



# ZOA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

## DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS LISTEN TO ZOA



**Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)**  
Chair, Foreign Relations Comm.



**Cong. Ed Royce (R-CA)**, Chair, Foreign Relations Comm.



**Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)**



**Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)**



**Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)**



**Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)**



**Cong. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)**



**Cong. Brad Sherman (D-CA)**



**Cong. Alan Grayson (D-FL)**

## PRO-ISRAEL EVENT OF THE YEAR

**LOUIS D. BRANDEIS DINNER / GRAND HYATT HOTEL, NYC / SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**



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



**Michael Leven**  
*Louis Brandeis Award*



**Pastor John Hagee**  
*Adelson Award*



**Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson**  
*Presenters*



**Professor Alan Dershowitz**  
*Mort Zuckerman Award*



**Mortimer Zuckerman**  
*Presenter*

**FALL  
2014**



**Bernie Marcus**  
*Dinner Chair*



**Rabbi Shmuley Boteach**  
*Dvar Torah*



**Morton A. Klein**  
*National President, ZOA*

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- GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## MEDIA BIAS AND HAMAS INTIMIDATION DURING OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE

As this issue of the ZOA Report goes to print, the world's attention is still heavily focused on the ongoing fighting in Gaza. It's no secret that Israel's reputation is being made to suffer by the endless images and reports of civilian casualties in Gaza. Because of media bias and intimidation by Hamas, we hardly see any Hamas missile teams or rockets being launched, or tunnels that Hamas used,—constructed under private houses and hospitals—even though this is occurring every day.

Not one of 37 images from three slideshows published by *The New York Times* during July showed even a single Hamas gunman. Hamas maintains a major military headquarters in a basement beneath the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, yet we've seen no footage of Hamas occupying the hospital.

When a missile that Hamas misfired killed 10 Palestinian Arabs at the Al-Shati refugee camp on July 28th, Israel was blamed for days for committing a massacre. Only when an Italian reporter who had been on the scene was out of Gaza and free from Hamas threats and violence, did we learn the truth.

Israeli filmmaker Michael Grynspan recounted on Facebook how a Spanish journalist who had just left Gaza replied to his question about why there was no footage of Hamas in action: "It's very simple. We did see Hamas people there, launching rockets. They were close to our hotel, but if ever we dared point our camera on them, they would simply shoot at us and kill us."

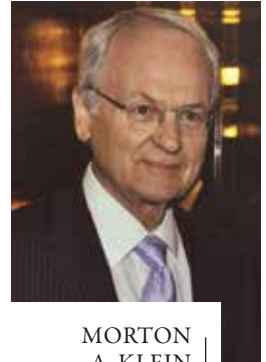
When journalists operate in a terror haven under the close scrutiny of pitiless murderers, we cannot simply rely on terrorist-compliant reports. All too often, the reports we have seen or heard of Israeli strikes on schools, or of Israel killing large numbers of Palestinian civilians, have proven to have been fabrications by Hamas.

For example, on August 3rd, media reports claimed that Israel had targeted and hit a United

Nations (UN) school in Rafah, resulting in 10 deaths. Israel was widely condemned. Yet, only a few publications, such as the *Wall Street Journal*, disclosed that the Israelis had in fact targeted three Islamic Jihad terrorists on a motorbike outside the UN facility, which is where the missile struck, as the Israelis said all along.

In fact, of three UN schools that Israel was reported to have hit in a two-week period — and for which it received strong international condemnation — the evidence now shows that the civilian deaths at one school were probably the result of a misfired Hamas rocket, a second school was hit by Israeli fire while Palestinian terrorists were firing from within it, and a third school was simply never struck directly by Israel at all. The media also shows a propensity to accept casualty figures provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. But this is merely a government department of Hamas, which is not only an internationally recognized terrorist organization, but also has a vested interest in inflating Palestinian casualty figures.

Media reports describe particular cases of



MORTON  
A. KLEIN  
President,  
Zionist  
Organization  
of America

***When a missile that Hamas misfired killed 10 Palestinian Arabs at the Al-Shati refugee camp on July 28th, Israel was blamed for days for committing a massacre. Only when an Italian reporter who had been on the scene was out of Gaza and free from Hamas threats and violence, did we learn the truth.***

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*The media also shows a propensity to accept casualty figures provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.*

death and injury as allegedly arising from Israeli action and encompassing large numbers or proportions of civilian casualties. Much of this reportage carries the not-so-subtle implication that Israel is on the rampage.

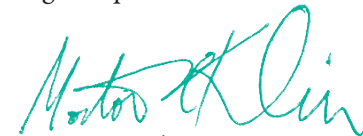
The truth is that Hamas deliberately embeds its forces among Gaza civilians and that it wants them killed in sufficiently large numbers, to create the perception that Israel is on the rampage.

Even UN officials have confirmed that on July 16th, "the Israeli military delivered text messages to virtually all the residents of Ash Shuja'iyya and Az Zaitoun neighborhoods in eastern Gaza city, approximately 100,000 people, warning them to leave their homes ... ahead of attacks to be launched in the area ... the Palestinian Ministry of Interior in Gaza reportedly instructed the residents ... not [to] flee the area ... the vast majority decided to stay."

And again: On July 8th, seven Gazans were killed, and two dozen wounded in Khan Younis by Israeli strikes — but not because Israel struck recklessly and without taking precautionary steps. Israel had forewarned residents that it would attack a house occupied

by terrorists, but civilians nonetheless flooded the house in question. Why? Because, as the *Wall Street Journal* reported, "family members who survived said they thought if they stayed as human shields, they could stop the attack and dozens of men rushed to the roof."

Absent Hamas' rocket barrage and terror tunnels, there would be no war. Those who launch assaults, plan mass terror attacks, embed themselves among their own civilians while targeting those of the other side deserve exposure. The combination of fear, intimidation and willingness on the part of journalists and NGOs to parrot Hamas propaganda distorts vital truths about this war. Israel has not developed incisive methods for dealing with this and that is our vital task going forward. As Winston Churchill once said, "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on." <sup>ZOA</sup>



Morton A. Klein  
National President

### ZOA IS ASSOCIATE PRODUCER OF AN IMPORTANT ISRAEL DOCUMENTARY: "BODY AND SOUL"

On October 27, 2014, an audience of 750 attended the North American premiere of Gloria Greenfield's new film *Body and Soul*. The Zionist Organization of America was a co-sponsor of the premiere along with Doc Emet Productions, the maker of the film. ZOA is also an associate producer of the film.

This documentary sets the record straight both eloquently and comprehensively. It not only shows the undeniable historical connection between the Jewish People and the Land of Israel, but also succeeds in debunking all of the propaganda and fabrication of Arab history, myths, and misinformation that have become accepted as truth by so many. This film will be invaluable in educating those who are unaware of the attempts to erase and falsify Jewish history. In the words of a reviewer of the film, "one is tempted to say once and for all that Israel is, was, and always will be, the land of the Jewish people."

# DC MISSION ZOA ACTIVISTS

## **HUNDREDS OF ZOA ACTIVISTS ON CAPITOL HILL: LINK PA AID TO COMPLIANCE; MORE IRAN SANCTIONS; AFFIRM JEWISH LEGAL/HISTORICAL RIGHT TO LIVE IN JUDEA/SAMARIA**

### **SEN. MENENDEZ/SEN. KIRK RECEIVE ZOA DEFENDER OF ZION AWARD**

Hundreds of activists from 23 states across the country, from California to Ohio, to New York, Pennsylvania and Florida, participated in the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)'s Annual Advocacy Mission to Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Meeting with almost 100 Members of Congress or their legislative staffers, ZOA activists urged them to:

1) Support S. 2265 (Stand with Israel Act of 2014) and H.R. 1337 (Palestinian Accountability Act) which would oppose further U.S. aid to Mahmoud Abbas' Palestinian Authority (PA) (currently over \$600 million per annum) until it fulfills its signed agreements under Oslo to arrest and imprison terrorists; dismantle and outlaw terrorist groups; end the incitement to hatred and murder within the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps; end the PA alliance with Hamas; and recognize Israel as a Jewish state;

2) Understand and support S. 1881 (Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013) and H.R. 850 (Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013) which would lead to imposing new, tough sanctions on Iran in the event that it violates the Geneva Interim Agreement with the U.S. and Europe (P5+1), and fails to agree to ending its nuclear weapons program, given that the Iranian regime has called for the destruction of Israel, America and the defeat of the West. The ZOA also requested Members of Congress to support U.S. and/or Israeli military action against Iran should it prove necessary, in order to stop Iran from going nuclear; and

3) Understand and support the legal, historical, religious and political right of Jews to live in Judea/Samaria and to oppose the canard, based on a wilful and politicized distortion and intentional misinterpretation of Article 49 of

the Fourth Geneva Convention, that Israel's presence there is unlawful and a war crime.

At the ZOA's spectacular Congressional Luncheon, held prior to the congressional meetings in a magnificent room in the Russell Senate Office Building on Constitution Ave., ZOA activists were joined at the luncheon by



**Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN)**



**Congressman Bill Johnson (R-OH)**



**Congressman Billy Long (R-Missouri)**



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## DC MISSION

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Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)



Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX)

numerous Democratic and Republican U.S. Senators and House Members, who attended and spoke at the ZOA luncheon.

ZOA National President Morton A. Klein said, “It is so inspiring to the ZOA and our delegates to hear these fabulous, pro-Israel speeches by the most important Members of Congress, which included the Chairs of both the Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees and several potential presidential candidates. One delegate after another made it clear to me that they were thrilled to spend a day in their lives to fight for Israel, for strong U.S./Israel relations, and to educate Members of Congress about the truth about the ongoing Arab war against Israel, which seeks Israel’s destruction, not any sort of negotiated settlement.”

Mort Klein introduced **Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**, acknowledging his “great work,” and reminiscing about a meeting between Senator Menendez and Jewish leaders in which the Senator had “the most knowledge and was the most pro-Israel out of anyone in that room. He has done tremendous work in the field of security since 9/11, has given extraordinary speeches about Israel, and has been leading with the introduction of the Nuclear Free Iran Act of 2013.” In presenting him with the **ZOA’s Defender of Zion Award**, Mort said, “Senator Menendez has shown extraordinary courage in speaking out, even on issues he knows that much of his party may not be there with him.” Senator Menendez praised Mort and the ZOA’s work, saying, “Mort Klein works every day for a strong, durable American Israeli relationship ... I am very honored to receive this award ... I have had an unwavering view that it is in the national interest of the United States to have a strong relationship with the state of Israel, an island of democracy. As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I reject any call for boycotts, divestment or any statement that Israel risks becoming an apartheid state ... Mahmoud Abbas must decide between a future of a Palestinian state side by side with the Jewish state of Israel, or an unholy marriage with Hamas, which has consequences under U.S. law. If it comes to fruition, I will seek to enforce the provisions of U.S. law that say that US money cannot go to a terrorist regime...Quite frankly, I’m nervous about any impending deal with Iran. We need the right deal, not just any deal. A nuclear-armed Iran would be an existential threat to the state of Israel. It would become an even greater threat to the region, exporting terrorists, sending fighters to Syria...I introduced with my colleague Senator Kirk the latest round of sanctions, so we can send the message that, if Iran doesn’t agree, consequences follow...We must fight back against the efforts to delegitimize the Jewish state...I have taken a bipartisan effort every step of the way on Iran sanctions and will continue to do so.”

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ZOA Board member Jim Pollack introduced **Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)**, observing that, “for Mark Kirk, no issue is more important than the safety and security of the State of Israel. Senator Kirk doesn’t just co-sponsor pro-Israel legislation, he initiates and he authors it. There is no better friend in Washington, DC than this gentleman. In 2009, during the Gaza invasion, Senator Kirk said, ‘Something is rotten in Gaza and it’s time to take out the trash.’” Senator Kirk introduced himself by saying, “I’m the pro-Israel senator who replaced Barack Obama in the U.S. Senate. ... When you’re told to ‘temporize’ what you’re doing in support of Israel, or to ‘back off, don’t. Defend the State of Israel and do exactly what you believe in.” Senator Kirk, who was presented by Mort Klein with the ZOA’s Defender of Zion Award, added, “One of the reasons I ran for the Senate was to protect Israel. Now, I need your help. There has been a \$200 million cut in missile defense for Israel. Together with our friends in ZOA, we’ll reverse that.”

Mort Klein introduced **Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)**, a potential presidential candidate, joking that, “Not only do I support everything you’ve done, but I’ll support everything you will do.” Senator Cruz said, “It’s great to be back with so many dear friends at ZOA. Thank you for repeatedly and relentlessly standing up and speaking the truth ... Next week I’ll travel back to Israel for the third time in the past year and a half ... The good news is that there remains some possibility for unity and clarity here when it comes to national security and speaking up against Iranian aggression... The appointment by Iran as ambassador to the UN someone who participated in the seizure of U.S. hostages in Tehran in 1979 was intended as slap in the face to the United States. I introduced legislation to bar his admission to the U.S. That legislation passed 100–0 in the Senate and 435 to nothing in the House. Just a few weeks ago, President Obama signed it into law. We will not allow known terrorists to live in New York City with diplomatic immunity. The bad news, as everyone in this room appreciates, the greatest national security threat to the U.S. and Israel, is

the threat of a nuclear Iran. I agree with Prime Minister Netanyahu that the Geneva Interim deal signed by the P5+1 with Iran is an historic mistake. I’m proud to say I was an original co-sponsor of Kirk –Menendez, but I’m sorry to say it has not come to a vote on the floor, because Harry Reid will not let it come to a vote, because President Obama doesn’t want it to come to a vote. The rational thing to do would be reimpose sanctions and strengthen them. We should say to Iran, ‘If you want sanctions lifted, there is a simple path — dismantle every centrifuge and hand over all enriched uranium’...I feel we are repeating the mistake of the 1990s when the Clinton Administration relaxed sanctions on North Korea. The same person who negotiated that one is doing it again, now, Wendy Sherman...This is a call to action. Israel will strike Iran if the U.S. is not doing the job, the job we should be doing to prevent Iran going nuclear. The chorus of condemnation will be deafening. I cannot think of a greater national security service Israel could provide the United States than taking out Iran’s nuclear weapons ... Secretary Kerry’s apartheid state remarks were a grotesque and false slander. Shortly after he made those remarks, I demanded that he resign his position. I’m proud to say that shortly after, Mort Klein emphatically repeated that demand. Secretary Kerry’s remark wasn’t a momentary slip of the tongue; it was reflective of an utterly unacceptable attitude towards Israel. Those

***“I’m proud to be working with our friends in the ZOA.”***

**Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)**



**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ)**

***Senator Paul said that he is a friend of Israel and that “It is important to have ZOA because ZOA is right on some things AIPAC is not right on. A lot of Americans don’t know that we give money to the PA.”***

words will be repeated by Iran, by Hamas, by Hizballah, who will say, ‘Don’t believe us, believe the U.S. Secretary of State’ ... I’m proud to be working with our friends in the ZOA.”

Mort Klein introduced **Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)**, a potential presidential candidate, saying that he was mystified that other Jewish organizations hadn’t supported Senator Paul’s legislation to defund the PA until and unless it takes required steps to end terror and incitement and accept Israel as a Jewish state. Mort added, “When we discussed horrific actions of the PA in a meeting some months ago, Senator Paul said, ‘We can’t let this continue.’ Senator Paul said that he is a friend of Israel and that ‘it is important to have ZOA because ZOA is right on some things AIPAC is not right on. A lot of Americans don’t know that we give money to the PA. If we are to continue to do so, we must have strict rules. Now you have Fatah coming together with Hamas. If they come together and Hamas still has as its credo the destruction of Israel, how can that be the beginning of a peace process? So it’s really one or the other... if Hamas wants to lay down arms, respect the rights of Israel as a Jewish state, that’s one thing, but if they don’t, I can’t see America giving them any money, not a penny ... I’m convinced if I was allowed to speak to the AIPAC membership, many would agree with me. Many of them have expressed surprise ... Our alliance is incredibly important and ZOA’s input is invaluable.”



**Congressman Steve King (R-IA)**

**Representative Ed Royce (R-CA)**, Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, said, “Our Number One focus must be on ensuring that Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons ... According to Tehran, we are the Great Satan. We should listen to the words spoken by the Ayatollahs...I had the opportunity in 2006, as Hizballah missiles were slamming into Haifa, to see media bias at work. I asked a BBC reporter to come to the hospital I was visiting which had many of those Israelis wounded in the Hizballah attacks. He replied that he couldn’t, as his editor would not allow him to ‘tell that story.’ Israel struggles every week with that lack of balance, with that bias ... I heard Abbas on Iranian-owned radio in which he used incitement against Israel. I confronted him with this when I met him, calling him Dr. Abbas because, as I said to him, ‘I know you became a doctor because you have a doctorate in Holocaust denial.’ I confronted him with photographs I had of Dachau when it was liberated. Abbas wanted to change the topic, saying that none of that justifies what is happening today...When someone says that they want to exterminate 6 million Jews, maybe there was an excuse in the 1930s for not believing it but there is no excuse today. And we have the Iranians saying they will not restrict in any way their ICBM program. We must send them the message: compromise on the nuclear program, or witness the collapse of your regime.”

**Representative Michele Bachmann (R-MN)**, whom ZOA National President Morton A. Klein introduced as the “Queen Esther and Margaret Thatcher of our time,” urged ZOA activists “never to forget, the U.S. must be the great defender of Israel and have Israel’s back at every turn. That’s the promise; that’s not always the reality of what we’re getting ... I’m nervous that last week in Vienna, the P5+1 [the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—plus Germany] looked like granting to Iran, in my opinion, the ability to continue unimpeded towards nuclear weapons. This is a decision that is madness ... What was most effective with Iran was pain, pain in the



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form of crippling economic sanctions, which were having an effect. When you're succeeding with your enemies, why choose failure? We need even more crippling now, go back to shackling Iran economically so that they get it that the nuclear program has to stop. I would go further and take military action against Iran...The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions [BDS] movement has been gaining steam. We in the US need to put out our message by taking a page from 1973 when we boycotted the boycotters. We are launching our legislation to boycott the boycotters...To continue to fund the Palestinian Authority would be madness. One of Israel's great defenders, Trent Franks, and I are working on this...If Iran refuse to be serious about this, which they have demonstrated, we take unilateral military action, ask no one and get the job done."

**Representative Bill Johnson (R-OH)** spoke of his "life-changing" trip to Israel in 2001 which gave him "a unique perspective on why the link between Israel and the United States is so inextricably intertwined ... Israel is the only nation on the planet formed, not through conquest, but because G-d said that you will be the nation of Israel. You are the only nation in human history ever formed that way ... It has inspired me to work even harder that the American people understand how important it is for the U.S. to honestly and practically support Israel ... If you look at our root of existence, the principles upon which our nation was founded, one nation under G-d, endowed by our Creator with our inalienable rights...Some call for a 2 state solution—I'm not one of those...We must stop Iran. It doesn't need a nuclear program for civilian use and this has to stop. Iran does not need centrifuges."

**Representative Ted Poe (R-TX)** said, "The idea that we are going to talk sweetly to the Iranians and that they will just change their minds isn't going to happen...The Geneva deal worked out by Secretary Kerry is the worst deal of the century. Sanctions were actually working and producing economic instability in Iran and now we've eased them. We're living in Never-Never Land if we think they are going

to negotiate sincerely with us...I don't like it that much that we give aid to the PA. We send them money in good faith—and terrorists kills Israelis and Americans, and then the PA pays the terrorists who did the killing. That is crazy. Why would we fund an organization that pays terrorists who kill Americans and our allies? That has got to end...The PA are a bunch of snake oil salesmen ...We stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel."

**Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA)** opened by quipping that he is not related to anyone with the name Wendy—a reference to Wendy Sherman, the U.S. negotiator who gave North Korea, and is now giving Iran, favorable terms that enable their respective dangerous and illegal nuclear weapons activities. He said, "I've been fighting for the toughest sanctions on Iran since entering Congress...The Iranians are not

*"Israel is the only nation on the planet formed, not through conquest, but because G-d said that you will be the nation of Israel."*

**Cong. Bill Johnson (R-OH)**



**Congressman Scott Perry (R-PA)**



**Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL)**



Congressman Robert Aderholt (R-AL)

only in violation but are not planning to stop their nuclear activities. You need to bring this news to [House Minority leader] Nancy Pelosi ...If we don't stop Iran going nuclear, how do you then say to Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey that they can't have nuclear weapons?"

**Representative Trent Franks (R-AZ)** said, "I am finally seeing truly committed warriors for Israel in Congress...Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority have completely eschewed peace with Israel. Abbas has openly aligned himself with Hamas, an organization committed to murdering women and little children simply because they're Jews. Abbas recently told the U.S. President that he will not accept the two-state solution. He also told the President that he will not accept a deal that does not require more land from Israel...Israel has faced many enemies for over thousands of years. All of those enemies of Israel are now all gone. Tomorrow jihad will be gone and Israel will remain."

**Representative Steve King (R-**

**IA)** recounted that, following his election to Congress in 2002, he participated in a meeting with the ambassadors of Britain, France and Germany regarding Iran's nuclear weapons program. "The ambassadors wanted America to have a dialogue with Iran and talk them out of getting nuclear weapons. I asked them, 'Well, are you ready for sanctions, for a UN Security Council resolution? And if Iran crosses that line, what are your countries willing to put on the line?'...The Geneva deal is the worst deal we could have had, it's dangerous for Israel and it's dangerous for the world...As I told the ambassadors back then, I would put a date on the calendar and tell the Iranian president that I know that date by which I take military action against you if you haven't dismantled your nuclear program, but you don't. I'll let you save face and find a way to back down, but you will not be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons...We must stand with Israel. I'll stand with you as long as it takes."

**Representative Scott Perry (R-PA)** said, "For 66 years, America and Israel have been together through all sorts of crises. I think we have to understand and acknowledge what is happening now with Iran. We're dealing with the greatest security threat our two countries have ever faced...The PA isn't making peace with Israel. It doesn't accept Israel. I don't understand my Jewish friends who want to support people who want to cut their throats. I get irritated when I hear the phrase 'occupied territories.' You answered aggression. Whatever happened to the principle, To the victor, the spoils?...Secretary Kerry recently used the word apartheid in relation to what could happen to Israel. What planet is he living on? ... The Administration needs to be clear about our adversaries in the Middle East, but they're not. We have folks here who want to align ourselves with the Muslim Brotherhood. If the Arab states laid down their arms, there'd be peace. If Israel laid down its arms, there'd be no Israel."

**Representative Jerry Nadler (D-NY)** said, "It's a great pleasure to be here with friends like the ZOA. I was once in

a ZOA college chapter...In those days, we faced the problem of NGOs, funded by philanthropic foundations, who were lending their support to anti-Israel groups. We worked and got them to change their ground rules at the Ford Foundation so that they read, 'This organization will not support efforts to destroy or delegitimize any state.' This significantly reduced funding for anti-Israel NGOs...Palestinians could have had a state in 1947, 1948, and 2008. They could have it now. But they're too unwilling to forgo the 'right of return' of so-called refugees into Israel proper. There's no precedent for what they demand. Germans were expelled after World War Two from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other places in Eastern Europe, 12 million of them. Millions of refugees swapped countries when India was split into India and Pakistan. And the hundreds of thousands of Jews from Arab lands were absorbed by Israel. The Palestinians alone have a special status, are kept as refugees and are not subject to the authority of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. This is the only case where you have third generation refugees. In any case, the Palestinian Authority will not sign an end of claims agreement ... On the Iranian nuclear weapons program, there can be no compromise and no accommodation. Will an agreement in July bring about the end of the nuclear program? If not, we must take all options to stop it.


**Representative Ron DeSantis (R-FL)** said, "In Nigeria, the Islamist group, Boko Haram, kidnapped 30 women from a Christian school. I confronted the State Department on this. They tried to sanitize it. I made the case that you need to look at the enemy and call them by their name ...The idea that Israel should divide Jerusalem is to me simply unacceptable. The PA is a repressive regime without proper rights and filled with terrorists. Why would you want to expand that repression to any part of Jerusalem?...People say that the Jews in Judea/Samaria are obstacles to peace. But those communities provide a buffer against terror and jihad...Channelling hundreds of millions of dollars to the PA is not in our national interest...Israel is part of what's right

about the Middle East."

**Representative Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL)** said, "I was in Israel last year. It was eye-opening to see the energy and determination of that country...I like to tell people that I worship a Jew...Peace has to be the ultimate goal, but there are many struggles, so many forces that are opposed to peace and we have to take account of this. The Palestinians may say to us that they really want peace, but they really don't."

**Representative Alan Grayson (D-FL)** said, "I am the first Jewish Congressman from central Florida...I might be the only Jew in the district...The Iranian nuclear threat is deadly serious. Why am I so adamant on the need to stop the Iranian nuclear program? Because I can easily imagine a scenario in which Iran obtains nuclear weapons, in which it then gives nuclear weapons to Hizballah, which puts them in boats and sends them on to Haifa. This is a truly frightening but believable prospect if Tehran gets the bomb. We must stop it."

Senators and Congressmen who attended the ZOA luncheon but were compelled by other commitments on the Hill from staying to speak included **Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)**, **Representative Billy Long (R-MO)**, **Representative Tom Price (R-GA)** and **Representative Mark Meadows (R-NC)**.

Also addressing the Mission during the luncheon was David Wilder, the spokesman for the Committee for the Jewish Community of Hebron. Mr. Wilder told the ZOA activists of the daily struggles of pioneering communities in Hebron which are hemmed in on all sides by hostile Palestinian Arabs. He pointed out that 97% of Hebron is actually off-limits to Jews. He praised ZOA for being one of the very few Jewish organizations that makes the rights and security of Jews living in Judea/Samaria an issue and a priority. Mr. Wilder also presented Mort Klein with a Hebron Bible and a re-minted Hebron medallion, saying, "Believe me, you and ZOA deserve it...you're doing unbelievable work. Thank you." 

***"The idea that Israel should divide Jerusalem is to me simply unacceptable. The PA is a repressive regime without proper rights and filled with terrorists."***

**Cong.  
Ron DeSantis  
(R-FL)**



# LAW AND JUSTICE

CENTER FOR

## ZOA FILES SECOND SUPREME COURT BRIEF SUPPORTING JERUSALEM-BORN AMERICANS' RIGHT TO LIST "ISRAEL" ON THEIR PASSPORTS

In July 2014, the ZOA filed a 30-page amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, urging the Court to uphold the right of American citizens born in Jerusalem to have "Israel" listed as their birthplace on their passports, certifications of nationality and registrations of birth. The brief supports Menachem Binyamin Zivotofsky, an American born in Jerusalem who was denied a passport listing "Israel" as his birthplace, in violation of a federal law enacted in 2002.

Zivotofsky filed suit in 2003 to enforce the law, which mandates the State Department to list "Israel" as the birthplace of Americans born in Jerusalem if they request it. The ZOA is the only Jewish organization to have taken formal legal action to uphold and enforce the law in 2003; its legal action was consolidated with Zivotofsky's. In refusing to enforce the law, the State Department claimed it would interfere with the President's power to recognize foreign sovereigns, in violation of the U.S. Constitution. (The U.S. has not officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital.)

This is the second time the Zivotofsky case is before the Supreme Court, and the third amicus brief the ZOA has submitted in support of Zivotofsky. The Court will now be deciding whether the law is constitutional.

In its brief, the ZOA argued that the law is constitutional because enforcing it would have no impact on a presidential recognition power. Passports that list "Israel" in compliance with the law would not link Jerusalem to Israel. No city would be listed on those passports, which could thus belong to Americans born in Tel Aviv or any other city indisputably within sovereign Israel.

The ZOA also argued in its brief that passports listing "Israel" would be no more an articulation of U.S. policy regarding the status of Jerusalem than the statements of the U.S. government itself. The ZOA provided example after example of departments, agencies and members of the Executive branch repeatedly referring to Jerusalem as part of Israel, without any impact on the President's constitutional powers. It is thus hard to conceive of how passports listing "Israel" would have any such impact.

When the Zivotofsky case was before the Supreme Court for the first time in 2011, the ZOA's amicus brief also documented the many "Jerusalem, Israel" references made by departments and agencies in the Executive Branch, including by the State Department. After the brief was filed, the government scrubbed the "Jerusalem, Israel" references from many of those documents. Nevertheless, several remain and have been added since the filing of that brief.

In both Supreme Court briefs, the ZOA also argued that enforcing the law would simply require the State Department to accommodate the personal preferences of Jerusalem-born Americans who want to identify with Israel, in the same way that the State Department already defers to the personal identity preferences of Americans who do not want to identify with Israel. Passport applicants born before 1948 in an area that the U.S. recognizes as part of Israel are not required to list "Israel" as their birthplace if they object to it. They can have "Palestine" recorded instead – even though "Palestine" is not and never has been a sovereign



SUSAN  
TUCHMAN  
Director,  
Center for Law  
and Justice

nation. Passport applicants born in or after 1948 in an area that is also indisputably part of Israel are also not required to list “Israel” on their passports. The State Department will permit them to list their town or city of birth instead. The ZOA urged that the personal preferences of Americans born in Jerusalem who want to identify with Israel should likewise be honored and respected.

Menachem Zivotofsky is represented by the distinguished legal team of Nathan Lewin, Esq. (a member of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice’s Board of Advisors), Alyza Lewin, Esq., and Chaim Z. Kagedan, Esq., of counsel on the brief. Two ZOA board members provided crucial input to the ZOA’s brief: David I. Schoen, Esq., who is also the ZOA’s counsel of record, and Edward M. Siegel, Esq.



## ZOA CALLS ON RIALTO, CA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REMEDY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM HOLOCAUST DENIAL ASSIGNMENT

**T**he ZOA has called on the Rialto, CA Unified School District to take several steps in response to a Holocaust denial assignment given to the 2000 eighth graders in the district last spring. After initially defending the assignment, district officials apologized for it and gave assurances that it would not be repeated. In addition, the district sent the eighth graders to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, and represented that the eighth grade teachers would be undergoing “sensitivity training” at the museum. In two strong letters to the Interim Superintendent and the members of the school board, the ZOA stated that those steps were not nearly strong enough to address “what are plainly far-reaching systemic problems in the school district.”

District administrators had claimed that none of the eighth graders who completed the Holocaust assignment questioned or denied the Holocaust. That claim turned out to be false. The *San Bernardino County Sun* reported that

it surveyed the students’ essays and found that at least 50 denied or doubted that the Holocaust occurred. According to the *Sun*, “Even many students who agreed the Holocaust occurred said there were good reasons to believe it had not, or that elements of the historical record were actually hoaxes.” Equally concerning, the *Sun* reported that students actually earned high marks and praise from their teachers for arguing that the Holocaust never occurred.

The ZOA urged school officials to take remedial steps to fix the systemic problems in the district, consistent with its legal obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, including the following:

- The teachers and members of the Educational Services Department who created and approved the Holocaust denial assignment should be fired for breaching their professional responsibility in an inexcusable way.
- All teachers and administrative staff in the

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district should be required to participate in an intensive educational program about the Holocaust and the problem of anti-Semitism. The “sensitivity training” the district would be requiring was insufficient, since not a single teacher or administrator understood how wrong and irresponsible the Holocaust denial assignment was until all the media attention forced them to acknowledge it.

- All students in the district should be required to participate in a similar intensive educational program about the Holocaust and the problem of anti-Semitism, appropriate for their age and experience.
- District officials should create and implement policies and procedures

for how assignments and curricula are developed, how they will be approved and implemented, and how they will be overseen.

- District officials should send a letter to every family in the school district, explaining exactly what happened with the Holocaust denial assignment, taking full responsibility for this appalling incident, confirming that the grades for the assignment would be extinguished, and describing all the remedial steps that would be taken.

The ZOA has since communicated with counsel for the district and will be monitoring what remedial steps the district will be undertaking.

## ZOA CALLS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TO REMEDY CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM

**T**he ZOA wrote to the President of the University of Michigan last spring, after receiving troubling reports about Jewish and pro-Israel students being threatened, harassed and intimidated on the campus. Members and/or supporters of a student group that calls itself “Students Allied for Freedom and Equality” (SAFE) reportedly threatened Jewish and pro-Israel students for failing to support SAFE’s anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) initiative. These SAFE members reportedly issued death threats to one such student, and used anti-Semitic epithets such as “kikes” and “dirty Jews.” Writing about the campus environment, one Jewish student described it as “frightening,” to the point that some students were afraid to attend their classes because they felt unsafe.

SAFE was not a first-time offender. The group had violated university policies just a few months before, when it distributed mock eviction notices in residence halls. The administration acknowledged then that these

actions violated university policies, but did not impose any consequences on SAFE.

The ZOA urged the administration to take the following steps:

- Conduct a full investigation into the conduct of the students and student group that reportedly threatened Jewish and pro-Israel students, issued death threats, and used anti-Semitic epithets. If the investigation substantiates these allegations, then the wrongdoers should be punished in accordance with the university’s rules and policies. For SAFE, the sanction should be a minimum of a one-year suspension and mandatory civility training.
- The university president should publicly condemn SAFE and its conduct as hateful, anti-Semitic and in violation of university rules and values. The president should also affirm that the university will not tolerate anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination, and that the university is



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committed to addressing anti-Semitism whenever it occurs on the campus.

- The university president should publicly affirm that the University of Michigan opposes all boycott, divestment and sanctions efforts against Israel.

In a follow-up letter exchange with the ZOA, university counsel acknowledged that 22 students had filed formal bias complaints based on SAFE's threatening and intimidating conduct, and that seven of those students had specifically said they felt targeted because they are Jews.

Based on the administration's continuing inaction, the ZOA's Michigan region contacted the board of regents and rallied the community in a compelling ad published in the *Detroit Jewish News*. Hundreds of people signed petitions calling on the university administration to publicly condemn campus anti-Semitism, and hold the perpetrators of the bullying and bigotry accountable in accordance with university rules.



University of Michigan Law Library

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN FAILS JEWISH STUDENTS SUBJECTED TO CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM – CLOSES ZOA'S TITLE VI COMPLAINT

Three years after the ZOA filed a complaint on behalf of Jewish students who had been subjected to anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation at New Jersey's Rutgers University, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) finally issued a decision in the case, closing the complaint.

OCR investigated the following allegations of the ZOA's complaint: (1) that the Outreach Coordinator of Rutgers' Center for Middle East Studies harassed a Jewish student by physically threatening him and posting anti-Semitic comments about him on Facebook; (2) other students harassed the same Jewish student

by posting physically threatening comments about him on Facebook; and (3) a student group called "Belief Awareness Knowledge and Action" (BAKA) treated Jewish students differently by charging them an admission fee at an anti-Israel event that had been advertised as free and open to the public.

As to the first allegation, OCR dismissed the Jewish student's account of what occurred when he was physically threatened by the Outreach Coordinator – even though it had been corroborated by another student. OCR relied on a different account, from a university official, including the official's unsubstantiated conclusion that the incident did not occur

***OCR's decision to close the ZOA's Title VI complaint was disappointing but not surprising. Almost exactly one year before the decision was issued, the agency dismissed three other Title VI actions filed on behalf of Jewish students, virtually all at once.***

“because of the student’s national origin.” Also seemingly relevant to OCR was the fact that at the time of her physically threatening conduct, the aggressor against the Jewish student had not yet been named Rutgers’ Outreach Coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center. OCR completely overlooked the fact that the university exercised poor judgment in naming her to the position while knowing about her altercation with the Jewish student.

OCR also dismissed the fact that the Outreach Coordinator engaged in anti-Semitic name-calling on Facebook against the Jewish student (referring to him as “that racist Zionist pig!!!!!!!” and encouraging students to visit a hate page about him). What was seemingly decisive for OCR was that the Outreach Coordinator posted her anti-Semitic comments on another Facebook page, and not on the Jewish student’s Facebook page. OCR ignored the fact that when this incident occurred, the anti-Israel bigot had been appointed Rutgers’ Outreach Coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center, thus rendering the Center a less-than hospitable place for the Jewish student she bullied and for other Jewish students. OCR noted that the Outreach Coordinator received a verbal warning, as if that consequence were enough. Despite her anti-Semitic actions, she remains the Outreach Coordinator to this date.

As to OCR’s investigation of the second allegation of the ZOA’s Title VI complaint, what was decisive for OCR was that the student who physically threatened the same Jewish student with a crowbar did not so on the Jewish student’s Facebook page; he did it on his own Facebook page. It was enough for OCR that the perpetrator was issued a verbal warning. As for those students who endorsed the physical threat against the Jewish student, OCR accepted the university’s conclusion that their comments were not posted on the Jewish student’s Facebook page, and thus they were not threats to the Jewish student and did not violate university policy.

As to the final allegation investigated by OCR, regarding the discriminatory treatment



Jewish students were subjected to at an anti-Israel event, OCR discounted the first-hand accounts of the many individuals who came forward to describe to OCR what occurred at the event. OCR concluded that “after the fee was announced, both Jewish and non-Jewish attendees were required to pay the fee for entry.” As for Rutgers’ failure to investigate the individual bias reports filed by students who had been discriminated against at the event, OCR justified the school’s inaction “because the students had not provided any specific evidence to support that they were discriminated against based on their national origin.” OCR overlooked the fact that because their bias complaints were never investigated, Jewish students were denied the opportunity to furnish that evidence.

OCR’s decision to close the ZOA’s Title VI complaint was disappointing but not surprising. Almost exactly one year before the decision was issued, the agency dismissed three other Title VI actions filed on behalf of Jewish students, virtually all at once. One of those cases had been triggered by a ZOA complaint, and had shamefully languished at OCR for nine years. When it was dismissed in one fell swoop with the other two cases, OCR did it in a one-page decision.

Unfortunately, there is little if any evidence to show that OCR is enforcing the crucial policy it clarified in October 2010, finally confirming that Jewish students would be

afforded the same civil rights protection from harassment and intimidation under Title VI as other minority groups have had for close to 50 years, when the law was enacted.

## CLJ DIRECTOR EDUCATES STUDENTS AND PARENTS ABOUT FIGHTING CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM

**F**uture Leaders for Israel Conference, Boca Raton, Florida: On March 28-30, 2014, Susan Tuchman, the director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice (CLJ), was a keynote speaker at the third annual Future Leaders for Israel (FLI) conference, held at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. This is a student-founded conference – originally called Florida Loves Israel – which was created to inspire students to cultivate their personal relationships with Israel, connect them with other pro-Israel students, leaders and professionals, and empower them to strengthen their state's relationship with Israel in a meaningful and exciting way. Susan's topic was "Campus Anti-Semitism and Israel-Bashing: Know Your Legal Rights."

Almost 200 students attended the conference, mostly from Florida colleges and universities, but also from some schools outside the state. Some students followed up with Susan after the conference. In a thank-you note from the conference organizers, they wrote, "Your keynote speech was one of the highlights of the conference. It offered an incredibly unique perspective on campus anti-Semitism, and it equipped the students with the necessary knowledge to be effective advocates for Israel on their campuses. We hope to further our relationship in the future."

Sharona Whisler, formerly managing director of the ZOA's campus department and now the ZOA's regional executive director in Florida, was instrumental in the success of this conference. She built strong relationships with the conference organizers and also with many of the students and professionals who attended.

**Event for Students and Their Parents, Fair Lawn, New Jersey:** On May 15, 2014, Susan

Tuchman was a featured speaker at "How to Respond to Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism on Campus," an event for high school students and their parents, held in Fair Lawn, NJ. The event was co-sponsored by the ZOA, the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, the Bergen County High School for Jewish Studies, and others. It drew over 100 people.

Susan addressed the parents, describing the kind of anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation that Jewish students are facing on many American college campuses. She described the ZOA's legal and advocacy work on behalf of students, and the gains that have been made to ensure Jewish students a safe learning environment. Parents shared their children's experiences and their own impressions and asked many excellent questions. Then parents and students came together to hear about the campus experiences of students from New York University, the University of Michigan, and Rutgers University.

The response to the event was extremely positive, prompting an invitation to Susan to speak at a similar event for parents in October 2014. [ZOA](#)



Future Leaders for Israel (FLI) conference, held at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida.



# GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT RELATIONS



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## ZOA'S THREE MAIN THEMES IN ITS ADVOCACY WITH CONGRESS

The Government Relations Department has concentrated on three main themes in its advocacy with Congress this quarter. ZOA remains the only major American Jewish organization advocating for an end to US aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) until the PA fulfills its signed commitments under the various “peace process” agreements, including to arrest and imprison terrorists; dismantle and outlaw terrorist groups; end the incitement to hatred and murder within the PA-controlled media, mosques, schools and youth camps; end the PA alliance with Hamas; and recognize Israel as a Jewish state. ZOA has been a major force advocating for firm US support of Israel’s defensive war this past summer against Hamas, the Islamic Resistance terrorist organization. Finally, Iran continues its relentless pursuit of a nuclear weapon, and ZOA is at the forefront of the congressional fight to stop Iran from achieving this capability.

ZOA members who participated in our 2014 mission to Washington will recall we focused on aid to the PA, specifically advocating the Stand

with Israel Act of 2014, S. 2265 (Sen. Rand Paul, R-KY) and the Palestinian Accountability Act, H.R. 1337 (Rep. Ron DeSantis, R-FL). The issue of funding the PA is intimately tied to the attempts by the PA to increase its influence at the UN and to the failed peace process initiative of Secretary of State John Kerry. Despite an increase in Congressional sentiment towards greater fiduciary control over US foreign aid to the PA, a stark increase in skepticism over the PA’s long-term prospects for accomplishing good governance, and increased doubts about the effectiveness of US policy, these and related legislative efforts have not gained traction. The Senate bill now has 17 co-sponsors, all Republicans, and the House bill similarly has 19 Republican co-sponsors. There are other efforts to cut aid to the PA as well, including several other bills sponsored by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Rep Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Rep. Ted Yoho (R-TX). In the Senate, we are working closely with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) on efforts to link aid to the PA with PA compliance with signed agreements.

Based on ongoing conversations between ZOA and Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX), the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, which Rep. Poe chairs, held a formal hearing in early March, titled “Threats to Israel: Terrorist Funding and Trade Boycotts.” The hearing featured expert witnesses on three issues: how US funds are abused to support Palestinian Arab terrorism against Israel, how American victims of Palestinian Arab terrorists have not received justice despite US laws in place specifically to permit the US Department of Justice to extradite these terrorists and prosecute them back in the US, and the issue of the EU and its members states threatening economic boycotts of Israeli goods. Per ZOA’s suggestion, the panel featured Edwin Black, an investigative journalist and *New York Times* bestselling author; Mr. Steven Perles, founder and senior partner of the Perles Law Firm which works on behalf of US victims of Arab terrorism, and Dr. David Pollock, a schol-

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

ar with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, were also on the panel. The full hearing can be watched online on the Committee website. Rep. Poe and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), the ranking member of this subcommittee and who has also worked closely with ZOA over the years, asked especially worthwhile, penetrating questions.

One of the most significant aspects of this hearing, was the Congressional scrutiny on the inconvenient and unpleasant reality that US foreign aid to the PA is essentially subsidizing Palestinian Arab terrorism against Israel. As the hearing revealed the facts, it works this way: The United States gives the PA hundreds of millions of US dollars each year, as do other donor countries. The PA then spends this money on priorities it establishes. One of the PA's top budget priorities is to pay the salaries of Palestinian Arab terrorists who have been convicted of murdering, or attempting to murder, Israelis—with higher salaries doled out on a sliding scale. The more ghastly the atrocity and the higher the prison sentence, the greater is the PA salary. The terrorists are also lauded as heroes, and special status is conferred on their children, often including tuition breaks in Palestinian academic institutions. This money not only rewards terrorism, but promotes it and even creates a financial incentive for it—allowing a Palestinian Arab to go from rags to riches simply by blowing up a bus filled with Israeli civilians, or breaking into an Israeli home and slaying women and children. The more grisly the murder, the greater the reward and the accolades—with monthly salaries ranging from around \$400 to \$3,400 a month, or more than ten times the average Palestinian worker's salary.

Obviously, the US does not willingly or knowingly fund this activity directly; to do so is not merely illegal, but morally outrageous. Yet money is fungible. This means that hundreds of millions of US financial aid we give to the PA frees up an exactly equal amount of hundreds of millions to be spent in any way the PA wishes, free of all American restrictions. This “fungibility” issue isn't merely a theoretical or a hypothetical problem either—the US government knows

full well about the policy prioritization the PA assigns to paying terrorist salaries, so our government understands fully what sort of regime is being directly subsidized by US taxpayers. Likely in response to this unwanted additional attention, the PA floated the prospect of moving this salary scheme from the PA's auspices directly to the PLO, to further shield itself from US oversight and public scrutiny. Rep. Poe and his committee have promised more hearings, and eventually legislation, to end this practice.

Closely related to the issue of funding the PA is its relationship with Hamas, a group designated as a terrorist organization under US law. There is specific legislation already enacted as law that theoretically prevents the PA from receiving US funds if it enters into a coalition with Hamas. Specifically, the law states: (1) No US funds can be used to pay the salaries of PA officials in Gaza; (2) No US funds can be used to assist Hamas or any entity controlled by Hamas; and (3) No PA government can have any ministers who do not agree to recognize Israel and agree to adhere to all previous signed agreements between Israel and the PA. The law is subject, however, to a Presidential waiver for national security reasons—though a variety of certifications and explanations to Congress would be triggered by its use.

Despite these restrictions, in April of this year Fatah, the largest party in the PA, announced a reconciliation agreement with Hamas, and a new unity government was sworn in this past June. Lamentably, though as expected, President Obama essentially waived aside the law concerning Hamas, stating that the composition of the PA unity government was technocratic and did not run afoul of the law. *The Washington Post* noted on June 2nd that “the Obama administration had worked behind the scenes to suggest terms for the new coalition government that would not trigger the U.S. ban, reasoning that the money helps preserve American leverage.” This absurd rationalization met with a great deal of resistance in Congress from both parties, but no action has yet been robust enough to stop the flow of US dollars or make the PA reconsider. House Appropriations Com-

*ZOA has  
been a  
major force  
advocating  
for firm US  
support  
of Israel's  
defensive  
war this  
past  
summer  
against  
Hamas*

mittee Chair Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) have crafted language for the next fiscal year that will make the loophole the President has used more difficult to justify. To date, however, one of the chief costs of wide bi-partisan support is deference to the Executive Branch in the form of national security waivers.

Ironically, the war Hamas started with Israel this summer has actually made it more difficult to condemn the Hamas-Fatah reconciliation agreement and unity government. Some members of Congress believe that a PA takeover of Gaza and cooperation with Hamas is the answer to rockets from Gaza. This idea ignores the history of Fatah affiliated terrorists launching missiles against Israeli civilians back when Fatah was still in control there. Likewise, this idea ignores Fatah's near total corruption and general incompetence in civil governance, and even more so ignores Fatah's consistent inability to actually temper the extremists or combat terrorists, even if that were their intention. Indeed, all the vaunted PA-IDF security cooperation of the past consisted almost entirely of Fatah attempting to combat its political rivals.

Numerous resolutions have been introduced in Congress to support Israel during the war with Hamas, and to urge resupply without administrative delay to Israel. Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY), Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid (D-NV), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) have all introduced measures to support Israel during the conflict with Hamas. Congressional support for Israel in the conflict with Hamas is nearly unanimous. Additional Iron Dome funding passed the Senate by acclamation and by very large margins in the House. ZOA is working closely with several offices to monitor the situation concerning the resupply of expended munitions, especially Hellfire missiles, which are fired from attack helicopters and drones, and which are used to target Hamas fighters with precision. Ultimately the Executive Branch decides when to release weapons to Israel, and ZOA is working to ensure that there is no secret "hold" on these weapons to increase diplomatic pressure on Israel.

Events in Gaza are best understood in the context of the larger dispute with Iran, who ultimately sponsors the terrorists of Hamas and the terrorists of Hizbullah. Monumental blunders in US diplomacy have unfortunately made it likely that only the use of military force, or its imminent credible threat, can stop Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability. In July the Interim Agreement between the West and Iran was extended until November 2014, effectively allowing Iran to continue to enrich uranium while talks are supposed to continue. It has now become clear that the Iranians are playing for time to weaken the sanctions regime and allow their economy to recover. There is effectively no threat of force on the table to give any hope for a good result from negotiations.

There is legislation in the Senate that could improve the US stance in two respects. Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has sponsored a bill (S.2650: The Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act of 2014) that would require the President to submit within 3 days to the Senate any agreement reached with Iran. A majority of the Senate has supported S.1881, the Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013 (Sen. Robert Menendez, D-NJ and Sen. Mark Kirk, R-IL); but Senate Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) has refused to bring it to a floor vote. This obstructionist move is apparently at the request of the Obama administration. The legislation was designed to prevent the interim agreement from becoming an open-ended process, and would have required additional sanctions on Iran (already passed by the House) if the process was not completed in the original six-month time frame.

The interim agreement between the US, Iran and the permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany went into effect on January 20, 2014. While its details can be understood by going to the ZOA website, it is fair to summarize the agreement as a gift to the Iranians. It was designed as a "carrot" to induce Iran to engage in serious negotiations. Sanctions are significantly eased, while nothing irreversible is expected of Iran. The congressional response, while supported by ZOA, is not a solution to the problem. ZOA has been warning



# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



Capitol Building

for several years that time is running out to prevent Iran from achieving its goal of having the capability to produce a nuclear weapon. Now, though, time has effectively run out. Iran has, in fact, enough enriched Uranium to move to the final steps of assembling a nuclear weapon at a time of its choosing. The only thing that might prevent this catastrophe for American policy in the region is the threat of an attack on Iran by the US or our allies. Instead, American policy seems focused on creating the illusion of progress so that a military attack on Iran is deemed unthinkable. Every opponent of military pressure should be forced to explain for history why they are acquiescing to Iran's achievement of a nuclear capability

In addition to dealing with our elected officials, the Government Relations department interacts with other Jewish and Christian Zi-

onist organizations in DC. We also participate in print and broadcast media opportunities to spread the word on ZOA's issues. The Co-Directors of Government Relations have also been speaking to community audiences to propagate the ZOA message. For example, in August, one of the Co-Directors spoke to a ZOA gathering in Teaneck, NJ, to help encourage community engagement and ZOA activism, and more regional visits are planned. ZOA grassroots activism, particularly at our annual mission in Washington, DC, helps underscore that, at the heart of all of ZOA's Government Relations efforts, stands the dedication, passionate advocacy and depth of knowledge of ZOA members across the country. Please continue to stay involved in the grass roots advocacy that is so critical to our being effective in Washington, DC. [ZOA](#)

*...time has effectively run out. Iran has, in fact, enough enriched Uranium to move to the final steps of assembling a nuclear weapon at a time of its choosing. The only thing that might prevent this catastrophe for American policy in the region is the threat of an attack on Iran by the US or our allies.*



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National President, ZOA

Dr. Michael Goldblatt  
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Irwin Hochberg  
Vice Chairman

Dr. Alan Mazurek  
Vice Chairman



# PICTORIAL

DC ADVOCACY MISSION



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1. ZOA DC Advocacy Mission participants going into meeting with U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)

2. College student at ZOA DC Advocacy Mission

3. ZOA Board Member Len Getz (2nd left) and other ZOA DC Advocacy Mission participants meeting with aide to Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)

4. Congressman Steve King (R-IA)

5. Deedee Fein and other ZOA DC Advocacy Mission participants with Congressman Leonard Lance (R-NJ)

6. ZOA Board member Authur Kook (upper right) and other ZOA DC Advocacy Mission participants in a Congressional meeting.

7. Jim Pollack, ZOA Board Member, presenting ZOA's Defender of Zion Award to Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)

8. Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL) chatting with Mort Klein, ZOA National President



# PICTORIAL

DC ADVOCACY MISSION



1. Morris Amitay, Former AIPAC Executive Director

2. Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) chatting with Mort Klein, ZOA National President

3. ZOA DC Advocacy Mission participant asking a question

4. Mort Klein, ZOA National President

5. ZOA delegates listen to a congressional address

6. Mort Klein presenting ZOA's Defender of Zion Award to Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee



# PICTORIAL

DC ADVOCACY MISSION



1. ZOA delegates listen to a senator address the Mission

2. David Wilder, spokesman for the Committee for the Jewish Community of Hebron

3. Dan Pollak and Josh London, Co-Directors of ZOA Government Relations Department

4. ZOA canvas bag given to all DC Mission delegates.

5. Dr. Daniel Mandel, Director of the ZOA's Center for Middle East Policy, speaking with David Kadosh, Director of ZOA Campus Programs

6. ZOA DC Advocacy Mission participants listening to ZOA National President Mort Klein

7. ZOA Board Member Rubin Margules





# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK



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KADOSH  
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## WESTERN REGION

David Kadosh, the ZOA's Managing Director of the Campus Department and West Coast Campus Coordinator, took the lead on a number of national initiatives for the department since his ascension to the managerial position in March 2014 and has continued to work with campuses throughout his region to host ZOA educational programs and monitor anti-Israel activities. David has worked closely with ZOA's Campus Coordinators to direct their efforts in their respective regions, and coordinated preparations on major events such as the ZOA Summer Internship program and the initiation of the ZOA Campus Fellowship program. He has worked to recruit, screen, and hire the best candidates for the Campus Coordinator positions and has hired new Coordinators in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions, and is in the process of hiring for the Midwest vacancy. He has also worked to coordinate regional Israel advocacy retreats that will be taking place in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York region in January and February.

Under David's leadership, the 2014-15 ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel has been expanded to accept more student activists than ever before and the itinerary has been updated, based on student feedback, to make it the most

comprehensive immersion into hands-on Zionism. The Israel trip lays the foundation for many college students to strengthen their confidence advocating for Israel, and it develops student leaders for the ZOA Campus Coordinators to work with throughout the academic year. For the first time, the ZOA Campus Department will be implementing a Campus Fellowship program and offering students the opportunity to attend the Leadership Mission to Israel at no cost in exchange for their commitment to promote ZOA events and table with ZOA educational materials on their campuses. The fellowship selection process will seek out the most dedicated campus professionals from around the country. If the fellowship program is successful, the program will be expanded in subsequent years.

David has also been coordinating with the World Zionist Organization to develop a strategy for boosting student voting in the 2015 World Zionist Congress elections. Student activists will be the ones to carry the torch of Zionist leadership into the future and it is important that they have a voice in the election process. The ZOA will also be promoting its platform in the elections as one of the few American institutions still adhering to the principles of the movement's wise forefathers.

Throughout the Western region, David con-



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# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

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tinued to deliver his special program on the importance of Jewish self-defense with an introductory Krav Maga demonstration. Since the last issue of the ZOA Report, this program was hosted at the University of Houston, Arizona State University, UC San Diego, the Hebrew High School of Greater Phoenix, UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, and the Lisa Kampner Hebrew Academy in San Francisco.

Most of ZOA's campus work in the Western region over the past few years has been based in California and Arizona. David has begun to build contacts at schools in Oregon, Nevada, and New Mexico to further expand campus outreach and engagement.

## NORTHEAST REGION

Zach Stern is entering his second year as the Northeast Campus Coordinator for the ZOA. In his second semester on campuses, he worked with roughly two dozen schools to bring pro-Israel programs to campus. He traveled to 11 campuses throughout the Northeast and led events about the Jewish connection to Israel, Zionism, Palestinian incitement, countering anti-Israel sentiment, and more. He also helped bring pro-Israel speakers to campuses in the region. For example, he organized speaking engagements for IDF Col. Bentzi Gruber and pro-Israel Sudanese human rights activist Simon Deng.

Furthermore, Zach met with student leaders at various campuses to discuss strategies for pro-Israel programming. He helped students develop a plan for their advocacy and helped them develop ideas for creatively spreading pro-Israel messages. Zach also developed good relationships with campus coordinators at other pro-Israel organizations to work together to reach as many students as possible.

Zach traveled to various campuses to represent the ZOA at larger events as well. For example, he went to Tulane University and the University of Central Florida to represent the ZOA at the students' Declare Your Freedom festivals, which were ZOA co-sponsored events that featured a wide variety of pro-Israel speakers and musicians. Zach also represented the ZOA at Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations at Binghamton



Young professionals supporting the ZOA at the Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City.

University and Queens College.

After the semester ended, Zach organized the ZOA's participation in the annual Celebrate Israel parade in New York City. Zach oversaw the marketing and logistics for the parade and recruited nearly 80 people to march with the ZOA.

Additionally, Zach led the student internship program in the New York office this past summer. He supervised six interns and helped create the new ZOA Campus Website. Zach and the interns created fact sheets, booklets, and other vital campus materials that will be used to promote a positive image of Israel and help students fight anti-Israel sentiment on campus. The materials will be available on the new Website in the next few months.

Zach also staffed a Birthright trip for students during the recent war in Gaza. Throughout the trip, he educated students about the conflict and the near-impossible situation with which Israel is faced on a daily basis. Zach motivated these students to care about the Jewish state and helped them build their connection to Israel.

Going into the fall of 2014, Zach is excited to continue working with students in the Northeast. He has already planned events at many campuses and hopes to finalize more events as the semester begins. Zach will also spend much of this semester recruiting students to attend the ZOA Gala Dinner.

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# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

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Young professionals supporting the ZOA at the Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City.

## SOUTHEAST REGION

Working as a campus coordinator for ZOA is a perfect transition for a former college Zionist activist like Cesar De Gracia-Morales. Cesar, having recently graduated from the University of Houston, relocated to South Florida to coordinate the ZOA's college efforts in Israel education for the Southeastern region of the United States. During this time he has encountered a strong community of activists in Florida who are willing to stand up and fight in support of the only Jewish State.

As part of his activities, Cesar has started to create a network of campus Zionists in Florida and Georgia and has even spread his reach to Texas. The pro-Israel community is becoming stronger and ZOA is right there to offer resources to help combat misinformation and anti-Semitism in colleges and universities. From the start of the academic year, Cesar has participated in rallies showing support for Operation Protective Edge, and has set up tables on college campuses to gather support for a broad pro-Israel coalition. He has met with community leaders and professionals in order to continue to strengthen Zionist sentiment in the Southeast.

Furthermore, during these past two months as the new campus coordinator in the Southeast, Cesar has partnered with different Jewish and Christian organizations that see Israel as the only bastion of peace, tolerance, and democracy in the Middle East. He always reinforces the notion that Israel should be protected for the ethi-

cal and moral values it shares with America.

Cesar's goal is to be accessible to any group and organization that requires help and guidance for their Israel advocacy endeavors. He is committed to creating a strong community of activists and leaders who are ready to speak up and keep the Zionist dream alive. It is a dream that took the Jewish People 2,000 years to reach, and it takes human beings with strong ideals to protect it and never take it for granted in order to preserve it for future generations.

## MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Brian Albert assumed responsibility for the Mid-Atlantic region in March 2014. He initially reached out to pro-Israel and Jewish student organizations at over 27 colleges and universities between Pennsylvania and North Carolina. As of September, he is now in regular contact with students at 15 of those campuses, with plans to increase that number in the fall.

Brian traveled to 8 different campuses during the spring semester, either to give presentations or to meet with student leaders. He was one of the guest speakers at "Shabbat across Campus" at the University of Pennsylvania in early April, where he spoke on the relevance of Zionism to young American Jews today. He also briefed a group of students at Lehigh University on the current state of affairs in the Middle East.

In May, Brian helped advertise for ZOA's annual lobbying mission on Capitol Hill. He formatted ZOA's electronic flier advertising the lobbying mission. He worked with Hillel at George Washington University and American University to recruit undergrad attendees and volunteers to help with logistics. Between May and July, Brian published several pro-Israel op-eds in *Doublethink* magazine and *The Times of Israel*.

Over the summer, Brian advised the interns and edited their work. He also contributed several "fact sheets" of his own to the total output of the new pro-Israel literature. In July, Brian attended an intensive weekend workshop on student political activism. He learned practical skills to pass on to the student activists he will work with this year, including strategies for communication and recruiting. While at this

# CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

workshop, Brian networked with his counterpart at Christians United for Israel (CUFI) and they agreed to share student contacts.

Brian also represented ZOA's Campus Department at the CUFI Summit on July 21. He arranged for the DC-area Jewish Communal Relations Council (JCRC) to include ZOA among the co-sponsors of a pro-Israel rally held in Farragut Square on July 17.

In August he met with the head of a new organization for young professionals in the DC area called "Ha Lev Yisrael"; they have plans to co-sponsor an advocacy workshop for post-grads in the DC area. Similar plans are in the works with J'Burgh, a Pittsburgh-area Jewish group.

On August 20 there was an incident at Temple University in which a CAMERA Fellow was hit by a student who is active with the anti-Israel group, Students for Justice in Palestine. Brian sent this information to ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, headed by Susan Tuchman. He has been continuously monitoring Temple University's investigation. As a silver lining, Brian is now in contact with several more pro-Israel activists at Temple and other Temple students who want to become activists. Brian invited them to the ZOA-Philly chapter's dinner on September 10.

Brian already has two speaking engagements scheduled for the fall semester. He will give a presentation on the legality of Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria at George Washington University on September 8, and on the Water Libel at the University of Delaware on September 16.

## SUMMER INTERSHIP PROGRAM

The ZOA welcomed six students to the New York office and one student to the Oakland office this past summer to complete the ZOA internship program. The students worked on a variety of projects to help enhance the campus department and make the ZOA even stronger on campuses throughout the country.

Students from the New York area, California, and the Midwest joined the program and stayed with the ZOA for more than a month of hard work. Their main tasks were to create content for the new ZOA Campus Website and to

create pro-Israel materials to use on campuses. The research and work they did helped them become more effective Israel advocates, while also helping the ZOA become better equipped to assist students in need.

The interns exceeded expectations as they created new and high-quality material for both the website and for use on campuses. They created roughly 40 fact sheets about important topics such as the IDF, Iranian threats, the Jewish connection to Judea and Samaria, Palestinian incitement, real obstacles to peace, and more. They also created a dictionary of Israel-related terms with the purpose of countering anti-Israel myths and helping students understand what these terms really mean. For example, "what does 'occupied territories' mean and why is it an inappropriate term to use when discussing Israel's control of Judea and Samaria?"

Furthermore, the interns created larger booklets to help explain more complex issues. For example, they created a booklet on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the Jewish State and outlined how it is anti-Semitic, anti-peace, and anti-Palestinian. They also created a booklet on J Street to expose it as a dangerously anti-Israel organization.

In addition to the valuable work the interns put forth for the ZOA, they had the opportunity to hear various guest speakers and participate in meetings with leaders in the pro-Israel community. They met with ZOA President Mort Klein and held conference calls with AMCHA President Tammy Benjamin and Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel President Dumisani Washington. They also attended a lecture by the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Bret Stephens. They ended the month by attending a screening of "The J Street Challenge" and listening to a panel of experts discuss the threats J Street poses to Israel and the pro-Israel community.

Overall, the summer internship program proved to be valuable for both the students and the ZOA campus department. The students learned about key issues and prepared themselves to be even more effective student activists, while the ZOA campus department gained more resources to help pro-Israel students across the country. [ZOA](#)



# ZOA A BIOGRAPHY PEOPLE

## DAVID SCHOEN

David Schoen, who has been a member of ZOA's Board for many years, is not someone who has allowed adversity in early life to stand in the way of pursuing his passion and conviction. Born and raised in New York City in his earliest years, he lost his father at four, and moved from New York to McLean, Virginia. His stepfather was killed in a plane crash when David was just 10. He was raised by a devoted mother who worked 16-18 hour days to provide for him and his brother. Schoen soon discovered an aptitude and passion for tennis and other sports, inherited perhaps from his father (who had been drafted to play ball for the Yankees). Sports were an important part of his life. After growing up playing baseball and soccer, he had to pick one sport in college and chose tennis. He went to George Washington University on a full tennis scholarship and led his team to its first-ever NCAA Division I Conference title, playing number one singles and doubles. He also played

and medaled twice for the American team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. After college, tennis remained a large part of his life, as he traveled around the United States and Europe in the summers, meeting and playing with some of the greatest players of the day. He continues to train and to play in national tournaments when time permits. He also coaches youth, middle school, and high school soccer and baseball teams.

Schoen says that he grew up with little in the way of a religious background; he attended public schools and organized Jewish life was not part of his formative experience. His interest in Judaism grew as he got older. He did however always have an interest in Zionism. "Zionism for me always has been and always will be a just and noble doctrine and its adherents have pursued and continue to pursue a course that is nothing less than essential for the Jewish people. I do not believe there has been a country in history that has held itself to a higher ethical and moral standard than Israel, guided by principles held at a premium in Judaism and by Zionists; yet in a world turned upside down these days, just the opposite is claimed, generally by anti-Semites, using anti-Zionism as a pretext or excuse for their true prejudices. I believe Israel represents good, right, morality and justice in a fight with evil, with evil often gaining the upper hand by calling black white and white black and with Israel lambasted for taking exception to that."

Schoen's early decades were preoccupied with his studies. Always passionately interested in ultimate social and moral questions, he decided early on that he wanted to be a civil rights and criminal lawyer. His mentor since his teenage years was the Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., a distinguished U.S. Court of Appeals judge and an expert on the history of slavery and the civil rights movement. Judge Higginbotham suggested that Schoen go to the Deep South after graduating from Boston College Law School, given his interest in civil rights. Accordingly, Schoen went to Montgomery, Alabama, and served as law clerk to a federal judge, the Honorable Truman M. Hobbs, who had been a legendary trial lawyer in the state. During his clerkship, Schoen lived in the home of the Honorable Richard Rives, one of the subjects of



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## ZOA PEOPLE

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Jack Bass' book on the courageous judges of the South who decided the cases that advanced the civil rights movement in this country in the Sixties. He was honored to become friendly and learn from another such hero and legend, the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, and other great federal judges in Alabama. Schoen also worked as an adjunct law professor at Seton Hall Law School, teaching criminal procedure and graduated with a Master of Laws degree from Columbia University Law School.

Schoen had accepted a job with a large Washington, D.C. law firm to begin after the clerkship, but decided to stay in Alabama and build his legal practice exclusively on civil rights and criminal law. He won some landmark cases early on, while still in his twenties and early thirties, including a challenge to Alabama's foster care system on behalf of a class of emotionally disturbed children living in atrocious conditions. The system was struck down as unconstitutional and a model system was started in its place. He filed the complaint that led to a similar victory against the state, striking down its public education system as unconstitutional. Many more cases directed at system-wide deficiencies followed, with Schoen always seeking change in the systems through injunctive relief, rather than damages, and teaming up with some of the finest civil rights lawyers in the country to achieve success. These cases have involved challenges to the indigent defense system for criminal defendants in Alabama, Voting Rights and Ballot Access cases, religious freedom and other First Amendment cases, as well as police misconduct cases. Recently, Schoen took over a case from the Southern Poverty Law Center, striking down a Draconian provision in Alabama law which literally punished the status of homelessness and indigence.

Schoen's pioneering legal work was recognized and honored by the American Bar Association's national Pro Bono Publico Award. In bestowing this award on Schoen, the ABA quoted a federal judge as saying that without question, Schoen has done more to change the face of the public institutions in the South than any lawyer of his era. Schoen also was honored with Migdal Ohr's Tower of Light Award.

The cases Schoen holds as being among his most important are actions brought originally by Shurat HaDin, in which he has served as lead counsel against the PLO and the Palestinian Authority on behalf of American victims of terrorism, challenging the material support provided by these recipients of U.S. funding to other terrorist organizations whose members have killed many Americans. Through this work, Schoen has deposed several terrorists in Israel, including the likes of Ahmed Sadaat, the leader of the terrorist group PFLP, and his number two man, who sits on the Palestinian governing body's Executive Council, and whose chauffeur-driven Mercedes, housing, etc. are the products of misguided U.S. government largesse. This work has provided a tremendous understanding of just how evil are the forces Israel and America face and just how frustrating it is to see America continue its funding of these organizations which without question are dedicated to the obliteration of Israel and, ultimately the West. Schoen reports that he is determined to find other avenues for advocating for Israel and the victims of terror, and other vehicles for challenging through litigation and other advocacy the funding and fostering of terror by those who seek to de-legitimize Israel, including UNRWA and others.

Schoen's interest in Judaism stemmed from living by chance around the corner from Ohab Zedek, an orthodox synagogue on New York's Upper West Side, which he attended one Friday night. The rabbi, Allen Schwartz, along with another from Washington, D.C., Shmuel Hertzfeld, have had a profound impact on his thinking. Schoen became observant, devoting time to studying Judaism—and on one occasion, with Rabbi Hertzfeld, sold his chametz before Pesach to now-retired Supreme Court Justice David Souter, who took quite an interest in the nature of the legal contract of sale under halacha.

It did not require a religious awakening, however, for Schoen to become involved in Zionism and Jewish affairs, the more so as he saw the cause besmirched and misrepresented in the media. "Israel has the most ethical military in the world," says Schoen. "It bends over backwards, often to its detriment and at tremendous

*It did not require a religious awakening, however, for Schoen to become involved in Zionism and Jewish affairs, the more so as he saw the cause besmirched and misrepresented in the media. “Israel has the most ethical military in the world,” says Schoen. “It bends over backwards, often to its detriment and at tremendous sacrifice, in my view, as it is doing even now in Gaza.”*

sacrifice, in my view, as it is doing even now in Gaza. Yet the mainstream media, in Alice in Wonderland fashion, knows no shame in portraying things as if they were exactly the opposite, fostering a very troubling increase in anti-Semitic-motivated attacks around the world.”

Schoen is involved in Jewish and general organizations and causes. Before his association with the national board of the ZOA and its Center for Law and Justice, Schoen served on the boards of the Montgomery, Alabama branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the ACLU of Alabama, the Alabama Prison Project, as well as various other civil rights organizations and Jewish community organizations and school boards. He has professionally represented Rabbi Avi Weiss and AMCHA, and is involved right now with Susan Tuchman of the ZOA as amicus counsel before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Jerusalem passport case, the continuing battle waged by the ZOA over the right of American citizens born in Jerusalem to have “Israel” recorded as their birthplace on their American passports, which the State Department has been fighting every step of the way.

Much of Schoen’s professional practice today is in New York City and revolves around white collar criminal defense work and representing

reputed organized crime figures, and other complex criminal and civil litigation, both trials and appeals. He has worked with many of the greats in his field, including Alan Dershowitz, Ben Brafman, and Albert Krieger, and served on several professional committees seeking reform in various areas of the law. He also recently served on a panel convened by former senator and Defense Secretary William Cohen and his wife on the impact of race in the justice system, along with such figures as Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and Attorney General Eric Holder.

For Schoen, among the organizations representing Jews and Zionism, the ZOA has stood out. “I met Mort many years ago and we soon became friendly. He is painted as very right-wing, but I don’t see it that way at all. I believe he simply tells the truth on the issues, however painful some find the truth, and that’s what attracts me to ZOA. The ZOA is not as concerned as other groups about access. It stands up for principles over political expediency, it’s out front on the vital issues, even if people don’t welcome what it has to say. Its work was unparalleled in monitoring and publicizing the continual Palestinian Arab violations of the Oslo Accords and its work continues to lead the field in exposing hypocrisy and injustice by Israel’s enemies and often by those who claim to be and should be its best friends.”

“I wish everyone would know and read about our work,” continues Schoen. “I don’t think that there has been a single press release or policy statement from the ZOA that I haven’t agreed with, which is pretty unusual, as I’m generally a rather critical person, with little patience for public posturing often engaged in by other organizations. Mort has shown great courage. He could have a much easier life and have access to the President, but he insists on principle. Others try to marginalize him, but the ZOA has shown itself over time to be correct in what it said all along. Unfortunately, when the ZOA’s warnings, based on always maintaining a sense of reality learned from history, have been dismissed, the consequences generally have been disastrous. I very much hope to be able to continue being intimately involved with ZOA’s vitally important work.” [ZOA](#)



# ZOA ISRAEL OFFICE

## ADVOCACY ON THE FRONT LINES

The Israeli government and people were solidly united, albeit briefly, in the struggle against Hamas and partner Fatah in Gaza. Considering the parties and individuals in favor of Palestinian statehood and accommodative negotiations included, this is striking. As embattled citizens did their part to support Operation Protective Edge, the Israel Office went to work on the language of public diplomacy; in particular the problem of leadership's overlooking Oslo II, the 1995 agreement forbidding stockpiling of weapons. Having aligned with Hamas, the PA is responsible for Hamas compliance now, too.

We raised this point at two Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) briefings, and privately with MFA department heads and other policy shapers, including Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz and Deputy Foreign Minister Tzachi Hanegbi. A World Jewish Congress solidarity mission presented another opportunity, with 57 global and 21 Israeli leaders in attendance. ZOA was given the honor of reading a letter from absent U.S. Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY), chair of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians, who shares our abiding interest in Palestinian obligations and violations.

At the three week mark, PM Netanyahu began referring to Oslo in connection with his goal of demilitarization. Whatever our role in catalyzing this tactical change, we hope it persists and will keep pressing to help it along. Not unexpectedly, we already see indications of U.S. and other pressures to let go of past understandings — even demilitarization.

The Israel Office regularly briefed ZOA leaders and colleagues throughout 49 days of rocket fire, on and off again ceasefires, and devious Hamas spin and statistics. We also

arranged for former Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon and BESA director Prof. Efraim Inbar to relate their separate takes on the volatile conditions. Our front lines view, with Code Red sirens sounding in the background, was the subject of a series of interviews on American radio. We offered further briefings in person for visiting CUFI and CIPAC Christian groups.

A contentious televised debate on Israeli TV meanwhile piqued our interest. Ran Cohen, director of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, falsely cited a shortage of food and medicine in Gaza despite the ongoing approved truck deliveries. This upset Likud Coalition Chairman MK Yariv Levin, who called him a liar and was asked to leave. Afterwards we reminded Levin's office about the MFA talking points bolstering his argument against Cohen's pro-Hamas propaganda.

Some say the FAA's temporary ban on travel to Ben Gurion Airport marked a turning point in thinking about a Palestinian state in Judea-Samaria, with its greater capacity to threaten travel and commerce. As it is, the war had significantly reduced the usual summer flow, which is why former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee asked us to help set up his *Fox News* TV program in Israel to demonstrate airport safety. We also arranged for his crew to film the disabled U.S. veterans traveling with Heroes to Heroes as they comforted hospitalized IDF soldiers.

Sixty-seven heroes sadly did not survive the intense fighting. One of those was lone soldier volunteer Max Steinberg from California. Thirty-thousand came forth to mourn as one on Mt. Herzl and pay silent homage to his selfless Zionist commitment. We were moved to write about the occasion for *ZOA Report* readers.



JEFF DAUBE  
Director,  
ZOA Israel

## LEGAL RIGHTS AND GROUNDS

**T**he latest conflict in Gaza kicked off in the summer of 2014, but Israel's legitimacy was under fierce global attack long before, and has been growing exponentially ever since.

Amid the shooting rockets and terror tunnels horror, ZOA-led Legal Grounds did manage to conduct a major Knesset conference: Using Israel's Legal Rights to Combat BDS. MKs Robert Ilatov and Ayelet Shaked acquitted themselves well as our co-planners and hosts, as did our eight presenting experts. The timing was not inopportune. The presumption of "occupation" needed to be rebutted at this time especially as the excuse du jour justifying Hamas aggression.

Early in our campaign we became sensitized to the complex political considerations at play inducing reticence in some leaders even as they agreed with the goals. The Legal Grounds Coalition, co-chaired by Arlene Kushner,

adapted its strategy accordingly. More MKs and ministers are now proclaiming Israel's rights with confidence and consistency.

MK Nissim Ze'ev already had been working closely with the Israel Office for many years, but as chair of the Delegitimization Caucus he is keenly active currently on our rights promoting front. At Ze'ev's Lessons from Goldstone conference in which we participated, a high powered legal panel described steps that could be taken, including at the International Criminal Court. ZOA Israel also arranged for JCC Watch Director Richard Allen to address the forum about his related efforts against the BDS-supporting New Israel Fund.

Our parallel program of educating the public and media included a seminar hosted by Emunah: Why John Kerry Hates Edmund Levy, and presentations headlined by MK Yoni Chetboun and media personality Ari Abramowitz, respectively. ZOA Israel also had a speaking slot among the distinguished panelists of the Emanuel Winston Memorial Sovereignty Conference. In addition, we are partnering with up and coming Tazpit, the only Israeli news agency taking foreign media to Judea and Samaria to make the pro-rights case.

We discussed rights objectives in a tête-à-tête with Gov. Mike Huckabee during his pre-war visit with the World Committee for Israel. Huckabee committed to advancing the principles outlined in our Legal Grounds Report with his colleagues in Washington. ZOA President Mort Klein, also traveling with the delegation, spoke to an enthusiastic Knesset audience about delegitimization. In a follow-up video interview the Israel Office reiterated his warning to Israel advocates, to avoid mindlessly using language such as two-state solution, settler and occupation. Terms like these only serve our antagonists, whose aim is to diminish Israel's legally defensible claims.



ZOA Israel brought Gov. Mike Huckabee, wife Janet, and FOX News TV crew to airport briefing with General Shmuel Zakai

## STEP BY STEP FOR JERUSALEM

Over the years our efforts have yielded plentiful fruit, but our proudest Jerusalem accomplishment to date just may be The Mandelblit Plan, a government carrot and stick initiative to regain control over the capital's eastern sector. Of the 300 million shekel to be allocated, a third will be used to improve security, especially around the Mount of Olives. This was the direct result of our lobbying PM Netanyahu's inner circle, specifically Cabinet Secretary Avichai Mandelblit and Director General Harel Locker, and other policy leaders. Mandelblit commended us on our persistence, acknowledging ZOA and partner ICPHH as the primary movers behind this new direction to safeguard Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem.

ZOA/ICPHH indeed had stepped up their advocacy last spring, when violent attacks against Jewish residents and visitors were rising to intolerable levels. We pressed for more robust intervention with President-elect Reuven Rivlin, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, the new chief rabbis of Israel, and two dozen government leaders. Many of these affirming meetings, and our on-site briefings for ministers and Knesset members from all political parties, were covered widely by the Hebrew language media and in *The Jerusalem Post*.

Knesset momentum to confront Jerusalem security matters slowed down somewhat in the summer as the Gaza conflict raged on. We still were able to advance our planning with Likud MK Miri Regev, chair of the Internal Affairs Committee. After much prodding by us, and a push by Regev, our drive to effect stronger penalties for rock-throwing and cemeteries desecration (modeled on Florida and Illinois statutes supplied by Law and Justice Director Susan Tuchman) made serious headway. Regev also invited us to a police hearing to share our perspective on escalating assaults on people and property — the meeting turning raucous when

two Arab Israeli MKs completely lost control, Talab Abu Arar screaming the “occupation” was at fault.

A visit by Pope Francis stoked rumors of capitulating to Vatican demands to cede Jerusalem's other holy mountain, Har Tzion, to the Catholic Church. The Israel Office brought three Members of Knesset (Chetboun, Feiglin and Ze'ev) to the location to focus them on the imperatives. Meanwhile, when we learned that J Street's President Jeremy Ben-Ami was touting his pro-Israel bona fides on the basis of his parents and ancestors having been buried on the adjacent Mount of Olives, we felt we should not miss this opportunity to publicly invite him for a briefing as well. Ben-Ami has not accepted yet, although he did visit Israel at least once since we extended the offer.



Thirty thousand mourners attended Mt. Herzl funeral of lone soldier Max Steinberg



High wall could not prevent massive terror tunnel in Netiv Haasara, next to Gaza border, site of temporary ZOA branch office



## JERUSALEM-WASHINGTON CONNECTION

ZOA Israel welcomed the successful passage into U.S. law of the Protect Cemeteries Act. Sponsored by Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) and promoted by the Israel Office, this amendment to the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act subjects international violators to a range of penalties. The implications for punishing the political bodies responsible for the violence on the Mount of Olives is what concerns us most, a subject we also raised with U.S. Jerusalem Consul General Michael Ratney.



Eastern Jerusalem violence rose to intolerable levels last spring - even before Gaza war



ZOA/ICPHH Mt. of Olives advocates with MK Danny Danon and Border Police commander Saar Avraham

The Consul's responsiveness to our numerous requests sounded encouraging; for example, his agreement to look into State Department omissions of Mount of Olives attacks in its annual reporting of hate crimes; and to bring his staff on-site with us to better understand the area's strategic meaning. Ratney commended the ZOA for bringing together the various

U.S. diplomatic, enforcement and reporting agencies to address the challenging dynamics.

The Israel Office has been cooperating with a group of key American families who lost loved ones to Palestinian-Arab terrorism but for whom justice has proven elusive. This issue came to a head when Israel agreed, for the sake of negotiations, to release more than one hundred security prisoners in four installments (only three took place). During that period we gathered attendees for a testimonies-filled proceeding led by MK Danny Danon, and were asked by the press amid a string of protests to explain applicable U.S. laws and the failure to enact them. Months later we monitored the Supreme Court appeal of the terrorist who had hacked Kristine Luken to death — his bid for premature release failed. We also continued to discuss the prisoner release issue with visiting U.S. leaders, including Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), after which he introduced his successful Rewards for Justice bill.

The never-ending story of American victims featured prominently again with the kidnapping-murder of three Israeli teenagers. At the packed shiva home of Naftali Fraenkel, we thanked Ambassador Daniel Shapiro — having covered the overarching concerns of the issue with him previously — for appropriately canceling the usual fireworks display at the Independence Day party we attended the night before.

Congressmen Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and Andy Harris (R-MD), hearing us out at a roundtable discussion in Psagot, agreed to look into the State Department's stonewalling of proposed coexistence projects in Judea and Samaria. We also complimented DeSantis on his bill to defund the Palestinian Authority should it fail to meet certain criteria, such as recognizing Israel as the Jewish state and cutting ties to Hamas. We apprised him of his counterparts in the Knesset who are hoping for the same. [ZOA](#)

# AROUND ZOA THE COUNTRY

*ZOA-NJ has been growing steadily over the spring and summer months, and is looking forward to an exciting fall season. The highlight of the spring was of course the annual DC mission, where NJ participants met with both NJ Senators as well as many of their representatives. A group of students from four NJ Jewish schools added excitement, a fresh perspective to the NJ contingency, and shows the impact ZOA can have on the next generation of Jewish leaders.*

Another highlight of the spring was a ZOA-led program, cosponsored by the Bergen County High School for Jewish Studies, StandWithUs, and the local Federation and JCRC, that focused on the situation high school students could expect to find after they leave for college. Some 150 parents, students, and community members gathered to first view a film on campus anti-Israel action and antisemitism. Then, Susan Tuchman, Director of the ZOA Center for Law and Justice, briefed parents on recent campus developments and ZOA's critical work using Title VI to protect Jewish students, while student attendees were trained on how to respond to what they may face on campus. The program was extremely well-received, with several attendees asking that we repeat the program in other areas, and many joining ZOA-NJ as new members. Multiple local papers covered the event as well. Many thanks to ZOA-NJ Board Member Elayne Kalina for all her help bringing this successful program to life!

The summer, of course, brought the tragic kidnapping and murder of the three boys, followed shortly after by Operation Protective Edge. ZOA-NJ participated in several community rallies and events, including several where members were privileged to hear ZOA's inspirational President Mort Klein speak with his renowned candor and insight. An additional rally was organized by ZOA-NJ in Teaneck the day of the boys' funeral. ZOA-NJ

Executive Director Laura Fein and Eastern Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center Rabbi Steven Burg both spoke passionately of the need to translate our mourning into action on behalf of Israel. Three publications covered the event, bringing positive attention to ZOA's work.

Later in July, a large group gathered in West Orange, NJ at the home of ZOA National Secretary Mark Levenson to hear Mark speak about his representation of ZOA on the Conference of Presidents mission to Israel to support the war effort. Mark's touching account of his experience visiting soldiers on the border,



Prof. George Zilbergeld, students Aviva Ramirez, Shoshana Blech, and Racheli Blech, NJ Senator Cory Booker, and ZOA-NJ Executive Director Laura Fein at the DC Mission.

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## ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

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communities under fire, shiva homes, and meetings with Israel's top leaders showed the difference ZOA can make and inspired many to join our efforts. Following Mark, Kyle Blank and Dov Gardin, two "Lone Soldiers" from NJ who had volunteered to serve in the IDF, spoke about their personal fighting experiences, emotionally portraying what extreme precautions Israel takes to protect enemy civilians, and the risks assumed as a result by the soldiers themselves. Talia Friedman, ZOA summer intern and Rutgers campus liaison, also spoke about ZOA's activities on campus, and Laura Fein spoke about ZOA's national and local efforts to support Israel during the war, in Washington, in the media, and in communities. Many thanks to Mark for his incredible generosity and help with all aspects of this successful event.

In August, ZOA's Co-Director of Government Relations Josh London visited Bergen County to deliver an insider's perspective

new ZOA-NJ media presentation, highlighting recent activities and plans for the future. This event was generously sponsored by Melissa and Lazer Borgen, who graciously opened their home for London's speech.

September brought two important events to ZOA-NJ. First, Dr. Charles Jacobs presented his exposé of J-Street, *The J-Street Challenge*, at a theater in northern NJ. Second, ZOA-NJ held its first board meeting! The board is comprised of a diverse and exciting group of people, including National Board Members who have generously agreed to serve on the NJ board as well, experienced NJ communal leaders, and up-and-coming advocates for Israel who will help ZOA-NJ establish a strong base for the next generation. We look forward to meeting the challenges Israel faces together, and helping to advance the mission of the ZOA and the vision of our incredible leader Mort Klein.



ZOA-NJ board member Patty Borodach, Ariela Rivkin & Simi Borodach at student training event with Susan Tuchman

on how Israel policy is approached in Congress, the State Department and the White House, and how ZOA is having a meaningful impact on those decisions. His talk was followed by an extensive Q&A, showing the depth of interest in ZOA's perspective. London's visit attracted media coverage as well. Attendees also saw the

## ZOA WEST

ZOA West's presence in the Bay Area has been a tremendous success. Sam Levine, Executive Director of the West Coast, talks to community members all the time who are thrilled there is a ZOA presence in their town. These people know they cannot count on any other Jewish organizations to fight for Israel or combat anti-Semitism with the same fearlessness as ZOA.

At ZOA West, our goals remain the same: to build relationships with the community; to educate the community about the ongoing Arab war against Israel; to defend Israel in the court of public opinion; and to make sure our elected officials and media members have the facts about what is going on in the Middle East. On campus, our goals are to fight anti-Israel propaganda and anti-Semitism.

In order to achieve these goals, ZOA West is utilizing the power of social media. Sam created a local website for ZOA West: ZOAWestCoast.com, a twitter page, and a Facebook account that in only a couple months already has more than 1000 "Likes". Using these platforms, Sam is better able to organize and promote important



## ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

educational events for the Bay Area community.

This past year, ZOA West hosted Caroline Glick in San Francisco to discuss the flaws of the “two state solution” with a crowd of 175 people.

In April, ZOA West sponsored a screening of the hit documentary, *The J Street Challenge*, which challenges the radical organization’s claim of being “pro-Israel.” This event drew 200 people, including dozens of students.

ZOA West also hosted spokesman for the Jewish Community of Hebron, David Wilder, for an event at Temple Adath Israel in San Francisco. Wilder spoke to a captivated audience about the dynamic history of Hebron, and the rights of the Jewish people to live in this biblically significant city.

This past summer, Israel was engaged in a defensive battle against the Hamas terrorists

the UC Board of Regents and the UCLA administration, condemning this activity. Sam Levine also testified in front of the UC Board of Regents and President of the UC system, Janet Napolitano, in Sacramento, and wrote an article that was published in the *J Weekly*, exposing this issue. Soon after, Chancellor Block of UCLA and President Napolitano released statements condemning the hateful on campus activity.

In order to achieve our goals, it is essential for ZOA to partner with campus leaders. To this end, this past summer, ZOA West commenced a student internship program. Amanda Botfeld—UC Santa Cruz student, Editor-in-Chief of the school’s Jewish newspaper, and participant on ZOA’s Student Mission to Israel last year—worked in the west coast office. When the new school year starts at UC Santa Cruz, she will be

***In August, ZOA West helped organize one of the largest pro-Israel rallies the Bay Area has ever seen, with 3,000 people in attendance...ZOA West has played a pivotal role in combating anti-Semitism at various California universities.***

in Gaza. During this difficult time, ZOA West was out front, defending Israel’s use of force. We were on Facebook, Twitter and social media, correcting the falsehoods about the Arab war against Israel, and making sure that everyone knew who was at fault. In August, ZOA West helped organize one of the largest pro-Israel rallies the Bay Area has ever seen, with 3,000 people in attendance.

ZOA West has played a pivotal role in combating anti-Semitism at various California universities. At UCLA this last year, pro-Israel students were subject to harassment and intimidation by the anti-Israel group, Students for Justice in Palestine. This hateful organization—which is single-mindedly focused on destroying the Jewish State—sought to purge pro-Israel students from the student government. ZOA West, along with AMCHA and other groups, wrote a strong letter to

our direct contact on the Santa Cruz campus, and will work with us on pro-Israel events.

In the coming months, ZOA West has exciting plans. We will be hosting Gloria Greenfield’s new film, *Body and Soul*—on which ZOA is an Associate Producer—in November. In addition, ZOA West will be participating in the Rimon Club’s weekend high school excursion in January, featuring two days of Israel advocacy training and Jewish learning. ZOA West is also looking forward to hosting an event featuring our President, Morton Klein, at the Lisa Kampner Hebrew Academy in San Francisco. Lastly, ZOA West is thrilled to be hosting *Wall Street Journal*, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist, Bret Stephens, in February in Palo Alto.

To get in touch with Sam, please visit [ZOAWestCoast.com](http://ZOAWestCoast.com), or email him at [SLevine@ZOA.org](mailto:SLevine@ZOA.org).

# ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

## FLORIDA

In her first quarter as ZOA's new Executive Director in Florida, Sharona Whisler has been busy bringing ZOA's voice to the center of Israel activity in Florida.

Sharona began the quarter by exposing the University of South Florida's indifference to anti-Semitism on campus. ZOA Florida issued an action alert calling for supporters to contact Judy Genshaft, the president of the University of South Florida, and the Board of Trustees, and to urge the administration to condemn an anti-Semitic event organized by the so-called "Students for Justice in Palestine" (SJP). Last year, the SJP at USF hosted a game show type event filled with anti-Semitic rhetoric and lies about Jews and Israel. The action alert urged ZOA supporters to:

- Praise the Board for recently dismissing the SJP's proposal and petition advocating boycott, divestment from, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.
- Tell the Board that while this was a notable step, more must be done. The Board cannot be indifferent to campus anti-Semitism.
- Make it clear to the Board that you cannot financially support a university that does not take reasonable and necessary steps to combat campus anti-Semitism.



ZOA Florida Executive Director, Sharona Whisler poses for a photo with Florida's Attorney General, Pam Bondi

ZOA Florida will continue to hold USF accountable for its deplorable indifference to anti-Semitism. In a recent meeting with Florida's Governor, Rick Scott, Sharona Whisler expressed her concern about the administrative indifference to anti-Semitism on some Florida campuses, specifically citing USF, and asked the governor for his assistance. The governor requested that ZOA Florida report anti-Semitic incidents to his office. Sharona has already contacted Governor Scott's office to provide details about last year's incident at USF.

### ZOA Activism in Florida

In May, ZOA National President Morton Klein addressed a crowd in Naples, organized by the chapter president, Jerry Sobel. From there he headed north to address a group in Sarasota, arranged by the chapter president, Dr. Brent Rubin. Mort spoke about exposing the myths of the Arab war against Israel. He received standing ovations and engaged the audience in Q and A after his speeches.

Not long before Hamas's kidnapping and murder of three Jewish students in Israel, Hamas and Fatah made headlines with its newly formed unity government. Sharona Whisler weighed in on the subject with an op-ed published in the Florida Jewish Journal, warning that "Funding the PA With or Without a Unity Government Is a Problem." The sentiment is truer than ever, given the Hamas war against Israel and Fatah's continuing alliance with that U.S.-designated terrorist group.

Florida came together as Israel launched its defensive war against Hamas in Operation Protective Shield. ZOA Florida helped organize and publicize one of the largest pro-Israel rallies in South Florida, cited by the Florida Jewish Journal as bringing together over 3,000 Israel supporters. Sharona Whisler addressed the crowd, saying, "Israel is fighting to defend its freedom; the freedom to live without fear of rockets; the freedom to live in peace. This is something worth fighting for. We all have brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers and sons and daughters and friends in Israel right now. Tell them where you are right now. Tell them that you are here with over a 1000 of

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your closest friends to declare that Israel will not only survive, but Israel will thrive and Israel will prosper. Please say it with me, Am Yisrael Chai!"

On July 17th, the 20th anniversary of the AMIA bombing in Argentina, ZOA Florida co-sponsored a memorial program organized by the AJC, honoring the victims of this terrorist attack. ZOA was given the honor of lighting a candle in memory of the victims.

### New Southeast Campus Coordinator

ZOA Florida welcomes new ZOA Southeast Campus Coordinator, Cesar De Gracia Morales. Cesar was a student activist while studying at the University of Houston. He organized several pro-Israel events and worked tirelessly to combat anti-Israel propaganda. Cesar participated in ZOA's Student Leadership Mission to Israel and found the experience so meaningful that upon graduating, he applied for the position of ZOA Campus Coordinator.



ZOA Florida Executive Director, Sharona Whisler expresses her concerns to Florida Governor, Rick Scott regarding campus anti-Semitism

***ZOA Florida helped organize and publicize one of the largest pro-Israel rallies in South Florida, cited by the Florida Jewish Journal as bringing together over 3,000 Israel supporters***

### Inaugural ZOA Florida Board

ZOA Florida also welcomes the first four members of its inaugural Regional Board. Dr. Craig Deligdish is an oncologist who lives near Orlando and has been actively engaged in Jewish and pro-Israel communal work for most of his life. Dr. Deligdish's great uncle coordinated a group of 383 Jews on a journey through Europe to Greece where he captained a ship that sailed to the shores of Palestine. The incredible story is documented in a book titled, "Four Front War" by Willie Perl.

Robert Singer, heavily involved in the world of Jewish and pro-Israel activism and a native Miamian, also joins the ZOA Florida inaugural board. Mr. Singer chairs the Israel Program and Advocacy Committee at the Michael-

Ann Russel JCC in North Miami Beach. The committee arranges South Florida's largest Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration every year. Mr. Singer's late grandfather was an active ZOA member in New York and now Mr. Singer will be continuing this legacy.

The youngest member of ZOA Florida's inaugural board is Isi Stein, a recent graduate of University of Miami where he was the president of Chabad UM. Mr. Stein is a strong activist for Jewish and Israeli causes and often writes opinion pieces for the *Algemeiner*, focusing on Israeli affairs. Mr. Stein has also helped raise awareness about the plight of Jonathan Pollard, lobbying extensively for his release.

ZOA Florida's newest board member is Jonathan Zucker. Mr. Zucker spent part of his



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## ZOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

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life in Israel when he made aliyah as a teenager with his family. After serving in the IDF, Mr. Zucker worked in the Knesset as a parliamentary assistant to former Likud MK and Israel Bonds President, Joshua Matza. Mr. Zucker returned to the US where he remained involved in Israel activism, helping to organize successful rallies in New York City. Mr. Zucker emceed the recent Israel rally in Miami that drew over 1,000 people.

To get involved with ZOA in Florida, please contact Sharona Whisler at [swhisler@zoa.org](mailto:swhisler@zoa.org).

### PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia ZOA had its fourth annual Gala on September 10, at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue. Our honorees were: Philadelphia Board Chairman and National Vice President Gene Shusman and his wife, Fran, who received our Pillars of the Community Award; Philadelphia board member Rabbi Jean Claude Klein and his wife, Miriam, who received our Guardians of Israel Award; Christian Zionists

Susan and David Warner received our Friends of Zion Award; and keynote speaker Erick Stakelbeck received our Ben Hecht Award for Outstanding Journalism. More than 300 Zionists from throughout the region attended this celebration of Israel and America.

In June we hosted “An Evening With Caroline Glick” featuring a talk by the celebrated Jerusalem Post columnist and author. National President Mort Klein introduced Ms. Glick.

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

We co-sponsored two screenings of the documentary “The J Street Challenge” including one at the University of Pennsylvania and another in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Co-President Lee Bender, Vice President Jerry Verlin, and Executive Director Steve Feldman have been published frequently, particularly in *The Algemeiner* and *American Thinker*. Feldman has also been a frequent guest on local talk-radio programs. Feldman, Bender and Verlin have also been frequent speakers at synagogues and other community forums. All three also spoke on the campus of the University of Delaware in Wilmington.

During the Spring congressional primary campaign, Philadelphia ZOA leaders met with a number of candidates to discuss their positions on Israel. We also offered them a questionnaire about their views on Israel, the Middle East and related matters and shared the answers with our members.

Nearly 60 ZOA members and friends participated in the annual National ZOA Washington Advocacy Mission.

Philadelphia ZOA has been involved in an incident at Temple University in which a pro-Israel student was reportedly punched by another student at a “Students for Justice in Palestine” information table on campus. We have spoken with several students about the anti-Israel climate on the campus. [ZOA](#)



At Philadelphia ZOA’s “An Evening With Caroline Glick” at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia’s Jewish Community Services Building. From left: Steve Feldman, executive director, Greater Philadelphia District; Michael Goldblatt, national board chairman; Kevin Ross, co-president, Greater Philadelphia District; Mort Klein, national president; Gene Shusman, Philadelphia ZOA board chairman and national vice president; guest speaker Caroline Glick; Lee Bender, Philadelphia ZOA co-president

# ZOA POLICY BRIEFS BEHIND THE NEWS

## **ZOA GAINS LEGAL VICTORY FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY FOR BROOKLYN COLLEGE JEWISH STUDENTS IN DISCRIMINATION CASE**

**T**he Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is pleased and proud to announce that Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould issued a public statement apologizing in full to the four Jewish students who were forcibly thrown out of an anti-Israel, anti-Semitic boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) event at Brooklyn College on February 7, 2013. The anti-Semitic BDS event was sponsored by an anti-Israel group, the so-called Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and co-sponsored by the political science department. President Gould's public statement was part of a negotiated settlement between the ZOA and Brooklyn College, facilitated by mediators from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). No other outside Jewish organization was involved.

Even prior to the anti-Semitic BDS event, several Jewish students came to the ZOA and reported that as Jews and Israel supporters, they felt threatened and intimidated at Brooklyn College, particularly in the political science department. Many students were shocked and horrified by the department's decision to co-sponsor the anti-Semitic BDS event which would be one-sided and promoting Israel's destruction. They were also shocked and horrified by what occurred at the event itself.

The ZOA—and students—tried repeatedly to resolve all these problems informally with Brooklyn College, but these efforts failed. In July 2013, the ZOA filed a student-backed complaint against Brooklyn College under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, alleging a hostile campus environment for Jewish students, particularly in the political science department. If OCR concludes that a school has violated Title VI, the school risks losing its federal funding.

Triggered by the ZOA's Title VI complaint, OCR notified the ZOA in September 2013

that it would be investigating what occurred at the BDS event. OCR offered the ZOA and Brooklyn College the option of engaging in OCR's Early Complaint Resolution (ECR) process, which is essentially mediation. (The process could be terminated at any time, at which point OCR's investigation would proceed.)

The ZOA and Brooklyn College agreed to the ECR process and the mediation session took place on December 3, 2013, with the aid of mediators from OCR. Three students – Melanie Goldberg and Ari Ziegler, who had been forcibly expelled from the anti-Semitic BDS event; and Abraham Esses, student body president at the time of the forced expulsion – accompanied the ZOA's Susan Tuchman, Esq. to the mediation session and participated fully. Negotiations were completed in the weeks after the mediation session, facilitated by the OCR mediators.

## **ISRAEL-BASHING WEBSITE CRITICIZES ZOA FOR SUSPENSION OF ANTI-ISRAEL GROUP AT NORTHEASTERN U.**

**I**n a March 12, 2014 post on the Israel-bashing website Mondoweiss.net, extremist Max Blumenthal condemned Northeastern University's recent decision to suspend the so-called "Students for Justice in Palestine" (SJP) group, after the SJP put mock eviction notices under students' doors in several Northeastern residence halls. The notices contained false and demonizing information about Israel and were calculated to incite hatred of the Jewish State.

Blumenthal blamed Northeastern's decision to finally crack down on the SJP on "a long-running campaign" against the SJP led by "powerful pro-Israel outfits." In particular, he pointed to the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and Boston activist Charles Jacobs and his group, Americans for Peace and Tolerance (AFPT).

Specifically, Blumenthal wrote the following against the ZOA and its supporters:

"On July 5, 2013, Northeastern University

President Joseph Aoun received a breathless twelve-page letter from the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) demanding an investigation of three professors – Dennis Sullivan, Berna Turam, and M. Shahid Alam – accused by the organization of fostering a ‘hostile environment’ for pro-Israel and Jewish students. Further, the ZOA demanded a review of course material to ensure it adhered to a strictly pro-Israel ideological line, and that the school punish ‘wrongdoers’ for political activities both on and off campus. ‘Many Jewish students are feeling marginalized and even threatened on campus, afraid to express they are Jewish and pro-Israel,’ ZOA President Morton Klein claimed in the letter, which was promptly reproduced and promoted on the website of Jacobs’ AFPT.”

### **ZOA OPPOSES BDS GROUPS MARCHING IN ISRAEL DAY PARADE – JCRC ALLOWS THEM**

**T**he Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) strongly opposes the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)/NY Federation for granting permission to groups that promote boycotts of Israeli companies in Judea/Samaria to march in the Israel Day Parade, which is taking place on June 1, 2014, in New York City. These groups encourage the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel, which seeks to delegitimize and economically weaken and stifle Israel, and they therefore have no place in parades honoring Israel.

Among these extremist groups marching in this year’s Israel Day Parade are:

- Partners for Progressive Israel, which provides on its website a list of Israeli companies which it urges people to boycott because they have commercial interests or production in Judea/Samaria. It specifically names several companies, including Ahava cosmetics, SodaStream and wine from nine Israeli vineyards.
- The New Israel Fund (NIF), which finances numerous Israeli NGOs (non-

governmental which promote BDS, including Machsom Watch, Coalition of Women for Peace, Women Against Violence, Social TV, and Mossawa, all five of which signed a letter to the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, urging it to divest from Israel. NIF also gave a stipend to a member of the International Solidarity Movement, which not only promotes divestment, but justifies Palestinian “armed struggle” [i.e., terrorism] and participates in efforts to impede legitimate Israeli counter-terrorist measures. Its co-founder, George Rishmawi, is even on record justifying the “need” for terrorism. Also, in 2011, the NIF Associate Director in Israel, Hedva Radovanitz, said that “she believed that in 100 years Israel would be majority Arab and that the disappearance of a Jewish state would not be the tragedy that Israelis fear since it would become more democratic.”

- B’Tselem, a major NIF grantee, which produced the video that was shown at the infamous “Israel Apartheid Week” events held at universities and colleges worldwide. The chair of B’Tselem’s board, Oren Yiftachel, has publicly called for “effective sanctions” against Israel.

### **MET OPERA CANCELS BROADCAST OF ANTI-SEMITIC “KLINGHOFFER” AFTER ZOA SPOKE TO MOVIE OFFICIALS**

**T**he Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) welcomes the Metropolitan Opera and AMC Theaters’ decision to cancel the planned live HD transmission of the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel opera, “Death of Klinghoffer” to 2,000 theaters in 66 countries around the world. But it is distressing that the Metropolitan Opera has still not canceled the eight live performances of “Death of Klinghoffer” in New York City this fall, commencing on October 20. This must be done as soon as possible.

As a ZOA press release explained, “Death



## ZOA POLICY BRIEFS



Antisemitic BDS Protest Sign

of Klinghoffer” revises history to malign Israel, in an attempt to justify and humanize the Palestinian terrorists who hijacked the Achille Lauro cruise ship in 1985 and murdered an innocent disabled Jewish-American passenger named Leon Klinghoffer in cold blood.

ZOA is especially grateful for and appreciative of the sensitivity and prompt actions of AMC Theaters. As part of ZOA’s campaign against “Death of Klinghoffer,” ZOA contacted AMC, which owns the theaters throughout the United States where “Klinghoffer” was scheduled for broadcast. AMC is headquartered in Kansas – a state which recently experienced the horrible results of inciting anti-Semitism: This past April, a gunman murdered three innocent people at a Jewish center and Jewish retirement home. As soon as ZOA described to AMC how “Death of Klinghoffer” falsely revises history to malign Jews, and employs other vicious anti-Semitic canards, AMC immediately understood the anti-Semitic nature and perils of “Death of Klinghoffer” and took action, including contacting and conferring with officials at the Metropolitan Opera. AMC kindly called ZOA afterwards to tell us of their actions, and we were able to express our appreciation to the company in person.

### ZOA PRESIDENT KLEIN ADDRESSES KNESSET ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE IN FIGHTING BDS

“First of all, I want to say— many things have been said about Mike Huckabee. I want to say that I’m honored to be his friend and I would argue that Mike Huckabee is the greatest friend of Israel of any of the major political figures of America and I’ll go further and say if Mike Huckabee was a member of the Knesset, he’d be the Knesset’s greatest friend in Israel.

“I hear this nonsense about, ‘Well, I have nothing against Jews, it’s just the Jewish state that I have something against.’ What I would like to say, could I ever possibly say, ‘I have nothing against the Italians, but I think that Italy should be destroyed.’ Do you think, maybe, I have hostility toward Italians because I’m calling for Italy to be destroyed? Well, of course, I do. This is the type of rubbish that we need to endure.

“I want to say a couple of quick things. First of all, words matter [inaudible] of delegitimization. We should be using the right words, the accurate words, that tell the truth as opposed to the words that the media and our enemies want us to use. We should not say ‘Arab/Israeli conflict.’ There is none. The Jews would have peace with the Arabs in a minute simply [inaudible]. We should say the Arab war against Israel because that is what it is. And, please, stop using the word ‘peace process,’ ‘negotiating process,’ maybe. We know this isn’t leading the peace. Don’t give it that legitimacy by using that term.

“We shouldn’t say ‘We don’t have a partner.’ That gives some legitimacy, that he’s just a partner and not a [inaudible]. We should say that Abbas is an enemy who doesn’t want peace. We’re dealing with an enemy, not someone who isn’t a partner. He’s a man who supported the kidnapping of Shalit. He’s named schools and streets and sports teams after Jew-killing terrorists. He doesn’t outlaw terrorist groups. He has parades glorifying terrorists. He’s a Holocaust denier, a terrorist praiser. This is a

# ZOA POLICY BRIEFS

horrible man. This is not some man in a suit who's a decent moderate at all. We have to demonize this Holocaust-denying hater of Israel and Jews, Mahmoud Abbas."

## ZOA DEMANDS EXPULSION OF TEMPLE U. STUDENT WHO MADE ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENT ATTACK ON JEWISH STUDENT

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has written to Temple University President, Neil D. Theobald, condemning the vile anti-Semitic attack on a Temple University Jewish student by a member of or sympathizer with the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), a group devoted to Israel's elimination, and calling for SJP at Temple University to be investigated to determine if an immediate suspension of the group is appropriate and for the specific SJP student to be expelled.

Daniel Vessal, a member of the Jewish fraternity AEPi, was hit in the face by a student at the SJP table at "Templefest," which is organized for students on campus to gain new information about campus clubs a week before the start of classes. Vessal says that he saw the SJP table on one of the university's main walkways and went up peacefully to engage in discussion, saying, "When Hamas stops sending the rockets, that's when there can be peace. That's when we can start." This one girl sitting at the end of the table was just laughing and laughing at me ... As she was laughing at me, people at the table were calling me a 'baby killer,' I said when she stops then maybe we could have a genuinely peaceful conversation. And then this kid [one of the four or five people at the SJP table] just rocks me in the face as hard as he can. My glasses flew off. After a two-second blur I had no clue what had happened. I couldn't believe the kid actually hit me ... When the police came over and were filing the report the kids at the table were screaming 'You Zionist pig, you racist, that's what you get.'"

## ZOA: QATAR SHOULD BE PLACED ON TERRORIST-SPONSORED LIST, AND AIRLINE LICENSE SHOULD BE SUSPENDED

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) urges that, unless the Emirate of Qatar ceases its repeated provision of financial and other material support to the international terrorist organization Hamas, the U.S. State Department should determine that Qatar is a State Sponsor of Terrorism under the Export Administration Act, the Arms Export Control Act, and the Foreign Assistance Act.


Sanctions resulting from designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism include a ban on defense exports and sales. Accordingly, the \$11 billion arms deal that U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel signed with Qatar in mid-July, to sell to Qatar dozens of Apache helicopters, hundreds of Patriot missiles and hundreds of anti-tank rockets, should be cancelled if Qatar continues to support Hamas.

Designation of Qatar as a State Sponsor of Terrorism would also enable Israeli and Arab victims of Hamas's rocket attacks, executions, and forced service as "human shields" (or their surviving families) to sue Qatar in the United States, and potentially recover some of the oil- and natural gas- rich nation's assets.

ZOA also urges the following additional steps:

(1) Suspend the FAA license to operate in the United States of Qatar's national (government-owned) airline, Qatar Airways, inasmuch as Qatar is violating U.S. law by funding and providing other material support to Hamas;

(2) American universities (including Columbia University, Cornell University and Georgetown University) and cultural institutions and think tanks (including MOMA and the Brookings Institute) should end or suspend their programs in Qatar; and

(3) The U.S. Congress should initiate an investigation of Qatar's support for Hamas, and review additional steps that can be taken. 

**Zionist Organization of America**  
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## Remember the ZOA in Your Will Ensure the ZOA's Future

Many people include some of their favorite charitable causes and organizations in their wills. The ZOA leadership is planning for a future of activism, commitment and devotion to Zionist ideals. By remembering the ZOA in your list of bequests, you can help plan for that future.

For more information on the procedure for including the ZOA in your will,  
call the ZOA National Office at 212-481-1500.



Dear Mort, Enclosed please find my tax-deductible contribution in support of the ZOA's vital work.

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Member         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 Defender    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Sponsor   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 Double Chai   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$36 Student/Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 Patron      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,600 Builder   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustainer     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____            |

We gratefully accept Israel bonds.

### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

- ☐ Please charge my credit card.  
ZOA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization.

\*E-MAIL

\*CARD #

\*EXPIRATION DATE

\*SIGNATURE

\*PHONE

\*We need this information to process your donation.  
Your email will be used to send a receipt.

### CHECK INFORMATION

- ☐ I have enclosed a check payable to ZOA.  
ZOA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization.

\*E-MAIL

\*We need this information to process your donation.  
Your email will be used to send a receipt.

### MAILING INFORMATION

Please mail this form in the enclosed envelope to:

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

Founded 1897



Please visit our website: [www.zoa.org](http://www.zoa.org)  
For information:  
Call 212-481-1500 Fax 212-481-1515  
[info@zoa.org](mailto:info@zoa.org)

Thanks for your support.

ZRF14