Launched

ZOA's Florida region kicked off the Israel Leadership Institute (ILI) this past October. ILI is intended to offer local leaders an expert understanding of the facts and information needed to expertly engage in Israel advocacy, and to introduce them to the important work of ZOA and the full range of issues on the ZOA agenda. The program hosts leading experts in an eight-part seminar designed to provide an in-depth understanding of the specific information we believe every Israel advocate should have. The initial participants include 15 leaders from a wide array of professional backgrounds. The first three lectures were provided by Mr. Joshua London of ZOA's Government Relations office, Dr. Andrew Bostom, author of *The Legacy of Islamic Anti-Semitism*, and Mr. Chaim Silberstein, of Keep Jerusalem United.

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### ZOA Israel In The News

**Featured interview** on IBA English News TV, and on radio broadcasts of Galei Yisrael, Israel National News, WVOX, High Adventure Broadcasting Network of Canada and Radio France.

**Quoted in articles** by The Jerusalem Post, Israel National News, Mishpacha Magazine and Yeshiva World News.

**Letters to the** The Jerusalem Post about Arab MK incitement; Palestinian leadership vacuum; yellow journalism; USAID funding for coexistence projects; and Ariel University Center delegitimization.

**Provided additional** media exposure for Minister Saar and MKs Danon, Hotovely, Katz and Matalon to express their views on Palestinian statehood and unilateralism, Jerusalem indivisibility, the release of terrorists and Zionist education.

**Connected Israeli** and international media to sources of reliable information, and found audiences for pro-Israel media. Among those helped recently: New York Times' Ethan Bronner; White House correspondent William Koenig; Global Network News' Carrie Bristol; Jerusalem Post's Gil Hoffman and Melanie Lidman; independent journalists Arlene Kushner, Eli Hertz and Josh Hasten; and organizations such as the Center for Near East Media Research, the Unity Coalition for Israel and the Clarion Fund.

